

**2021 Request for Proposals
Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-PRISM) Subcontract
Deadline for receipt of Proposals: 04/19/2021**

Background and Purpose

The Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (Finger Lakes-PRISM) is a network of partners in 17 counties in the Finger Lakes region of New York that brings together the resources of a diverse range of organizations to prevent, detect, control, and manage invasive species. The cost to control invasive species within the United States is estimated at \$137 billion annually (Pimentel *et al.* 2005). The Finger Lakes-PRISM therefore seeks to share and leverage limited resources within the partnership while building a highly visible program that fosters community awareness and participation in invasive species issues/management and prevention.

The Finger Lakes PRISM, one of eight Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) in New York State (NYS) is funded through the Environmental Protection Fund via contract with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The Finger Lakes PRISM is hosted by Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS) administered by the NYSDEC and is in its second, five-year contract

In order to supplement invasive species work done among its partners, the Finger Lakes PRISM offers a subcontract opportunity through an RFP process to complete projects that further the goals and priorities of the 2020-21 Finger Lakes PRISM Work Plan and Strategic Plan 2025. This subcontract under the NYSDEC contract opportunity is offered through HWS, in collaboration with Finger Lakes PRISM and the NYSDEC. Subcontract awards are subject to final review and approval by NYSDEC Invasive Species Coordination Unit and HWS Office of Sponsored Programs.

Any questions regarding this Request for Proposals should be directed to the Finger Lakes PRISM Coordinator: Hilary R. Mosher, mosher@hws.edu

2020/2021 Program Objectives

The Finger Lakes PRISM is requesting proposals for subcontract projects that serve to advance the mission and goals of the Finger Lakes PRISM in alignment with the Finger Lakes PRISM Strategic Plan 2025 (SP25) goals and 2021 work plan. Specifically, proposals for projects that address invasive species management activities below are encouraged:

- 1) OUTREACH (SP25 Goal 1)- Invasive species programming to enhance the public awareness of invasive species issues with documented results such as number of events, number of participants engaged, number of people utilizing an invasive species bootbrush station, number of people trained to collect data on invasive species, etc. Bootbrush stations may be

included in the work plan for funding. For more information on cost of bootbrush stations visit: <http://fingerlakesinvasives.org/bootbrush-signs-2/>. Bootbrush stations on public or private land must include landowner permission, any appropriate permits, and comply with local ordinances or regulations for signage.

- 2) PREVENTION (SP25 Goal 1)- Programs focused on emerging threats such as spotted lanternfly, Japanese angelica tree, or other Tier 1 and Tier 2 species (Tier 1 and 2 species lists available on the [fingerlakesinvasives.org website](http://fingerlakesinvasives.org)) or pathways of spread are encouraged.
- 3) EARLY DETECTION/RAPID RESPONSE (SP25 Goal 2)- Survey and monitoring for high priority invasive species at sites where species are not documented but are likely present in low abundance to evaluate the threat to conservation targets including rare species and natural areas of statewide significance.
 - a. Surveys for invasive species including, but not limited to, Japanese angelica tree, wineberry, porcelain berry, stiltgrass, Hydrilla, water hyacinth, water lettuce, or other species in under-surveyed areas. **NOTE: The use of iMapInvasives is mandatory for funded projects and failure to address in the proposal will result in disqualification.**
- 4) CONTROL (SP25 Goal 4)- Projects that manage early detection species or species whose abundance is regionally low or where feasibility of control is high (\$10,000 max).

FAQ:

- 1) What if a project proposal combines one or more activities?
If you are proposing a project that combines activities 1-3, these projects can be lumped together in one project proposal, scope of work, and budget sheet. Projects that combine activities 1-3 and 4 should separate the control and outreach/prevention/early detection budgets and scope of work. Control projects will be put out for bid and paid via invoice to the contractor doing the work. Activities 1-3 will go through the subaward process with Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Sponsored Programs.
- 2) If I plan to submit a proposal for a control activity, how would I document the cost of control?
Average cost per acre for treatment can be estimated for control projects. Very often contractors will provide estimates for treatment and should be used if possible. Budget should include full cost estimate for services provided by the contractor and may include cost of permitting or landowner notification, and reporting as appropriate.
- 3) Why is the control funding less than the other activities?
In order to support the wide range of control projects in the Finger Lakes region, we intend to fund more control activities than outreach, prevention, or early detection activities.
- 4) How will these activities be paid?
Control activities will be put out for bid and paid directly through invoice. Outreach, prevention, and early detection activities will require a subaward with Hobart and William Smith Colleges. All applicants must be willing and able to accept the insurance requirements outlined in Appendix A and have the organizational capacity to successfully manage the project and properly administer the subcontract funds. Organizational capacity will be evaluated prior to issuance of subcontracts. Exceptions cannot be made to this requirement. Contract execution is subject to the applicant completing all the appropriate documentation and following institutional review. The subaward process may take several months to complete and payment may be delayed.
- 5) How should I engage partners on this proposal?

