Canalway Grant Program
Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) - Round 12 (2022)
Program Overview
Annual Grant Administration
The Canalway Grant Program is administered by the New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority (NYPA).

Applicant/Project Eligibility
Applicants may include eligible counties, municipalities, units of local government, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, and federally recognized Native American tribes for canal related capital projects.

Grant Funding
Includes up to $1.0 million in competitive grants awarded annually. Grant awards range between $25K (minimum grant award amount) and $150K (maximum grant award amount).

Grant Match
Applicants must demonstrate a minimum of 50% matching funds towards the project. Eligible match may include federal, local, private and other agency state funding, in-kind services, force account labor, materials and supplies, professional services, real property, equipment usage, and/or cash.

Project Execution Timeline
Projects must be completed within 2-years of being awarded.
Eligible Canalway Grant Project Locations

Projects must be located along one of the four canals of the Canal System (Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca), along trail connections to existing Canalway Trail segments, and/or along the historic canal alignment.
Overview of Awardee Requirements

• Projects must comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws, rules, regulations, requirements, ordinances and codes.

• Projects on Canal Corporation real property must be designed and constructed with Canal Corporation approval, and in accordance with engineering and design standards of the Canal Corporation.

• All required permits and approvals from federal, state, and local agencies must be obtained. Agencies include but may not be limited to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (including SHPO), and any others that may be required by the NYS Canal Corporation.

• For projects proposed by a municipality, the municipality will be lead agency for purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

• Project specifications and/or plans must be reviewed and approved by the Canal Corporation.

• A final report must be submitted to NYS Canal Corporation verifying project completion.
Grant Match and Reimbursement Requirements

- Funding requests must be between $25,000 and $150,000.
- Grant funds are provided on a reimbursement basis only, and awardees may submit no more than 3 reimbursement requests throughout the life of the project.
- Reimbursements will only be provided for projects or portions of a project initiated after the date of the grant award letter from the Canal Corporation.
- Projects may be initiated prior to receipt of the award letter, and matching expense documentation will be accepted for expenses up to one year prior to the date of the award letter, but reimbursement will only be provided for portions of the project initiated after the date of the award letter.
- Reimbursements are made directly to the grant awardee upon review and approval by the NYS Canal Corporation.
- Receipts, invoices and other documentation must meet the requirements of the NYS Canal Corporation. Reimbursable costs and grant matching funds must both be documented.
Examples of eligible project expenses for reimbursement include, but are not limited to:

- Constructing new buildings, trail sections, trail connections or structures.
- Substantial renovations or preservation of existing buildings, trail segments, or other structures, including reconfigurations (removal or construction of walls, ceilings and flooring, windows, window frames, hulls).
- Site preparation and improvements associated with a project (excavation, demolition, roadways, sidewalks, exterior lighting, sprinkler systems, utility hook-ups).
- Acquisition of furnishings, fixtures, machinery and equipment with a useful life in excess of five years including signs and interpretive exhibits, constructing or rehabilitating docks or bulkheads for the purpose of public access to and from the Canal System.

Ineligible project expenses for reimbursement include:

- The use of grant funds for land acquisition (however the costs of acquisition may be used as a local match).
- Grant funds cannot be used to cover operating expenses.
- Grant administration and pre-development costs shall not exceed 10% of the grant award amount (these costs may be used as part of the applicant match with no cap).
2022 Canalway Grant Program Priority Areas & Selection Criteria Overview

2022 Canalway Grant Program Priority Areas & Selection Criteria

1. Strategic Alignment
2. Project Support & Advocacy
3. Financial Viability
4. Implementation and Project Readiness
5. Effectiveness and Impact
Strategic Alignment

• The project addresses strategic priorities, goals, and connections between the canal and the corresponding region consistent with the Reimagine the Canals initiative.

• The project addresses strategic priorities consistent with the Regional Economic Development Council’s Strategic Planning efforts.

• The project strategically enhances or creates new assets that are consistent with NYS Canal’s On the Canals Program.

• The project helps enhance or tie into the Empire State Trail (EST) Initiative, and/or connectivity to the EST trail.

Project Support and Advocacy

• The project has demonstrated public support from the community and region.

• The applicant/project has or will receive written project endorsement from local, regional, and/or state leaders and other stakeholders. Examples of common letters of endorsement may include but are not limited to those from local, county, or state elected officials; Native American tribal leaders; Canal advocacy groups; and other organizations/individuals who may be crucial to the project’s implementation and continued success.
Implementation and Project Readiness

- The project will be completed within 2-Years of award notification.

- Some or all planning or pre-development work has been completed by the awardee or other project stakeholders.

- The project has a schedule with detailed project phases (i.e. start/finish of any design and predevelopment work, construction work, etc.), milestones, and identifies parties responsible for project oversight and implementation.

- There are no concerns with gaining timely permits or other approvals from federal, state, and local agencies, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and/or any others that may be required by the NYS Canal Corporation.

- The project is consistent with the principles of universal design (i.e., the project would be usable by all people including those with disabilities, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation of specialized design.)
Effectiveness and Impact

• The project includes or incorporates diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives making the canal more accessible to those with disabilities or others who may have not been able to access the canal or its amenities in the past.

• The project increases canal tourism, participation in canal-related activities, and/or attracts new multi-day visitors.

• The project is located within an environmental justice area.

• The project activates, restores, or enhances historic assets or other infrastructure that are significant to the Canal.

• The project is consistent with and/or promotes local or statewide sustainability goals and initiatives.

• The project enhances connectivity along adjacent trails, or directly to the Canal in areas that traditionally have not had access.

• The project includes components that will help mitigate future physical damage to the proposed or other infrastructure due to negative impacts from climate change including sea-level rise, storm surges, and/or flooding due to extreme weather events.
Financial Viability and Funding Leveraged

• The project costs are reasonable, reflective of recent cost estimates, and include adequate project contingencies for unanticipated project costs.

• A viable and accessible grant match is clearly demonstrated in the project grant budget.

• Project funding has been identified for long term operation and maintenance work.

• The project will stimulate private and/or public investment from other sources in the community and/or region.

• The project leverages funding secured from other state grant initiatives focused on waterfront, community, and recreational development. Examples may include but are not limited to: The NYS Department of State “Local Waterfront Revitalization Program” (LWRP), the NY Department of State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), and the NYS Department of Parks Recreation, and Historic Places Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program and Recreational Trails Program.

• The project would still be financially viable if other state grant funding sources were not secured.
Canal Grant Program Timeline (2022)

- **CFA Open Application Period**
  - (May 2nd – July 29th)

- **Agency & REDC Scoring**
  - (August – September)

- **Award Notification**
  - (Fall/Winter 2022)

- **Contract Review and Execution**
  - (Fall/Winter 2022 - 2023)
NYS CANALWAY GRANT PROGRAM

Questions?

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More Information?

NYS Canal Corporation Website:
www.canals.ny.gov

Canalway Grant Program Website:
http://www.canals.ny.gov/community/grant.html

Reimagine the Canals Website
https://www.ny.gov/programs/reimagine-canals-initiative