



DIGITAL AND DISTANCE LEARNING GRANTS – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

In an effort to provide our community of school educators, non-profit environmental educators, science communicators & others more tools for carrying out their work from home through these challenging times, CBEP is offering a small grants program for creative tools for digital and distance learning. The final products would be transferable K-12 lessons or materials that focus on the Casco Bay estuary and watershed topics, such as those found in the Casco Bay Plan.

<https://www.cascobayestuary.org/planning-for-casco-bays-future/>

CBEP sent out a survey to educators and the input from that tool, as well as discussions with educators, helped us frame this RFP.

FUNDABLE PROJECTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Creation or modification of a virtual K-12 Casco Bay estuary lesson plan that adheres to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
 - Incorporating NGSS standards into outdoor activities for students to do independently.
- Creation or modification of a Casco Bay “toolkit” or other transferable package for educators
 - Some of the topics of interest from our survey include: climate change, including policy efforts; connections between land and bay; stormwater pollution; the science and physics of water and why it matters; coastal wetland protection and monitoring; health of Casco Bay; citizen science projects; habitats. Local content is desired.
- Place-based field lessons for parents and educators
 - Our community input survey identified that outside observation activities, sensory activities, and place-based resources and activities that are specific to local places within Casco Bay are desired.
- Creation of a fact sheet, infographics, or other digital resources that could be shared
 - Consider adding content to Casco Bay Stories (cascobaystories.org)

Based on our community input survey, we've identified the following formats would be most useful for educators and communicators at this time:

- Videos
- Hands-on activities
- Livestreams with professionals
- Interactive websites
- Of less interest, but still useful are static materials, such as reading materials and worksheets
- School educators provided input to a related survey that Google Classroom is the go-to format and that products should be shareable in that platform.

Funded projects will be shared through all CBEP partners, as well as through the new Community Learning for ME site: <https://www.communitylearningforme.org/>



AVAILABLE FUNDS:

Digital and Distance Learning Grants will be awarded to individual projects in an amount **between \$500 and \$1,000**. A total of \$5,000 may be awarded to select projects under this initial advertisement. CBEP and its education partners will review an applicant's proposed project for its merits in addressing the opportunity areas listed above. Subsequent awards and announcements may occur in the future and will be dependent upon the total number of proposals received during this initial announcement.

Applications can be submitted by individuals *or* on behalf of organizations. We did receive back from school educators that they would like materials and resources that can be used in the fall of 2020, regardless of whether schools are physically open. Land trusts and other nonprofits can use content over the summer months.

PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL AND TIMELINES:

The ultimate goal of our Digital and Distance Learning Grants is to help support educators and others in the creation of adaptable K-12 lessons plans and educational resources that you can use during these difficult times. At the same time, we are hearing from school educators that they are not introducing new content this spring, and from nonprofits that summer resources are desired. Therefore, we are developing this timeline with primarily summer and fall learning in mind.

Application Form: There are two platforms to submit an application (choose one).

1. Application in [Typeform](#)
2. Application in [Google](#)

Completed forms should be sent to victoria.boundy@maine.edu and are highly encouraged to be submitted no later than **Monday, August 24, 2020**. Once awarded, final projects are due by **Monday, September 21, 2020** at the latest (earlier is better). If necessary, the initial draft will receive a round of comments and revisions from appropriate CBEP staff members and education partners before being sent back to the applicant for finalizing.

Applicants are limited to one project proposal for the initial phase of our Digital and Distance Learning Grants. Applicants are encouraged to submit practical, realistic and achievable project proposals given the timeframe and award amounts specified under this announcement.

PROCESS OF RECEIVING PAYMENT:

Upon the successful completion of your project (i.e. acceptance of a 'final product' by CBEP), a check will be issued within two weeks, totaling the predetermined amount awarded to you when your proposal was accepted.

QUESTIONS:

In an effort to assist you in brainstorming potential projects and submitting a proposal you feel confident in your ability to complete, we've created a [Q&A](#) that addresses questions relating to preferred file formats, lesson plan ideas, etc. Please contact Victoria Boundy at [Victoria.boundy@maine.edu] for more information.