



New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

New York State has 3,400 miles of diverse coastline and is the only state in the U.S. bordering both the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean. More than 85% of NY's population lives in a coastal region.



New York Sea Grant regional offices provide innovative research, technical assistance, and outreach on such issues as water quality, coastal resilience, marine & freshwater fisheries, invasive species, algal blooms, aquaculture & seafood, coastal literacy, and shoreline community development.

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for this project summary:  
**Resilient NY Communities and Economies**  
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## Breaking Down Barriers to a Resilient Long Island Sound

*The Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program is an innovative and responsive approach to increasing sustainable and resilient-focused project implementation across the Long Island Sound coastal watershed*

The work of the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Work Group and New York Sea Grant (NYSG) SRC Extension Professionals, informed by a regional Needs Assessment conducted in 2021, has shown that for communities across NY and Connecticut (CT) obtaining funding is one of the main barriers to planning, designing, and implementing sustainability and resilience-focused projects.

The Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program was launched in November 2022 with funding from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through LISS and administered through NY and CT Sea Grants to address the lack of capacity, expertise, and resources to write grants and apply for funding. The Program is open to municipalities, nonprofits, and community organizations to facilitate the hiring of grant writing support to assist with the development of a grant proposal for sustainability and resilience-focused projects.

The first year of the Program has reduced staffing and capacity barriers in 17 communities within or partially within the Long Island Sound coastal boundary while allowing communities to develop capacity for navigating the funding landscape. Informed by the Program's success and lessons learned in the inaugural year, the SRC Extension Professionals have sustained and extended the scope of support to more communities within the Long Island Sound Study coastal boundary in 2023-2024.

A successful first year of the Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program met the needs of diverse stakeholders and will continue to be adaptive as the SRC Extension Professionals take steps to tackle complex barriers to advancing the implementation of sustainable and resilient-focused projects in the region.

### Project Partners:

- Long Island Sound Study
- Connecticut Sea Grant
- Funding: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



View of the Sound from Sands Point Preserve. Photo: NYSG/S. Schaefer-Brown