

Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grant Program (RNY)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is Regenerate NY (RNY)?** The [Regenerate New York Forestry Cost Share Grant Program](#) is intended to improve forest regeneration on private forest land through the use of certain forestry practices. RNY accomplishes this by reimbursing private forest landowners for up to 90% of qualifying practices.
2. **Who is eligible for grant funding?** Any private landowner with planning a project on 5 acres of forestland or land suitable for establishing forestland (if planting) may apply for and receive funding. Eligibility thresholds apply to a single tax parcel or multiple tax parcels which are contiguous (adjacent) to each other. The applicant must include a plan to maintain their practices in their work plan. A private landowner can also use a not-for-profit fiscal sponsor. In addition, the local Soil and Water Conservation District can apply on behalf of a landowner, under a letter of agreement.
3. **What is a Fiscal Sponsor?** A fiscal sponsor is an organization including a quasi-government agency (SWCD), a private forestry business, natural resource business focused on tree planting, NFP organization that applies to DEC on behalf of individuals or unincorporated organizations or groups. For Regenerate NY, a landowner would need to provide a letter of agreement, via the Statewide Financial System, from the organization as proof that it agrees to become a landowner's fiscal sponsor. The letter of agreement will need to be uploaded to the grants gateway as part of the grant application process. Because the organization is taking on the cost of installing the practices in place of the landowner, the organization will get reimbursed instead of the landowner. Land trusts and other conservation organizations that work with forest landowners may fit well as a fiscal sponsor.
4. **How can RNY help me?** RNY can reimburse private landowners for the cost of conducting forestry practices designed to establish, enhance, and protect tree seedlings on their property. Landowners must provide a 10% match of the grant funds awarded.
5. **Do I have to pay a matching amount?** Yes. The landowner is responsible for matching 10% of the awarded grant amount. The grant award is the amount of money awarded to the landowner, not the total project cost. For example, for a \$25,000 project

with a \$20,000 grant award, the landowner will provide \$2,500 of match. A worksheet in the Grants Gateway will help calculate the landowner match.

6. **What practices qualify for RNY?** A variety of practices are available to aid in forest regeneration management including afforestation/reforestation, forest stand restoration, competing vegetation control, and deer exclosures (including slash walls). Practice details can be found at the DEC [Regenerate NY website](#) and in the Request for Applications.

7. **How do I get started?** Potential applicants can search and view grant opportunities by visiting [SFS Public Portal Homepage](#). To apply, applicants must first register for access to the Statewide Financial System. To register please follow the directions at [Register Your Organization in SFS | Grants Management \(ny.gov\)](#). **It can take a few weeks to receive access.** Once you receive a username and pin/password you are eligible to login to begin the application process. It is recommended that your forester assist you with the project details, but the landowner must be the person who starts and submits the application.

8. **I have a Forest Stewardship Plan for part of my property, is that enough?** No. While a Forest Stewardship Plan is a sound beginning for planning forestry practices, a Practice Template form and a work plan must be developed through the Grants Gateway by the landowner working closely with a consulting forester or natural resource professional (for planting projects only).

9. **What are the elements of a work plan?** A work plan is developed by the landowner and consulting forester. Basic information such as the initial condition of your project area, the desired future condition, and the methods you will use to meet the desired future condition. Other elements may be required depending on the practice and are explained further in the standards and specifications of each approved practice.

10. **Is there a limit to the amount of cost-share I can receive?** Yes. Participants may receive grants between \$10,000 and \$100,000 per round. Multiple practices (such as planting and deer exclosures) are allowed on a single property.

11. **Do I need to hire a private forester or natural resource professional to qualify for Regenerate NY grants?** Yes. To be eligible for funding, a landowner needs to hire a private forester or a natural resource professional. Foresters can be hired to complete the project planning, administration, and operations-related forestry services which are reimbursable under the program. A qualified natural resources professional can be used for planning and implementing tree planting projects.

12. **Can the landowner complete some of the work on the project?** Yes. The landowner can perform some work and get reimbursed as part of the grant and/or the landowner efforts can be part of the required match. Details are available in the Regenerate NY Request For Applications.
13. **Where can I go to hire a forester or other contractor?** There are several options. First, visit the [DEC Cooperating Forester Directory](#). Cornell Cooperative Extension also provides information on [working with foresters](#). Recommendations for other contractors can be made through your forester, neighbors, or others.
14. **If I make a profit on a timber sale, can I still qualify for the cost-share?** Yes. Many of the approved practices can be used in conjunction with a timber sale to promote and protect forest regeneration. Specifically, the Forest Stand Restoration practice may result in a small profit from selling firewood or low-grade material through a marginal timber sale.
15. **Who can obligate funds and authorize payments?** Grantees must submit all necessary documentation to DEC via email, including their voucher and expense information, in order to receive payment.
16. **Who decides which projects get funded?** DEC Lands and Forests staff will determine which applications will be approved for funding. As part of this review process, a [DEC Service Forester](#) in your region will visit your property.
17. **How long will it take until I receive my cost-share payment?** As part of the contracting process, the grantees will supply a W-9 tax form to facilitate payments from New York State. Once you complete the practices, you must submit documentation of the actual costs (paid invoices, cancelled checks, receipts, landowner work log, etc.) of installing the practices. The DEC will authorize the cost share payment within 30 days of receiving all of the required documentation from the applicant.
18. **Why wasn't I approved?** There are 2 reasons that an application may not be approved. The first is that the landowner did not meet the eligibility requirements for the practices they applied for. The second is that no funds are available at the time the application was submitted.

19. ***If I am not selected this year due to lack of funds, will you hold my application for next year?*** No. Applicants that do not get funded in the current round will need to reapply for subsequent rounds.
20. ***How long do I have to complete my forest practice?*** If awarded, the landowner will have four years to complete the practice and will need to sign a contract with New York State.
21. ***What are the tax implications of cost-share payments?*** Landowners must consult with a tax professional to determine their own tax liability.
22. ***Should I be able to use or enter values in the “Other” category in SFS while doing my budget for supplies?*** Values can only be put into the Salary, Fringe, Contractual, Travel, and Equipment.
23. ***If unable to use the “Other” category how should I account for supplies in my budget?*** Supplies should be included and itemized within the equipment category.
24. ***If a property is owned by a municipality but a non-profit organization has a legally binding agreement to maintain, manage and operate the property is the property eligible?*** No, the property is not eligible due to the property being owned by a municipality.
25. ***Was the webinar recorded and will it be posted to the Regenerate NY webpage?*** Unfortunately, there was an issue with the recording of the webinar. SFS staff has given a video recording that overviews starting a grant and can be found at: [Grants Management in SFS Guidance for Applicants and Grantees-20240724 1502-1 - NYS Information Technology Service WebEx Enterprise Site](#).
26. ***Why am I unable to view the grant opportunity when signed into SFS.*** Please ensure your roles are correct in SFS. If you don't have the proper grant management roles you will not be able to view or start an application.