

1. What is Discretionary Funding?

Discretionary funding is a duly-appropriated sum of money in the Town's expense budget allocated to an eligible not-for-profit organization by the Selectboard and approved at Town Meeting.

2. What Types of Organizations May Receive Discretionary Funds?

Discretionary funds may only be allocated to not-for-profit; community-based social services providers. In order to receive discretionary funds directly, an organization must be incorporated as a not-for-profit and registered with the State of Vermont., unless exempt and have a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN).

3. What Types of Organizations May Not Receive Discretionary Funds?

For-profit entities may not receive discretionary funds, except when the primary non-profit contractor subcontracts with a for-profit entity as part of the delivery of services. Such subcontracts, however, must be only an ancillary part of the program to be funded, not the primary basis for the discretionary award, and must be approved by the contracting agency.

4. What are the Restrictions on the Use of Discretionary Funds?

All public funds, however awarded, must be used for a Town purpose. In general, a Town purpose is defined as an activity or service that is open to all members of the public, regardless of race, creed, gender, religious affiliation, etc., without restriction, and which does not promote a particular religion.

Programs and services provided by religious or religiously-affiliated organization must be able to demonstrate that the program is open to non-members, is not a religious program, and does not promote the religion.

Closed membership groups, which are those to which membership is restricted or subject to eligibility based upon prohibited factors, may generally not receive funding.

Groups that serve a particular population, for example, those age 65 and above in a particular community; are not considered a closed membership group, as long as the program is open and accessible to all seniors in the community. Similarly, tenant organizations in public housing may also receive funding, as long as they provide equal access to all residents of the public housing units they serve.

Funds may only be allocated for a public purpose and may not support political activities and private interests.

5. How to Apply for Discretionary Funding?

All organizations that wish to receive discretionary funding must submit a "Request for Special Appropriations" application to the Town Manager. The application elicits information about an organization's experience, qualifications, and integrity, and the project or service for which the organizations is requesting support. The form is available on the Town website under DOCUMENTS, then, APPLICATIONS or by emailing Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Man, at: dwardwell@richmondvt.gov . Deadline for submission is the end of the day, October 2, 2023.

Town of Richmond

Request for Special Appropriations

Request for Fiscal Year: 2025

Organization's Name: Lake Iroquois Association
Address: P.O. Box 569
City, State, Zip: Hinesburg VT 05461
Website address: www.lakeiroquois.org

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Program Name: **Eurasian Watermilfoil Mitigation (EWM) / Education Program**
2. Contact Person/Title: **Christopher J. Conant, President, Lake Iroquois**

Association Telephone Number: 802.316.6714
E-mail address: cconant@claussons.com

3. Total number of individuals served in the last complete fiscal year by this program:
92 lakeshore Homeowners, and over 3000 water Vessels (2023) inspected/washed, and all residents of Richmond who operated or were in boats or swam in Lake Iroquois.
4. Total number of the above individuals who are Town residents:
-Approximately 25% of the residents/users who own property or launched boats at the fishing access. There were most likely many Richmond residents who used the beach (the Lake Iroquois Association is not responsible for those statistics).

Please, attach any documentation that supports this number.

Percent of people served who are Town residents:

-Approximately 25% of the users

5. Amount of Request: **\$2,000.**
6. Total Program Budget: **\$19,000.**

Percent of total program budget you are requesting from the Town of Richmond:
10.5%

7. Please state or attach the mission of your agency:

-The sole purpose of this association is to maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems and appropriate public uses of Lake Iroquois and those aspects of its watershed which impact on the health and well-being of the lake. This will be achieved through monitoring, preventive and management initiatives, research, education, advocacy and other actions, involving the cooperative efforts of property owners, town and State and federal officials and other interested parties.

8. Funding will be used to:
 Maintain an existing program Expand an Existing Program
 Start a new program
9. Has your organization received funds from the Town in the past for this or a similar program?

-Yes, in 2024 the amount requested was \$2000.

If yes, please answer the following:

- a. Does the amount of your request represent an increase over your previous appropriation? If yes, explain the reason(s) for the increase.

No

- b. Were any conditions or restrictions placed on the funds by the Selectboard?

No

If yes, describe how those conditions or restrictions have been met.

B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. Statement of Need: Identify the issue or need that the program will address (use statistical data to justify the need for the program). To what extent does this need or problem exist in the Town of Richmond?

