

## Rhode Island Foundation – Newport County Fund – Blue Access for All Project



**Grant Donor:** Rhode Island Foundation – Newport County Fund

**Grantee:** Clean Ocean Access

**Year:** 2018-2019

**Grant Value:** \$5,000

### Grant Overview:

The Blue Access for All Project will engage 120 underserved youth in Newport, Rhode Island, connecting them to their environment along the shoreline, Newport Harbor Walk, and Cliff Walk. The activities along the waterfront will provide the youth with new opportunities and education for a healthy and active lifestyle, while connecting the students with the ocean, coastline, and local ecosystems. Each student will receive a reusable water bottle, backpack, t-shirt, healthy snacks, and a journal. During the program, time will be spent to educate and empower the youth using hands-on, minds-on activities that build a sense of accomplishment and belief that healthy living is possible here in Newport. Through these activities, students will learn about healthy food choices, exercise, and the benefits of staying active and connecting with the ocean. Clean Ocean Access plans to invite local fitness specialists, dieticians, environmental and wellness non-profit organizations, as well as Salve Regina University faculty and students to participate in the program sessions to bring subject matter expertise into the process.

### Expected Impact:

The goal of this project is for children to develop an active lifestyle with an improved sense of happiness, health, and connection to the natural environment. This goal closely aligns with Clean Ocean Access' outreach education efforts to get the youth out of the classroom and in nature to develop a personal relationship with the ecosystems of Aquidneck Island. Clean Ocean Access strongly believes that investing in hands-on, and minds-on activities for the youth of Newport and Aquidneck Island is essential for fostering environmental stewardship. This approach provides opportunities for the next generation to develop an awareness, sensitivity, and understanding of their interconnected relationship with the natural environment.