

# CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES GRANTS



Climate Smart Communities

Part of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Grant Program is a competitive grant program for municipalities to implement projects focused on climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation. Project types also include certain planning and assessment projects that are part of a strategy to achieve CSC certification. **This fact sheet provides an overview of the program; please refer to the request for applications (RFA) for details on eligible project types for the current grant cycle.**

## Implementation Projects

Implementation grants of between \$50,000 and \$2,000,000 are available for GHG mitigation and climate change adaptation projects such as those listed below.

### Eligible GHG Mitigation Projects

- Reduce vehicle miles traveled through improvements to non-recreational, non-motorized transportation and/or to mass transit, or by reducing commuting distances through densification or smart growth strategies.
- Facilitate the diversion of edible food or food scrap recycling at municipal facilities (e.g., wastewater treatment plants, composting facilities).
- Reduce fluorinated GHG emissions from refrigeration systems through replacement or retrofit, enhanced monitoring and disposal, adoption of measures enabling alternative refrigerant use, or education programs.
- Implement easily replicable renewable energy projects in public low-income housing.

### Eligible Adaptation Projects

- Increase natural resiliency to future flood risks, e.g., through living shorelines and nature-based landscape features.
- Relocate or retrofit critical infrastructure to reduce future flood risks.
- Replace or right-size flow barriers to facilitate emergency response or protect people, infrastructure, and natural resources.
- Address anticipated future extreme heat conditions, e.g., through the creation of community cooling centers.
- Improve emergency preparedness and response systems (excluding radio communication systems) for anticipated future extreme climate conditions.

## Certification Projects

Grants of between \$10,000 and \$200,000 are available to complete certain CSC certification actions. See the current grant cycle RFA for a list of CSC certification actions eligible for funding.

- **GHG Mitigation:** GHG inventories, climate action plans, construction and demolition waste policies
- **Fleet Management:** municipal fleet inventories and fleet efficiency policies
- **Materials Management:** organics management plans, construction, and demolition waste policies
- **Land Use:** comprehensive plans with sustainability elements, complete streets policies, planning for bicycling and walking, natural resources inventories
- **Adaptation actions:** vulnerability assessments, climate adaptation strategies, heat emergency plans, design flood elevation & flood maps, freeboard policies, national flood insurance program community rating system actions

Applicants for certification projects should consult the CSC certification portal at <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/> for full details regarding the requirements for each CSC certification action.

Scan the QR code for CSC certification action requirements.



## Climate Smart Communities Grant Program Details

**Eligible Applicants.** Any county, city, town, or village of the State of New York is eligible to apply. Registered and certified CSCs will receive points in the competitive scoring system, but applicants need not be registered or certified to apply.

**Partners.** Non-eligible entities (e.g., non-profits) or other municipalities may participate as part of a CSC grant project in partnership with an eligible lead applicant. In such cases, the grant application must include letters of partnership and/or partnership agreements.

**Match.** A local match calculated based on the total eligible project costs is required. Other state grants and federal funds are NOT eligible as match for a CSC grant award.

**Funding Restrictions.** Eligible costs include personal services (salary and fringe), contractual services, municipal project-related travel, municipal equipment, supplies, and materials. See the full request for applications for complete details on eligible and ineligible costs.

**Ownership:** All infrastructure and project components funded through the CSC grant program must be owned by the grantee and cannot be transferred to another entity for the duration of the service life of such infrastructure and/or project components.

**Climate Change Mitigation Easement (CCME).** If the applicant does not own the property upon which the proposed development, improvement, restoration, and/or rehabilitation project will be implemented, a CCME must be executed between the applicant and the landowner. A CCME template is available on the DEC climate action grant webpage. Visit <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/climate-change/resources-for-local-governments/grants-for-climate-action> or scan the QR code below for more information.

**Contract Term.** Funded projects should be ready to begin upon award. All projects MUST be completed within a five-year contract term.

**Payment and Reporting.** This grant program is a reimbursement program. Grant recipients must submit regular progress reports, including project-appropriate metrics, as part of the reimbursement process.

**Request for Applications.** All applicants should closely examine the RFA for complete details on the program, including information on application evaluation and scoring. The current RFA for the CSC grant program is available on the DEC climate action grant webpage at <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/climate-change/resources-for-local-governments/grants-for-climate-action> or by scanning the QR code below.

## Consolidated Funding Application

Applications for the Climate Smart Communities grant program are offered through the NYS consolidated funding application (CFA), available online at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>. The CFA website includes the application portal, instructions for applicants, pre-recorded webinars, and information on additional NYS grant opportunities.

The CFA application cycle runs from May to July, annually. Exact open and close dates vary from year to year. Materials and deadlines will be posted online when available.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

Scan the QR code for RFA and  
full program details.

