



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

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



NYSG provides research, education, and extension services enhancing coastal community economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and citizen awareness of NY's marine and Great Lakes resources.

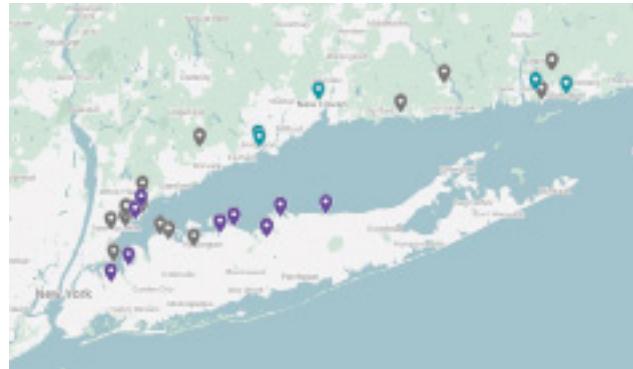
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**NYSG Focus Area for this project:**  
**Resilient New York Communities and Economies**  
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## Assistance Programs Empower Long Island Sound Communities to Take Resilience Steps

**New York Sea Grant Assistance Programs for planning and grant writing continue to build critical support for advancing community resilience.**

The Long Island Sound Partnership New York Sea Grant Sustainable and Resilient Communities Extension Professionals established the Planning Support and Grant Writing Assistance programs, with funding from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to address the major barriers that many communities within the Long Island Sound Coastal Boundary face when planning, designing, and implementing sustainability- and resilience-focused projects. These barriers include a lack of capacity and resources to identify, conceptualize, and develop resilience projects, and a lack of capacity, expertise, and resources to prepare and apply for funding.



This map shows the locations of communities receiving Planning Support Program assistance.

Map: New York Sea Grant.

Through the Planning Support Program's first and second rounds, approximately \$2 million was awarded, matching twenty-nine communities across New York and Connecticut with qualified contractors to help with the scoping, planning, and design of resilience projects. A third round opened on December 1, 2025 with \$1.5 million available. The Grant Writing Assistance Program, open on a rolling basis since 2022, has assisted thirty-five communities in hiring a grant writing consultant to develop successful grant proposals, totaling more than \$280,000 in support and resulting in a return on investment of \$11 in grant funding for every \$1 allocated in support.

To date, these two programs have provided critical funding to advance community-driven, on-the-ground implementation of resilience projects, including but not limited to vulnerability assessments, resilience plans, flood studies, watershed plans, natural resource inventories, community engagement/strategic plans, feasibility studies, conceptual design plans and implementation projects for stormwater management, green infrastructure, stream and shoreline restoration, public access improvement, and participatory science projects.

For help in your area, contact New York Sea Grant's Sustainable and Resilient Communities Extension Professionals: Sara Powell, [slp285@cornell.edu](mailto:slp285@cornell.edu); Sarah Schaefer-Brown, [sarahschaefer-brown@cornell.edu](mailto:sarahschaefer-brown@cornell.edu); Ben Goldberg, [bgoldberg@cornell.edu](mailto:bgoldberg@cornell.edu); or Elizabeth Hornstein, [elizabeth.hornstein@cornell.edu](mailto:elizabeth.hornstein@cornell.edu).

### Project Partners:

- Connecticut Sea Grant
- Long Island Sound Partnership