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

Consolidated Funding Application 2019
Summary of EPF in CFA 2018

- $17.9 million awarded
- 71 projects funded
- Projects in all 10 REDC regions
EPF in CFA 2019

• Up to $19.5 million is available.

• The maximum grant award is $600,000. If the total project cost is greater than $4,000,000, up to $1,000,000 may be requested.

• Funding provides assistance for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas located within the physical boundaries of the State of New York.

• All grant awards come with long term protections to ensure public access, either through parkland alienation law, conservation easements or covenants recorded against the deeds.
Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities and not-for-profit organizations with an ownership interest in the property are eligible to apply.
Project phases eligible for funding

All OPRHP’s EPF grants are for capital projects directed toward the development of property.

- Planning
- Acquisition
- Development
Parks Program

- Eligible projects **preserve, rehabilitate, restore or acquire** lands, waters or structures for park, recreation or conservation purposes and for structural assessments and/or planning for such projects.

Examples include:

- Playgrounds
- Courts
- Rinks
- Community gardens
- Facilities for swimming, boating, picnicking, hunting, fishing, camping or other recreational activities.
Historic Preservation Program

- Eligible projects **improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate, restore or acquire** properties on the Register, and for structural assessments and/or planning for such projects.

- Historic properties must be listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places.

- All work must conform to the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. 
Heritage Areas Program

• Projects must be identified in the **approved management plans** for Heritage Areas designated under Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law.

• There are **19 designated Heritage Areas** with approved management plans.
Reimbursement

• Successful applicants are reimbursed for up to 50 percent of their eligible expenditures.

• For projects located in impoverished areas, the grant award can be up to 75 percent of the eligible project cost.

• All applicants are expected to raise their share within one year of the award, or risk cancellation of the grant.

• All projects must be completed within 5 years from the date of the award of the grant.
Tips for Preparing a Competitive Application

Visit https://parks.ny.gov/grants/consolidated-funding-app.aspx

1. Read the 2019 CFA Guidance Document on our website for information about:

   - Eligibility: Not-for-profit organizations must be pre-qualified in the Grants Gateway as of 4:00 PM on July 26, 2019.
   - Requirements: Provide all of the required documents. Review the Attachment Checklist on our website.
   - Grant Selection Criteria.
More Tips for Preparing a Competitive Application

2. Work closely with the Regional Grants Administrator for your county as listed in the Guidance Document.

3. If you are applying to other agencies in addition to OPRHP, show what part of the project is specific to OPRHP.

4. Click on Scoring Tips for each question in the CFA.

5. Provide supporting documentation to back up statements made.
6. Show how your project meets the Funding Priorities including OPRHP Commissioner Priorities for 2019:

- Inclusion
- Walkable Public Spaces
- Trails/Connections
- Friends/Partner Projects
7. Pay particular attention to the **Reasonableness of Cost** questions:

- **Budget**: Be clear about what project elements you are asking the State to fund.
- **Readiness**: These must be *shovel-ready* projects, but be sure you follow procurement rules. Do not commence work or hire professionals before award or contract without consulting with the Reginal Grants Administrator for your county.
- **Feasibility**: Realistic plans, sound administrative structures.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019

Do not wait until 4:00 PM to submit your application. Start now, read all available guidance, and prepare accordingly.

Good luck!
Beatrice Gamache
Assistant Director, Contract Bureau
NYSOPRHPGrants@parks.ny.gov
(518) 474-0427
OR
OPRHP Regional Grants Administrator
https://parks.ny.gov/grants/contact.aspx