



**Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management**

Office of the Director

235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

2025 LITTER-FREE RHODE ISLAND CLEANUP/BEAUTIFICATION MICROGRANT INFORMATION

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

The goal of the 2025 Litter-Free Rhode Island Cleanup/Beautification Microgrant initiative is to highlight the Litter-Free Rhode Island campaign and the value of the environment, and to recognize the importance of people improving the quality of life in their communities. Improving the appearance of our neighborhoods and our scenic and recreation areas improves our quality of life and our business climate as well. Environmental stewardship is an important component of a healthy business climate.

The microgrants may be used for local Earth Day or other volunteer cleanups/beautification projects. All applications need to demonstrate how the event will promote education of the Litter-Free Rhode Island campaign and strongly encourage participants to sign the Litter-Free Pledge.

A link to the online application is below. Applications may be submitted for EACH event scheduled during the application period, even if hosted by the same applicant. Please note that maximum funding for any single event shall be limited to \$500. Applications will be accepted through April 15, 2025 or until the grant money runs out.

Schools, municipal organizations (for example, town department of public works, parks and recreation, conservation commission), and non-profit organizations are all eligible to apply. To be considered you must provide a copy of your organization's W-9.

All sections of the application must be completed; incomplete forms will not be considered. Projects must be completed no later than June 30, 2025. Applications must be received at least 30 days in advance of the event. **Following completion of the event, RIDEM is requiring the submittal of photographs of the event, the number of participants, the amount of material collected, and proof that the funding was successfully spent as proposed.** The application may also be found on the RIDEM website: www.dem.ri.gov.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- Relevancy to local environmental/community interests.
- Increased learning opportunities for the community.
- Long term environmental/beautification impact.
- Demonstrated need.

EXPENSES NOT FUNDED:

- Personnel expenses (i.e. salary, overtime, professional landscapers, etc).
 - Fuel or travel costs related to purchasing items for the event/project.
 - Expenses incurred prior to grant award date.
 - Direct or Indirect Lobbying or political activities.
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The completed application and registration form **must be submitted by 4pm on April 15, 2025.**

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
2025 LITTER-FREE RHODE ISLAND MICROGRANT APPLICATION**

Organization Name: (Long text, should match the application)
Organization Point of Contact: (Long text, should match the application)
Organization Email: (email format)
Organization Phone Number: (phone number format)
Organization Address (Street): (Long text)
Organization Address (City): (Long text or drop-down list)
Organization Address (Zipcode): (Long text or drop-down list)

Grant Amount: (dollar amount)

Event Date: (Date field)

Event Summary: (long text for a write-up)

Event Budget:

This is an estimate of costs and not all fields need to be filled out.

Cost Category	Description (optional)	Amount (\$)
Marketing		<mandatory, or set to zero>
Materials		<mandatory, or set to zero>
Printing/Copying		<mandatory, or set to zero>
Waste disposal fees		<mandatory, or set to zero>
Refreshments		<mandatory, or set to zero>
Equipment		<mandatory, or set to zero>
Other		<mandatory, or set to zero>

Total		<must match request>

NOTE: If the date/location or any other important specifics of your planned event change after submittal of this form to RIDEM, please submit a corrected/updated form ASAP.

Please consider the environment with the purchase of any material. Try to avoid single-use plastics, recycle any packaging materials, and encourage guests to “carry-in carry-out”.

REMINDER: By accepting the funding from RIDEM, you will be required to provide proof that the activity was carried out as proposed. Proof will be reported below after the event.

Post-event Reporting:

- Miles Covered of Cleanup: (number)
- Number of People attending the event: (number)
- Pounds of litter or marine debris removed: (number)
- Number of People that signed the Litter Free Pledge: (number)
- Photos from Event: (provide the option to upload photos)

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are the answers to some of the frequently asked questions we received last year about this grant opportunity.

1. Q: *Where can I find an application?*
A: The application and registration form are attached to this packet, however if you need an additional copy the application packet can also be found on the Litter-Free Rhody website at www.litterfree.ri.gov.

2. Q: *Can schools apply?*
A: Schools, municipal organizations (for example, town department of public works, parks and recreation, conservation commission), and non-profit organizations are all eligible to apply. **In order to be considered you must provide a copy of your organization’s W-9.**

3. Q: *What type of expenses ARE funded?*
A: Examples of what the grant funding can be used for, equipment (gloves, pickers), marketing (t-shirts, printing, etc.), food and/or water for the volunteers and debris removal (dumpster, etc.)

4. Q: *Do we have to be a 501c3 non-profit to be considered?*
A: We are not specifying that non-profits be a 501c3 because we recognize that there are community-based non-profit organizations that have other federally recognized non-profit designations. As long as you can provide proof that your organization is a federally recognized non-profit organization your application will be considered.
5. Q: *Inadvertently my co-worker and I both submitted applications for our organization. Can you please consider both?*
A: No. We will only consider one application per organization. If we receive multiple applications for a single organization we will only consider the first application that arrives. Before you submit an application be sure to coordinate with other members of your organization.
6. Q: *What are the criteria that are used to consider which applicants will receive an Earth Day grant?*
A: The evaluation criteria are listed on page 2 of this packet. The criteria includes relevancy to local environmental/community interests, increased learning opportunities for the community, long term environmental/beautification impact, and demonstrated need.
7. Q: *Is the deadline a firm deadline? Does the application have to be postmarked by the deadline or received at DEM by the deadline?*
A: The application must be received at DEM by 4pm on April 15, 2025. Applications are submitted online at www.litterfree.ri.gov or www.dem.ri.gov
8. Q: *Who reviews the applications and determines which applicants will receive an Earth Day grant?*
A: The review committee consists of representatives from RIDEM and RI Department of Transportation.