-The education programs developed by the LIA show positive impact toward prevention of further invasive introduction or spread aquatic of invasives in the lake. Through the efforts of our greeter program, homeowner manuals, and extensive work performed exclusively by volunteers, this funding request is an important piece of our education programming. There are 52 invasive species in Lake Champlain, and other lakes have higher numbers as well.

2. Program Summary:

-We currently inspect hundreds of vessels at the access area and wash several hundred. Our primary objective is to continue strengthening our outreach programs through leaflet distribution, landowner site visits, and other educational avenues to discuss prevention of invasive species introduction.

3. Program Funding:

-We are using this money to match municipal funds obtained from the Towns of Williston and Hinesburg. These funds augment donations from landowners sharing the organization's concerns, and provide contributory support of LIA's efforts. This on-going effort is in its 18th year.

- a. Identify the target/recipients of program services. Specify the number of Town residents your program will serve during the fiscal year and explain the basis upon which this number is calculated. Indicate any eligibility requirements your program has with respect to age, gender, income or residence.

-We currently inspect hundreds of watercrafts at the access area and wash several hundred, our main objective is to continue to strengthen our outreach programs through education of leaflets, person visits to landowners and other educational avenues to discuss how to prevent invasive species.

- b. Identify what is to be accomplished or what change will occur from participating in the program. How will people be better off as a result of participating in the program? Describe the steps you take to make the project known to the public, and make the program accessible and inclusive?

-We will continue distribution of a Homeowner / Lake user's manual for use by 100s of stakeholder and their families. Other educational outreach items will be distributed to each user of the access area to promote continued awareness of preventing the spread of aquatic invasives. These funds will not be used to apply herbicides or other pesticides.

- C. Identify how Town funds, specifically, will be used (i.e., funds will provide "X" amount of units of service.)

-We are using this money to match municipal funds obtained from the Towns of Williston and Hinesburg. These funds augment donations from landowners sharing the organization's concerns, and provide contributory support of LIA's efforts.

- D. List the other agencies to whom you are submitting a request for funds for this program and the amount requested. How would this program be modified should revenues be lost?

-We are asking the Towns of Williston and Hinesburg for \$15,000 each to strengthen our programming efforts. We also received state Grant funding in 2023 from the Lake Champlain Basin Project to maintain our successful Greeter Program this past season). Additional funding will address implementation of multiple programs to include greeters, and milfoil mitigation.

C. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

1. Describe your agency's capability to provide the program including its history, previous experience providing this service, management structure and staff expertise:

-We are a group of 14 Board members representing the LIA (one of whom is Mr. Jack Linn, also a LIRD (Lake Iroquois Recreation District) representative for the Town of Richmond. We also have several volunteers who perform work such as installing markers for boat traffic, water sampling, and researching land area problems that could affect water quality.

2. How will you assess whether/how program participants are better off? Describe how you will assess program outcomes. Your description should include: what (what kind of data), how (method/tool for collecting the data), from whom (source of data) and when (timing of data collection).

-We continue to work with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) each year to evaluate and train our Greeters through these

efforts. Our program is recognized by VT DEC as one of two model programs in the state. This program leads to reduced opportunities for aquatic invasive species introduction to or from Lake Iroquois, cleaner water, and increased use of the lake for recreation.

3. Summarize or attach program and or service assessments conducted in the past two years.

-We continue to strengthen our greeter program by adding additional days each week of the season, in addition to increased educational dialog via verbal and written communication. We see that this program plays a vital role through enhanced protection of the lake. Your fund allocations are used to develop and strengthen this programing. We see the positive impacts when we distribute the information publicly each year.

4. Does your organization have a strategic plan and a strategic planning process in place?

-We completed a five-year management plan in early 2021- If yes, please attach your plan.

Providing a link due to the file size:

[Lake Iroquois Association Management Plan 2020-2025](#)

The strategic plan should include a mission statement, goals, steps to achieve the goals, and measures that assess the accomplishments of the goals.

5. What is the authorized size of your board of directors?

-Minimum of nine members; we are currently at 14.

How many meetings were held by the board last year?

-12 monthly meetings

I, the undersigned, confirm the information contained herein is accurate and can be verified as such. I understand and agree that if the requested funds are approved, the disbursement of funds are subject to all conditions established by the Richmond Selectboard.

Signature of Applicant: Christopher J. Conant Date: **09/11/2023**

Christopher Conant, President, Lake Iroquois Association

Print Name of Applicant and Title