Statements of support can be via email or other documentation. Projects that make a strong regional connection and impact will be ranked higher than those with only localized impact and support. Volunteer or agency involvement or support is encouraged.

All projects must be focused on and/or located in the seventeen counties of the Finger Lakes PRISM region (Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Tompkins, Tioga, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates).

The project period will be 05/15/2021-12/31/2021.

All data collected will be uploaded to iMapInvasives.org as part of this project.

Evaluation Criteria

- *How does your project address invasive species management activities (50%)* – Priority species for this project include tier 1 and tier 2 species (tiered species lists available online at the fingerlakesinvasive.org website). Other species in tiers 3, 4, and 5 that pose a legitimate ecological threat will also be accepted.
- *Measurable results/outcomes expected (35%)* – Include specific units of work to be accomplished (e.g., number of acres surveyed, number of species tracked over the season) and reported as a part of the project. The use of iMapInvasives is mandatory for funded projects and failure to address in the proposal will result in disqualification.
- *Partnerships and connection to the broader region (15%)* - Projects should identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment through a letter of support or added value towards project planning and implementation, including landowner permission? where work is planned. All partner recipients of Finger Lakes PRISM funds should be clearly identified in the partner section of submitted applications and should include the name of the organization and funding amount. The work responsibilities or subcontract objectives of partner recipients should be clearly described in the project proposal. Additionally, watershed-scale impact of activities will receive a higher rank than localized invasive species management activities.

Eligibility

Proposals will be accepted from the following entities for projects focused on and/or located in the 17-county region of the Finger Lakes (Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Tompkins, Tioga, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates)

- Not-for-profit organizations
- Local governmental or public agencies, such as municipalities and regional planning or environmental commissions;
- Educational institutions, including, but not limited to, public/private K-12 & colleges/universities;
- *New for 2021- projects from all others entities or private landowners are eligible if they show significant impact to the region and comply with insurance and institutional guidelines.

Recipients of funding must be a Finger Lakes PRISM program partner and have signed a Finger Lakes PRISM Participant Pledge (<http://fingerlakesinvasives.org/about/fingerlakes-partners/>)

Awardees must present project results at a Finger Lakes PRISM event such as a working group meeting or full partner meeting and make the results available for presentations (poster or slides) by partner organizations.

For projects where data will be collected, awardees must sign a pledge to submit data to iMapInvasives.org.

All awardees must acknowledge in any any marketing materials or presentations to the public, that such funding was provided from the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Finger Lakes PRISM.

All applicants must be willing and able to accept the insurance requirements outlined in Appendix A and have the organizational capacity to successfully manage the project and properly administer the subcontract funds. Organizational capacity will be evaluated prior to issuance of subcontracts. Exceptions cannot be made to this requirement.

Minimum Requirements

- The proposed project must lie entirely within the 17-counties of the Finger Lakes, although the applicant does not need to be housed within the FL-PRISM region.
- Proposals must be fully implemented and completed during the proposed period of performance.
- A letter (or e-message) of support from identified supporters must be included in the project proposal. Projects that span ownership types will need concurrence from each relevant entity before a subcontract can be issued.
- There is no match requirement.
- A progress report will be submitted with the first invoice and progress towards goals of the project must be clearly displayed for review. Progress reports should be submitted with each invoice. A final report is due upon project completion or no later than 01/31/2022 and must provide updates to project metrics that are in alignment with project expenditures.
- Successful proposals will directly address elements listed in the evaluation criteria and include key metrics (areas surveys, number of people reaches, iMapInvasives utilization for reporting invasive species, etc.) Proposals should include a narrative description of the budget and a map of the project area.

