

Program	 Natural Resource Conservation Service Agricultural Cons. Easement Program (ACEP)	 Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund	 NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER & GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND	 NH Forest Legacy Program	 LCHIP NEW HAMPSHIRE LAND & COMMUNITY HERITAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM	 LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND	 State Conservation Committee. Conservation Grant Program
Website	ACEP - ALE	ARM	DWGTF ¹	FLP	LCHIP	LWCF	SCC – “Moose Plates”
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Grant Round Opens	Accept on continuous basis	2026: Special Project Assistance consideration on continuous basis. April annually or biennially	April 2026	May 2026	March 18, 2026	April 2026	July 1, 2026
Preliminary Application ²	N/A	Typically: Pre-proposal due May 31	May 28, 2026	Early July 2026 submitted to NH Division Forest & Lands	Due April 29, 2026	June 2026	N/A
Application Deadline	FY 26: 1/15/2026 (FY 27 likely fall 2026)	Typically: Full application due September	Aug. 27, 2026	Sept. 2026 Final application due to USFS	Due June 17, 2026	Jan 2027 (DNCR) and May 2027 (to NPS)	September 11, 2026
Decision By	Approx. 60 - 90 days after application deadline	Typically: December-January	Mid-November	Congressional appropriation in year following deadline	Mid-November	Feb 2027 (DNCR) Sep 2027 (NPS) Jan 2028 (Gov & Council)	December 11, 2026
Project Completion Deadline	Generally, ~30 months with two 12-month extensions possible.	Preferably within 3 years of award; plus 5 years of performance monitoring for restoration.	Preferred within 2 years of grant award	Preferably within 2 years of grant award	2 years from the time of the award, with an opportunity for extensions to a total of 48 months.	3-year performance period 2-year extension option 3-year retro planning and engineering (development)	2 years – Project completed and final invoice/close-out by 4/30/2029
Funding Source	Federal: USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service	State and federal in-lieu fee mitigation payments	NH Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund	Federal		Federal: Outer Continental Shelf Leases, via USDOl-National Park Service (NPS)	
Total Available	FY 26: \$1 + million (NH FY27 - undetermined)	Varies by watershed service area	\$1.9 million	\$50 – 80 million (nationally)	\$3 - \$3.5m	Undetermined	Undetermined
Minimum Award	N/A	None	No minimum	No minimum	\$10,000	\$50,000	No minimum
Maximum Award	None – limited by available NH allocated funding	None	\$500,000	\$20m – determined by USDA FS (unlikely any project awarded this amount)	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$35,000

¹ The [NHDES Local Source Water Protection Grant Program](#) can fund transaction costs associated with land conservation protecting drinking water with a maximum award of \$25,000.

² Also known as Intent to Apply or Letter of Intent. Not all programs require this step.

This information has been compiled by the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program and is believed to be accurate as of 3/15/2026. Prospective applicants should confirm all information with each funding program directly as errors, omissions, or revisions may occur.

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	ACEP - ALE	ARM	DWGTF	FLP	LCHIP	LWCF	SCC – “Moose Plates”
Site Visit? If so, when?	Yes: prior to decision and prior to closing	Yes: June and/or October	Yes: Estimated Sept-Oct	Often but not always. July – October.	Yes: August – early October	Yes: Pre-Application, In-Progress, Post-Completion.	No
Match Requirement	50% minimum non-federal (entity cash, donation, eligible entity’s cost of procured items, etc.)	None. Match is encouraged but not required.	50% of total project costs.	25% of total project cost (non-federal. Cash, services, interests in lands eligible).	50% (and at least 50% of the LCHIP award must be matched in cash)	50% minimum of total project cost: via Cash, Land, Services, Materials, Labor, Etc. (Limited federal match)	None. Match is encouraged but not required.
Eligible Applicants	Eligible entities (units of local/state govt & NGOs)	Municipality, county government, regional planning commission, county conservation district, watershed or river association, state agency, institution of higher education, public school district, and nonprofit or for-profit/private organizations	Public Water Suppliers; Non-transient, Non-community water suppliers; Municipalities; Non-profits whose purpose is land conservation	Private landowners, 501(c) organizations, municipalities.	Municipalities or other subdivisions of the State or 501(c) organizations.	Municipalities or other subdivisions of local government (Counties, School Districts, etc.)	County Cons. Districts; & Cooperative Ext. Natural Resource Programs; Municipalities, incl. agencies & commissions engaged in conservation programs; Qualified NPOs engaged in conservation programs; Public & private K-12 schools; Scout groups
Eligible Projects	Acquisition of agricultural easements on privately owned land.	Aquatic resource restoration, enhancement, establishment (creation), and preservation (in certain circumstances)	Acquisition of land or easements.	Acquisition of easements, occasionally full fee acquisitions.	Acquisition of land or easements, some studies	Acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation lands and facilities	Land Conservation is one of 6 Project Categories
Encumbrances required by Program	See Minimum Deed Terms. Generally, allows permitted agricultural uses and limits non-agricultural uses. Requires US Right of Enforcement.	Projects must result in measurable increase in aquatic resource acreage and/or function; permanent legal protection of project areas; minimum five years of restoration performance monitoring; long-term management and stewardship; and meet state and federal mitigation rule requirements.	Conservation restrictions for drinking water protection with right to enforce	Affirmative right of access to the public.	Affirmative right of access to the public. Conservation restrictions with right to enforce to LCHIP.	54 U.S.C. § 200305(f)(3) ; Assisted properties may not be converted to uses other than public outdoor recreation without adequate substitute property and consent of the Secretary of the USDOI.	None
Funding Priorities	Prime/local/statewide important soils; historical/archaeological resources; grazing uses; Furthers a state or local policy consistent with purposes of ALE	Projects that result in net gain in aquatic resource acreage and/or function and offset unavoidable impacts authorized by state and federal permit decisions occurred in watershed service areas where funding is sufficient to support sustainable compensatory mitigation.	Eligible lands: NHDES GIS “high priority water supply lands” Identified as Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA); Hydrologic Areas of Concern (HAC); and/or High-Yield Stratified Drift Aquifers (GA2); or Future Public Water Supply Sources	Environmentally important forest areas threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Priorities: Working forest, exceptional wildlife habitat, water quality protection, recreation, scenic, cultural resources. At least 75% forested.	General – Priorities include: Agriculture, Working Forest, Ecological (wildlife habitat, wetlands), Recreation/Education, Historical/Cultural, Scenic/Aesthetic	New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2024-2028 Five Priorities: - Recreation Experience - Recreation and Environment - Recreation for All - Health and Wellness - Economic Vitality	Land Conservation: Agriculture, Working Forest, Ecological (wildlife habitat, wetlands & water resources).

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