



Town of China
Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Committee
Application for Funding

This form is a request for funding of public money from the Town of China's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Committee. Please fill out completely and as accurately as you can. If you have questions about how to complete the form, contact the TIF Chair or the town manager.

Requesting organization: China Lake Association

Contact person: Stephen Greene Phone: (973) 557-6308

Email address: stephencraiggreene@gmail.com

1. Amount requested: \$25,000

Please provide a detailed description/budget for the project. Please attach a narrative, if needed.

Please see CLA's consolidated application for supporting details.

2. Purpose of request – mission/project description.

- What are you trying to fix/improve?
- How does this request result in improved economic development or enhance the town?

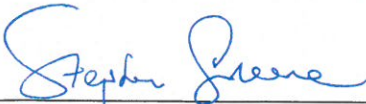
Operational labor expenses of Youth Conservation Corps and Courtesy Boat Inspection based on general awareness of the well-established community programs modeled after State-wide lake programs. There also is a multi-year historical record of YCC and CBI services at China Lake for lake water quality protection and watershed protection. Please see CLA's consolidated application for supporting details.

3. Where is the project located? address/map & lot/GPS location with description

China Lake predominantly. Three Mile Pond.

4. How will the TIF Committee know if you are successful?

To measure the "success" of conservation programs like YCC and CBI, CLA respectfully relies on the China Lake Watershed Management Plan's findings and data which address such programs; a link to the WBMP is embedded in the consolidated application



Signature of applicant


December 27, 2023

Date

Please provide applicable items from the following list:

1. Maps
2. Estimates of materials, building(s) designs and plot plans
3. Estimates of paid labor and volunteer labor
4. Estimates of services to be purchased/contracted
5. Estimates of equipment to be purchased
6. Estimated project start date:
7. Estimated project completion date:

If your application is successful and the China Select Board awards you a grant, you are responsible for using the funds as described in your application. A TIF Committee member will be assigned as your personal liaison. He or she will answer questions about the TIF program, inspect your project at agreed upon intervals and make progress reports to the TIF Committee. Any changes to your approved plan must be submitted to your liaison, who may at his or her discretion bring them to full committee for review. Significant changes could lead to amendment or withdrawal of grant.

 **Please note you may be required to provide multiple bids/quotes with this application by the Select Board and/or the TIF Committee.**

TIF COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Control Number (FY Year + Sequence i.e. 2021-10):

Date Application received by the town: 12/27/23

Date Presented to TIF Committee: 2/5/24

Project Category: C.4 (see Exhibit E, China Second Amended TIF Program)

Date Approved by TIF Committee for recommendation to Select Board: 2/5/24 \$25,000⁰⁰

Date Presented to Select Board: 2/26/24

Date Approved by Select Board: 2/26/24

Liaison assigned to project: DAN BOIVIN

Grant amount not to exceed \$ 25,000⁰⁰ to be disbursed from C.4 Project Cost Sub-Account (see Exhibit K, China Second Amended TIF Program)

Once project is complete – did this project meet the stated objectives:

**CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION OF CHINA LAKE ASSOCIATION TO
TOWN OF CHINA SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF CHINA TIF COMMITTEE
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 GRANT FUNDING**

Requesting Organization: China Lake Association

Contact Person(s): Stephen Greene, President
973-557-6308
stephencraiggreene@gmail.com

Amounts Requested: \$15,000 Municipal Tranche
\$25,000 TIF Tranche
Total Funding: \$40,000

China Lake Association (CLA) submits a consolidated application to the Select Board and the TIF Committee of the Town of China for fiscal year 2024-2025 funding of environmental programs and services serving China Lake and Three Mile Pond.

CLA respectfully seeks the two grants by this unified request to cover “[c]osts of funding environmental improvement projects developed [for] [i]mproving and sustaining the water quality of China Lake, Three Mile Pond and other water resources within the Town [that are] critical to the economy of the Town,” as permitted by the policy expression found in the Second Amended TIF Program (paraphrased above).

