



# Talking Points for Coordinators & Leadership

## Securing Local Funding For Your Lake Host Program

### Secure Municipal Funding to Support Your Lake Host Program:

- Encourage your municipal budget committee to include funding in the annual budget to expand your local Lake Host Program. Most groups participating in the Lake Host Program receive supplemental funding from their municipality. The average municipal funding is approximately \$4,000 for groups receiving municipal support. Contact NH LAKES if you want a letter of support to bring to your municipal officials.
- Submit a warrant article requesting that voters at the annual town meeting approve the dedication of municipal funds to supplement the local Lake Host Program. Contact your municipal office to determine the requirements and deadlines for warrant article submission.
- **In the months, weeks, days, and even the hours leading up to the town meeting, educate the voters about why they should support the local Lake Host Program.**
  - ✓ Write letters of support to the local paper.
  - ✓ Display educational posters in support of the Lake Host Program in public meeting places.
  - ✓ Meet with local groups to discuss the importance of the local Lake Host Program.
  - ✓ *Contact NH LAKES if you are interested in receiving a Lake Host Program PowerPoint presentation.*
  - ✓ At the Town Meeting, distribute flyers and set up signs about the importance of the local Lake Host Program.

#### Your Community Can Help.

Local funding resources can be used to sponsor **MORE** paid Lake Host Inspector time spent protecting your lake from aquatic invasive species.

NH LAKES developed the Lake Host Charitable Giving program to help local partners like **YOU** raise funds for their Lake Host Program payroll expenses.

**Lake Host Charitable Giving** makes it easy for your supporters to make a tax-deductible charitable contribution directly to your Lake Host program payroll through our secure online portal.

Your donors receive a timely thank you letter/tax receipt for their donation prepared by NH LAKES staff.

**100% of all donations are applied to your group's Lake Host payroll.**

**Go to: [nhlakes.org/lhcg](https://nhlakes.org/lhcg)**



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### Ask Neighbors to Support Your Lake Host Program:

- Encourage local business owners, particularly those supported by lake-related tourism, to financially support your group through Lake Host Charitable Giving. Their donations to the local Lake Host Program are tax-deductible, and NH LAKES takes care of sending the tax receipt.
- Encourage friends, neighbors, and individual supporters of your association to donate through Lake Host Charitable Giving. Some individuals may not want to volunteer their time as a volunteer Lake Host but may be inclined to donate so that your group can staff the ramp with paid Lake Hosts for longer periods.
- Suggest that cove and road associations, groups of neighbors/supporters, or individuals sponsor a paid Lake Host for a shift at a ramp for a day, weekend, or even a week.
- **Raise awareness and funding for the local Lake Host Program at community events.**
  - Include a Lake Host and invasive species-themed float in your annual lake association street or boat parade.
  - Staff a Lake Host Charitable Giving booth at your town's annual fair.
  - Have an association yard sale or a raffle and donate some of the proceeds to the local Lake Host Program.
  - Include the link to the Lake Host Charitable Giving donation portal ([nhlakes.org/lhcg](https://nhlakes.org/lhcg)) in your email signature.
- When you send out your group's annual membership renewal notices, include an option for supporters to donate specifically to the Lake Host Program at your lake through Lake Host Charitable Giving ([nhlakes.org/lhcg](https://nhlakes.org/lhcg)).

**Provide recognition to individuals and groups that support the program.**

**Consider posting a "Thank You" in the local newsletter or putting up a sign at the launch while your inspectors are on duty to show your appreciation!**



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### Why Should People Support Their Local Lake Host Program?

- New Hampshire is home to approximately 1,000 lakes and ponds, and these resources enhance the quality of life for New Hampshire's residents and visitors in many ways.
- Lakes and ponds provide aesthetic, ecological, recreational, and economic values to the local community and the overall state of New Hampshire.
- Recreational opportunities on New Hampshire's freshwater bodies, such as boating, fishing, and swimming, translate to millions of dollars in sales and income and thousands of full-time and seasonal jobs in the state.
- Aquatic invasive plant and animal infestations make recreation in and on lakes and ponds dangerous and unpleasant, disrupting the waterbody's ecological balance.
- Aquatic invasive species infestations reduce aesthetic and recreational uses of the waterbody. This reduces shoreline property values. All property owners in a municipality shoulder this problem, not just the ones that own shorelines. As tax revenue generated from shoreline property values decreases, tax revenue from non-shoreline property may need to increase.
- The cost of managing and controlling an aquatic invasive species infestation in a waterbody quickly becomes a local problem:
  - Invasive species management is time, labor, and financially intensive. There is currently no method to eradicate aquatic invasive plants or animal infestations.
  - The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) only pays for the first year of management efforts for newly discovered aquatic invasive plant infestations. There are currently no feasible management options for aquatic invasive animal infestations in New Hampshire.
  - The demand for NHDES grant funding typically exceeds the amount available, and managing an infestation quickly becomes the local municipality's problem and a staggering local financial burden.

#### Prevention is key!

**The presence of invasive milfoil can reduce property values of an average home on an average lake in New Hampshire by 16%.**

**The main way invasive aquatic species spread from lake to lake in New Hampshire is through the transportation of plant fragments or animal larvae from infested waterbodies to uninfested waterbodies on boats and trailers.**