

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP)

### 1. What grant money is available?

\$15 Million in GIGP grant is available in 2021 through the CFA Round 11.

### 2. What is the application process?

GIGP applications are submitted through the Governor's Regional Economic Development Councils initiative (REDC) and the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process. Applications must be completed and submitted through the CFA with all required supporting documents. For more information, including how to apply, please visit the [GIGP](#) tab on EFC's website.

### 3. Who can apply for GIGP money?

Applicant eligibility varies depending on the funding category:

**Green Stormwater Infrastructure:** Eligible applicants include any county, city, town, village, district corporation, county or town improvement district, Indian reservation wholly within New York State, any public benefit corporation or public authority established pursuant to the laws of New York State or any agency of New York State which is empowered to construct and operate an eligible GIGP project, or any two or more of the foregoing which are acting jointly in connection with an eligible GIGP project.

Eligible applicants may also include any partnership, association, school district, not-for-profit corporation or any other corporation organized and existing under the laws of New York State or any other State which is empowered to develop a project or any two or more of the foregoing which are acting jointly in connection with a project.

**Energy & Water Efficiency:** Eligible applicants may include any county, city, town, village, district corporation, county or town improvement district, Indian reservation wholly within New York State, any public benefit corporation or public authority established pursuant to the laws of New York State, or any agency of New York State which is empowered to construct and operate a treatment works, or any two of the foregoing which are acting jointly in connection with an eligible treatment works project.

Please note, where there are multiple partners, the entity that will own, operate, and maintain the GIGP eligible project for the duration of its useful life should be the primary applicant for a GIGP project.

#### 4. How much funding does a GIGP grant provide?

The maximum percentage grant available to a GIGP project will be determined based on the median household income (MHI) of the municipality in which the project is located and whether EFC determines the project serves, protects, or benefits an environmental justice area. Projects in municipalities that meet the following MHI criteria, or that serve, protect, or benefit an environmental justice area will be eligible to receive up to the maximum grant available for the green practice.

- Municipal MHI equal to or less than \$90,000 for communities in the Long Island, New York City and Mid-Hudson Regions.
- Municipal MHI equal to or less than \$70,000 for communities in New York State, excluding the Long Island, New York City and Mid-Hudson Regions.

All other awards would be eligible for a maximum grant up to the lesser grant available as shown below. If a project employs two green practice EFC will determine which maximum applies.

**Green Stormwater Infrastructure:** The maximum percentage grant is up to 90% of eligible project costs for a green stormwater infrastructure project in a municipality that meets the MHI criteria, or that serves, protects, or benefits an environmental justice area. All other green infrastructure projects are eligible to receive up to a maximum of 75% of total eligible project costs.

**Energy & Water Efficiency:** The maximum percentage grant is up to 75% of eligible project costs for an energy efficiency project in a municipality that meets the MHI criteria, or that serves, protects, or benefits an environmental justice area. All other energy efficiency projects are eligible to receive up to a maximum of 50% of total eligible project costs.

#### 5. What are the MWBE/EEO requirements for projects which receive financial assistance from EFC?

EFC is committed to promoting participation opportunities for New York State certified minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs) and equal employment opportunities (EEO) for minority group members and women in the performance of contracts that receive financial assistance through EFC's various programs. As such, EFC requires all contractors and subcontractors working on projects receiving EFC financial assistance to comply with State Executive Law Article 15-A, Title 5 NYCRR Parts 140-145, and Title 40 CFR Part 33, as applicable. EFC also requires all contractors and subcontractors working on projects receiving EFC financial assistance to comply with State and federal non-discriminatory provisions.

EFC has established program-specific MWBE participation goals, ranging from 20-30%. Further information on MWBE/EEO requirements, including program specific MWBE participation goals can be found on EFC's [website](#).

**6. Do we have to comply with NYS Prevailing Wage requirements?**

All GIGP funding must comply with prevailing wage requirements under Article 8 of the NYS Labor Law.

**7. What is a Smart Growth Assessment Form and how does it relate to GIGP grants?**

All projects that receive financial assistance from EFC are reviewed to determine if the project was developed in accordance with smart growth criteria. Projects that are consistent with smart growth criteria promote sustainability by strengthening existing and creating new communities which reduce greenhouse gas emissions and do not compromise the needs of future generations. These projects should be built to mitigate future physical climate risk due to sea level rise, storm surges and flooding. The [Smart Growth Assessment Form](#) gathers certain information to allow EFC to determine if the project is consistent with smart growth criteria. The form must be submitted when a project is listed, or with the financial assistance application packet.

**8. What environmental review requirements apply to EFC applicants?**

All applicants for EFC financial assistance are required to assess the environmental impacts of their projects pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act. SEQR requires that the municipality identify and mitigate any significant environmental impacts of the proposed project. The applicant must submit to EFC: i) documentation stating that the project is a Type II Action and reasons why; ii) a Negative Declaration if the project is determined not to have a significant adverse environmental impact, or iii) a Short or Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF). Detailed information on SEQR may be found on the Department of Environmental Conservation's [website](#).

Applicants seeking EFC financial assistance also must comply with the applicable requirements of the federal State Environmental Review Process (SERP), which may be more stringent than the requirements under SEQR. To comply with SERP, unless the project is a Type II Action exempt from SEQR, it must be treated as a Type I Action. A Type I Action under SEQR involves preparation of a Full EAF, coordinated review with all other agencies involved with the project and publication of the determination of environmental significance in the Environmental Notice Bulletin, and an Environmental Impact Statement and Statement of Findings, if applicable. An additional requirement of SERP is that each applicant must undertake and complete a New York State Historic Preservation Office review of the project.

**9. Where can I find more information on GIGP requirements?**

For more detailed information on GIGP requirements please visit <http://efc.ny.gov/GIGP>.

**10. Is porous asphalt more expensive than regular asphalt or about the same?**

The cost will vary by region and by job, based on the economies of scale.

**11. Does porous pavement hold up in the winter?**

Yes, when designed, installed, and maintained properly, porous pavement can outperform traditional pavement in the winter.

**12. How often do I have to replace plantings in a bioretention or rain garden?**

When properly maintained perennial plants can live for years however certain species may need to be replaced periodically. Aa plant palette of perennial & native species that are tolerant of drought and wet conditions are recommended.

**13. Can the grant be used for a dam removal project?**

Dam removal may be eligible for GIGP funding under very specific circumstances where it is an integral component of a river or stream restoration project.

**14. Can I use GIGP grant funds to purchase land?**

No, land acquisition is not an allowable cost under the GIGP.