



State Funding for Greenway Trails

While New York State does not currently have a dedicated, statewide source of funding for greenway trail development, funds to support greenway trail planning, design, construction and maintenance can be obtained through many existing grant programs. Many of the grants awarded by New York are administered through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), a streamlined application process that allows applicants to access multiple grant programs through one funding application. Programs administered through the CFA process have one grant period per year, with applications typically open from May through July, and awards are typically announced at the end of year. Programs described below are grouped into those that are administered through the CFA and those that are administered independently. Unless otherwise noted, information provided is from the 2025 funding round.

Consolidated Funding Application Programs

Recreational Trails Program (Available in odd-numbered years)

Program Goals: Develop & maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses.
Funding Available: Up to \$3 million. 30% of funds are required to go to non-motorized recreation, 30% to motorized recreation, and 40% for diverse recreational trail use.

Eligible Applicants: County and local governments and not-for-profit corporations.

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Funding requests range from \$25,000 to \$300,000, with the exception of equipment purchase-only projects, which have a minimum request of \$5,000. Funding will cover up to 80% of a project's total cost.

Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage (EPF) - Parks Program

Program Goals: Acquisition, development or planning of parks and recreational facilities open to the public to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures for park, recreation, or conservation purposes and for structural assessments and/or planning.

Funding Available: \$26 million was available in 2025

Eligible Applicants: State Agencies; County & local governments; public benefit corporations; public authorities; not-for-profit corporations.

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Awards are capped at \$675,000. Funding reimburses up to 50% of eligible expenditures, with up to 75% eligible for reimbursement in high-poverty areas.

Canalway Grant Program

Program Goals: Canal related capital projects across the NYS Canal System.

Funding Available: Up to \$1 million annually

Eligible Applicants: County and local governments; federally recognized Native American tribes; Not-for-profit Corporations.

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Awards range between \$25,000 and \$150,000. Funding requires a 1:1 match.

Climate Smart Communities Grant Program

Program Goals: The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) grant program provides funding for municipalities to address greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation at the local level

Funding Available: At least \$22 million available in 2025

Eligible Applicants: All municipalities in New York State are eligible.

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Awards range between \$10,000 and \$200,000 for certification projects and between \$50,000 and \$2,000,000 for implementation projects. Match requirements range from 20-50% depending on location or local median household income.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Program Goals: Provides matching grants for planning, design, and construction projects to revitalize communities and waterfronts.

Funding Available: Approximately \$13,975,000 in 2025, with \$2 million for updates to existing plans to mitigate future climate risks.

Eligible Applicants: A village, town or city located along New York's coasts or inland waterways, or a county with the written consent and acting on behalf of one or more eligible villages, towns or cities.

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Grant requests range from \$50,000 to \$2,000,000. State assistance cannot exceed 75% of project costs, except in Environmental Justice or Disadvantaged Communities, where state assistance cannot exceed 85% of project costs.

Smart Growth Community Planning and Zoning Grant Program

Program Goals: Advance the preparation and adoption of new or updated comprehensive plans, community wide zoning regulations, or area plans that include transit-oriented development plans and downtown/hamlet area plans.

Funding Available: Approximately \$2 million available in 2025

Eligible Applicants: County or local governments; Counties on behalf of a town, village, or city; Regional planning entities on behalf of a town, village, city, or county; or eligible not-for-profit organizations on behalf of a county, town, village, or city.

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Minimum awards are \$75,000, awards have no maximum size. State assistance shall not exceed 90% of the total eligible costs.

Non-CFA Grants

Federal Pass-Through Transportation Grants

NYS DOT directly administers three competitive grant programs using federal “pass-through” funding. Funding has historically been made available every three years. In the most recent round, the three programs were largely treated as one for public purposes, with the application opportunity including all three programs, and awards for all three being announced at the same time. In 2023, funding saw applications open from September 2023 through January 2024, with awards announced in June 2024. The last round of funding saw applications open from October 2025 through March 2026.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Program Goals: TAP funding helps communities deliver safe, transformative, and innovative transportation projects which expand, enhance and modernize walking and biking options and connections to transit.