Funds:

The maximum level of funding will be \$20,000 per subcontract for outreach (1), prevention (2), early detection/rapid response (3) and \$10,000 for control projects (4), including indirect costs. Smaller funding requests will be accepted and evaluated commensurate with measurable results/outcomes expected. The money for this program comes from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. Funds will be made available upon completion of work and will be issued

upon completion of all reports and other deliverables as described in the subcontract. We expect to fund at least three projects through this RFP, but are not obligated to award all funds. Control projects will be paid through purchase order and by invoice, which should include a final report including all metrics requested.

Award decisions are expected to be made early May. Work should be completed no later than 12/31/2021, with final invoices submitted by 1/31/22. This program requires that reports be provided by the award recipient to the Finger Lakes-PRISM Coordinator. The progress report will be due with the submission of the first invoice and a final report by 1/31/2022.

Cost-Share Requirements

Cost sharing is not required.

Proposal Submission:

Proposals should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file attachment to FLPRISM@gmail.com by 5pm on or before 04/19/2021. Award recipients are expected to be notified by early May.

Proposal Review:

The Steering Committee of the Finger Lakes-PRISM will review and rank the project proposals based on the projects' merit and the Evaluation Criteria (above), and will make the final decision regarding awards. All awards are subject to final approval by the NYS DEC.

Proposal Format:

Cover Sheet

1. Project Title
2. Project Leader (Name, Affiliation, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Fax, Email)
3. Collaborator(s) (Name, Affiliation, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Fax, Email)
4. Amount Requested
5. Authorized Institutional Signature –all proposals must be signed by an ***Institutional Official*** who is authorized on behalf of the organization to approve the budget and the organization's participation in the project as proposed in the documentation supplied at the time the proposal is submitted. If the Project Leader is also the Institutional Official, that should be made clear on the signature line. Submissions that do not carry an authorized institutional signature will be rejected without review.

***Please note:** if the applicant will use a separate entity as fiscal agent to administer funds on their behalf, the Cover Sheet must include the authorized signature for that fiscal agent.

6. Authorized Signature of Fiscal Agent, if applicable

Proposal Description

The project description should be succinct and no longer than **four** pages (cover sheet, references, letters of support, and budget excluded), single-spaced pages in 12-point Times New Roman font, and should include:

1. Project summary- briefly summarize the project's focus and goal, scope of work, nature of collaboration, and significance to the mission of the FL-PRISM
2. Scope of work (include goals, methods, and reporting)- be sure to separate control activities into a separate paragraph if combining activities 1-4
3. Timeframe
4. Personnel and collaboration
5. Project location: all projects must take place within the 17-county Finger Lakes PRISM region.

Personnel and Partners

Key personnel involved in the project including Director or Principal Investigator. Include a BRIEF (≤ 2 pages) biographical sketch for the three top personnel. Include name, address, phone, email address for each. If you are working with other partner organizations, state the name of the organization and how the partnership will work (does NOT count towards 4-page project description)

Documentation letters for projects including activities on public or private property

If the proposal is funded, applicants will be required to provide support documentation from municipal governments and/or private property owners if the proposal includes activities on public or private lands within four weeks from the start of the project (not included in the 4-page project description). General project letters of support from references or other partners are not necessary and will not be considered. If installing a bootbrush station, landowner permission, applicable permits, and municipal guidelines must be met.

Timeline

Schedule for starting and completing project. Projects must be completed by 12/31/2021. A progress report will be submitted along with the invoice for payment or within 60-days after commencing the project and a final report will be due 1/31/2022.

Budget and Justification

Budget should reflect key project milestones, deliverables, and schedules to support invoicing. Categories include the following:

1. Labor costs: list each person separately. Provide basis for labor cost.
2. Fringe benefits: provide explanation of how fringe benefits are calculated and documentation for the rate.

3. Expendable supplies: Provide a list of expendable supplies needed for the project to succeed.
4. Travel/Transportation: Describe the nature and purpose and amount based on the Federal Government reimbursement rates (available [here](#)).
5. Office support and miscellaneous: Provide breakdown for items needed. General office supplies, telephone, postage, and copying costs are considered indirect costs unless otherwise justified.
6. Indirect cost: provide Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. Indirect Costs are capped at the equivalent of 20% of Total Direct Costs (TDC) or the applicant's official negotiated IDC rate, whichever is lower. In the absence of a documented indirect cost rate, the *de minimus* rate of 10% of TDC should be used.
7. Cost of control (if applicable) to include cost per acre and include full compensation for all services, including cost of permitting or landowner notifications as appropriate

*NOTE: Any equipment purchased through this subcontract program becomes the property of the State of New York once the program period is over. Equipment purchased for this program will be made available for use by FL-PRISM partners after the award period is over. Please note that refreshments are not allowable costs, and will not be reimbursed.

