



NYS Consolidated Funding Application

Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) grants: available for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas of New York State by nonprofits and municipalities. Grants can fund up to 50% of total project cost, up to 75% if the project is located in a high-poverty area. Grant awards are capped at \$500,000, and dispersed as reimbursements.

Next round anticipated May to July 2018

Eligible costs:

- Acquisition of property
- Administration including construction supervision, grant administration, procurement costs
- Construction such as labor, materials, landscaping, site preparation
- Permanent equipment such as playgrounds and interpretive kiosks
- Pre-development costs such as design fees, archaeology, project planning

Ineligible costs:

- Cost of preparing this application
- Overhead and operating expenses such as office rental, salaries/wages, staff training
- Construction that does not preserve historic integrity
- Maintenance equipment such as mowers or automotive equipment
- Management plans
- Work completed prior to grant award
- Fundraising events and marketing

Types of match/applicant share:

- Cash, including other grants (not other EPF grants)
- Professional services
- Force account: payroll expenses related to project
- Supplies and materials
- Volunteer labor
- Equipment usage
- Real property: value acquired, donated, or converted from a nonpark use

Elements of a strong CFA application

- Detailed, justified budget and reasonable timeline
- Financial match in hand, shovel-ready
- Demonstrated grant administration capacity
- Project impact for underserved groups and park/site users of diverse ages and abilities
- Proven need for facilities, project supported by community/regional planning documents
- Evidence of community support from park/site users
- Cooperative relationship with park/site management
- Be currently pre-qualified in the NYS Grants Gateway
- All statements backed up with documentation

Successful Friends group EPF projects:

- Friends of Higley Flow State Park: Built the all-season, multi-purpose Higley Trails Lodge with restrooms, a classroom, and display areas.
- Friends of Ganondagan: Three-part grant which built year-round Seneca Arts and Cultural Center which includes a theater, catering kitchen, and gift shop.
- Friends of John Jay Homestead: Planning project to create designs and develop cost estimates for parking, walkways, lighting, signage, and landscaping.
- Friends of Letchworth: Restoration of Civilian Conservation Corps-built lean-to and stone chimneys, picnic area improvement, and trail signage.
- Friends of Taconic State Park: Built protective roof over historic iron-making structures.
- The Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge Co (Walkway Over the Hudson): Building a welcome center, installed a waterfront elevator and retaining walls.

Important Tips: Carefully read the guidance documents, selection criteria, all application questions and scoring tips. Find 2017 CFA info at:

<http://nysparks.com/grants/consolidated-funding-app.aspx>