Funding Available: \$97.4 million in funding for the TAP program was made available in the last grant cycle.

Eligible Applicants: County and local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public lands agencies, tribal governments, metropolitan planning organizations, school districts, non-governmental organizations.

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Award sizes range from \$500,000 to \$7,000,000. Project sponsors must provide a minimum 20 percent share of funding for the project.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

Program Goals: CMAQ provides funding to State and local entities for transportation projects that reduce vehicle emissions and traffic congestion in areas where air quality does not meet or previously did not attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Funding Available: \$51 million in funding for the program was made available in the last grant cycle.

Eligible Applicants: County and local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public lands agencies, tribal governments, metropolitan planning organizations, school districts, non-governmental organizations, NYS DOT.

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Award sizes range from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000. Project sponsors must provide a minimum 20 percent share of funding for the project.

Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

Program Goals: CRP provides funding for projects that support the reduction of transportation emissions in small urban areas and rural areas including the development of facilities for biking, walking, and other nonmotorized transportation, and other emission reduction strategies.

Funding Available: \$11 million in funding for the TAP program was made available in the last grant cycle.

Eligible Applicants: County and local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public lands agencies, tribal governments

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Award sizes range from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000. Project sponsors must provide a minimum 20 percent share of funding for the project.

Geographically-limited State Grants

Hudson River Valley Greenway Community and Compact Grant Program

Program Goals: The Greenway’s Community and Compact Planning Grant Program is designed to help Greenway Communities and participating Compact Communities develop and implement a vision for their future that achieves the shared goals of Natural and Cultural Resource Protection, Regional Planning, Economic Development, Public Access and Heritage and Environmental Education.

Funding Available: The latest round of funding opened in March 2025.

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Award sizes vary by project category. Greenway Communities Grant Program awards with a single municipal applicant are capped at \$20,000, and those with multiple municipal applicants capped at \$30,000. Greenway Compact Grant Program awards have a maximum of \$50,000. All grants require a 50% non-state funds match.

Hudson River Valley Conservancy Trail Grant Program

Program Goals: The Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy Trails Grant Program is dedicated to funding recreational trail projects. Special consideration is given to projects that seek to implement the goals of the Greenway Trail Program. The application emphasizes connections to the Empire State Trail. In 2026, applications will be open July through August, and be awarded in October.

Funding Available: In 2023, a total of \$500,000 was available across four grant categories.

Eligible Applicants: Municipalities and not-for-profit corporations located within the geographic area of the Hudson River Valley Greenway

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Award sizes vary by project category: Trail Construction - up to \$250,000; Trail Design or Planning - up to \$75,000; Trail Rehabilitation or Improvement Projects - up to \$100,000; Natural Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction - up to \$250,000. All grants require a 50% non-state funds match.

NYS Canal System Tourism Infrastructure and Events Grants

Program Goals: Tourism Infrastructure grants support capital improvement projects and purchase of equipment that enhance recreational amenities and tourism, especially overnight stays, along the NYS Canal System and Canalway Trails. Event grants support public events and festivals that encourage exploration and enjoyment of the cultural, heritage, nature and recreational offerings within the canal corridor.

Funding Available: About \$160,000 available overall.

Eligible Applicants: Counties, Municipalities, Units of Local Government, Not-for-profit organizations and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes located within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Award Sizes and Match Requirements: Tourism Infrastructure grants range between \$5,000 and \$24,000; Event Support grants range between \$500 and \$3,000. All awards must be matched on a one-to-one basis; match funds can include cash or in-kind funding.

*Greenways Guides are a series of resources developed from **Trails Across New York: A Grassroots Guide to Developing Greenway Trails** guide. Read and download the full guide at ptny.org/greenways*

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