



Join Us in Making a Difference!

Partner with the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative to amplify our collective reach and effectiveness.

How will you benefit?

- *Networking with Colleagues:* We share information about our grantmaking to make sure we make the best funding decisions in our own grantmaking programs.
- *Education Opportunities:* We engage leaders and practitioners from across the Sound to bring diverse expertise and on-the-ground perspectives into our work. These voices help us—and our funding partners—gain a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the complex challenges we aim to address, ensuring our collective investments are both informed and impactful.
- *Smart Project Choices:* We leverage learned information to support the best projects that have the greatest impact. We can also investigate projects that are bigger than any single funder could manage.
- *Flexible Fit for our Members:* Our members can be as engaged as they prefer. Some benefit from the networking and learning opportunities. Some participate in every meeting; some show up occasionally. Some engage in aligned and pooled grantmaking. It's up to you.
- *No Membership Dues:* Participation in the Funders Collaborative is simple and accessible – there are no dues or giving requirements.

What We Do: We meet quarterly, either online or in-person, and arrange occasional site visits. Additionally, we offer an annual, 2-day “Summer Adventure” where we visit important conservation sites, meet with issue experts, and spend time together as funders and philanthropic professionals.

In addition to our core activities, we also lead an annual pooled funding initiative, *The Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund*, that brings funders together to support high-impact projects collaboratively. This optional effort involves:

- An RFP open to any nonprofit working on the restoration of the Long Island Sound.
- A collaborative review process that values every donor equally, while streamlining paperwork and minimizing the time required to evaluate proposals. The reviews are done by small teams organized by focus area. You and your colleagues make the choices.
- Grants ranging in size from \$15,000 to \$200,000, with larger grants for projects with the promise of dramatic impacts to the Sound.
- Three focus areas: *Capacity Building:* Strengthening the backbone of nonprofit organizations. *New Collaboration:* Sparking new ways to bring organizations together to



accomplish larger goals. *Piloting & Planning*: Testing innovative solutions and getting big things started.

Our Values: We prioritize trust, transparency, and cooperation among grantmakers, recognizing all partners as equal in our mission – regardless of the scale of their resources. We’re always evolving as we listen to and learn from the communities around us. We embrace complexity, view foundation dollars as risk capital, and commit to thoughtful long-term grantmaking.

Impact and Return on Investment: For 15 years we’ve been meeting together, learning together, and granting together to preserve, protect, and restore the Long Island Sound. Our creative and thoughtful philanthropy has impacted not only our collaborative work but also improved our individual grantmaking.

Together, we’ve invested more than \$3.3 million in pooled and aligned grantmaking. Over 70 grants to dozens of organizations have resulted in some of the most innovative projects in the region. Some statistics:

- \$1.9 million for *Planning & Piloting* innovative conservation tools and strategies. \$1 million for *New Collaborations*. \$400,000 for organizational *Capacity Building*.
- Lasting successes such as the *Long Island Sound Report Card and Beach Report*; *The Unified Water Study*; *QuickDrops™*, and the *River Restoration Network*. [See our project descriptions for more information on these projects.]

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