Notification and Reporting Requirements

Award recipients are required to submit an initial report at the time of first invoice and a final project report by 1/31/2022.

Additional Requirements of Successful Applicants

Certificate of Liability Insurance- Subcontract recipients are required to have insurance coverage. Recipients will be required to carry insurance at a level specified by the NYS DEC. *See Appendix A. NYS DEC Insurance Requirements.

Permits- For projects requiring permits and licensing, all necessary permits, and or licenses must be obtained prior to conducting the relevant activity. PRISM Coordinator will confirm that appropriate permits are in place prior to issuance of subcontracts, but they are not required for submission of a proposal.

Documentation of Ownership and Public Interest in Property- Prior to receiving the subcontract award, a successful recipient must be able to document adequate ownership rights in and to the subject property. Alternatively, recipients may provide letters of documentation from municipal, county, or state governments and/or private property owners if the proposal includes activities or access through private lands. **All documentation should be sent to the PRISM Coordinator.** This documentation **is not** required at the time of submission of the proposal, but it will be required and reviewed before a subcontract can be issued.

Municipal Endorsement- required if conducting project on municipal property or installing a bootbrush station.

Budget and Justification Template

Proposal Budget Template	
Project Title:	
Sponsor/Institution:	
PI:	
Period of Performance for Project:	
BUDGET	
LABOR COSTS	
Personnel	
Salaries	
Fringe on salaries	-
Total Salaries, Wages + Fringe	
Expendable Supplies	
Travel	-
Office Support and Miscellaneous	
Control Cost (Contractor Estimate)	
Total Direct Cost	-
Indirect Costs – explain calculation (capped at the equivalent of a <i>maximum</i> of 20% of Total Direct Costs -see note below)	-
Total Request to Sponsor	-

Note: Proposers should provide a copy of their negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement that is in effect at the time of proposal submission along with their budget request. If the proposer's rate is less than the equivalent of 20% of TDC, that is the rate that should be used. If it exceeds 20% of TDC, 20% of TDC should be used. If there is no officially documented Indirect Cost Rate, a *de minimus* rate of 10% of TDC should be used.

** Food and beverages are unallowable expenses and may not be budgeted. They will not be reimbursed

Appendix A. NYS DEC Insurance Requirements

1. Policy covering the obligations of the successful contractor in accordance with the provisions of the Worker's Compensation Law, Employers Liability, and Disability Benefits.

The *only* forms which are accepted as proof of Workers' Compensation Insurance are as follows:

<u>FORM #</u>	<u>FORM TITLE</u>
C-105.2	Certificate of Workers' Compensation Insurance
CE-200	Certificate of Attestation of Exemption – (no employees)
U-26.3	State Insurance Fund Version of the C-105.2 form
SI-12	Certificate of Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance
GSI-105.2	Certificate of Participation in Worker's Comp Group Self-Insurance

The *only* forms which are accepted as proof of Disability Benefit Insurance are as follows:

<u>FORM #</u>	<u>FORM TITLE</u>
DB-120.1	Certificate of Disability Benefit Insurance
DB-155	Certificate of Disability Benefit Self-Insurance
CE-200	Certificate of Attestation of Exemption – (no employees)

An ACORD form is **NOT** an acceptable proof of Workers' Compensation coverage. **ALL OF THE ABOVE REFERENCED FORMS, EXCEPT CE-200, SI-12 & DB-155 MUST NAME:** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, Invasive Species Coordination Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233- 4250, as the Entity Requesting Proof of Coverage (Entity being listed as the Certificate Holder).

Additional information can be obtained at the Worker's Compensation website:

<http://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/Employers/Employers.jsp>

2. Commercial General Liability Insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence. Such insurance shall cover liability arising from premises operations, independent contractors, products-completed operations, broad form property damage, personal and advertising injury, cross liability assumed in a contract (including tort liability of another assumed in a contract).
3. Comprehensive Business Automobile Liability Insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each accident. Such insurance shall cover liability arising out of any automobile including owned, leased, hired and non owned automobiles.
4. The successful contractor shall require that any subcontractors hired, carry insurance with the same limits and provisions as provided herein.