If approved, the grant funding will be administered by CLA’s volunteer board of directors; but we emphasize the CLA board will be one of several responsible parties providing effective oversight and management of ongoing environmental projects and spending controls to insure grant terms compliance. The usage of the grant relates to the ongoing implementation of the 2022-32 China Lake Watershed-based Management Plan (WBMP)
<https://www.chinalakeassociation.org/wbmp>.¹

In 2024, WBMP administration will be led by a steering committee, comprised of representatives of CLA, China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA), Kennebec Water District (KWD), Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District (KCSWCD), DEP, and technical consultants.²

¹ The WBMP is a multi-year, multi-pronged effort to both address non-point source (NPS) pollution in the watershed (Reduce/Prevent the External Phosphorus Load), and inactivate phosphorus in bottom sediments, using aluminum treatment technology (Reduce the Internal Phosphorus Load). As CLA has noted in prior grant applications, the WBMP provides a detailed framework, reviewed and accepted by Maine DEP, for restoring water quality in China Lake.

² KCSWCD executive director Dale Finseth serves as lead administrator; he has retained and will be supported by field technical experts Jen Jespersion, Josh Platt, and Laura Suomi-Lecker.

By way of background, in 2023, in order to launch and help fund the WBMP, KCSWCD, in partnership with CLA, successfully applied for, and was awarded, a grant in the sum of \$100,068 from the Maine DEP under its Section 319 NPS Pollution Control Project grant program (319 Grant).

The 319 Grant requires that \$85,924 in non-federal matching funds and in-kind support be contributed by KCSWCD, CLA and the other project partners. We have developed a plan to do that.

During the 2024-2025 grant period, KCSWCD and CLA plan to oversee approximately 17 site rehabilitation projects in the China Lake watershed; in addition, we will conduct training and public awareness programs for citizens, and we will co-manage a buffer planting program to encourage landowners to install responsible buffers at their lakefront properties to help reduce NPS runoff entering China Lake.

KCSWCD and CLA plan to use CRLA resources, as well as the Youth Conservation Corp (YCC), and private contractors as site rehab labor; these services will serve as part of the required non-federal matching funds.

In the past, CRLA operated the YCC. The CLA will now be taking on more responsibility for administration of the YCC. This grant request contemplates approximately 10 part-time youth employees for the summer. The total cost for labor (and some materials) is estimated to be: \$25,000.

Grant funding will also be dedicated to non-WBMP "Core Programs," such as Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI), historically managed by China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA).

It is important to explain the current background and circumstances behind CLA's enlarged role in seeking the grants for Core Program management: CRLA will not be applying this year for 2024/2025 grants. Why?

CRLA currently lacks an executive director due to the recent notice of resignation and retirement of Scott Pierz, effective 12/31/2023. With the executive director vacancy and, as of the date of this application, uncertainty about when a successor can be hired to run CRLA next year, it is incumbent on CLA to "bridge the gap," serve as the interim lead non-profit administrator, and preserve the Core Programs.

A major concern for all lakes in Maine is the prevention of aquatic invasive plants. Central Maine has seen an increase in the spread of aquatic invasive plants; it is a serious concern for China Lake. In recent years, the CRLA ran courtesy boat inspection and sought funding for wages of courtesy boat inspectors. For the new fiscal year, CLA's request includes the staffing cost for courtesy boat inspectors on China Lake over the summer at peak demand times. The amount requested is an estimate based on past records of work performed. The total cost for this item is estimated to be \$15,000

CLA can provide management of funding and administering programs. This interim step means organizing a seasonal June-to-Labor Day CBI workforce, with adequate supervision, and a payroll service with appropriate insurance to run the programs. CLA intends to draw on current CRLA cash reserves.

CLA does not underestimate the operational challenges and contingencies that lie ahead. CLA appreciates past appropriations from the Town of China, and continues to make progress on the goals outlined in the WBMP and our own growth as a non-profit.

.The total amount requested by CLA is more than we requested last year, however, as noted above, CRLA will not be requesting any municipal and TIF funding this year. Thus, the total of this request is less than the amount received by CRLA and CLA last fiscal year for the preservation of China Lake.

In closing, we thank the Town of China's ongoing partnership with CLA and your commitment to helping restore and protect the water quality of China Lake for all the town's residents and visitors.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Greene, President
China Lake Association