

FINANCING WATERFRONT RESILIENCE



Hudson River Estuary Program

State and federal resources for communities

2016 Summary of financial assistance programs

State and federal agencies offer financial assistance to municipalities and non-profit organizations for activities building resilience to waterfront flooding, sea level rise and other climate risks. This document provides an overview of these assistance programs and how to apply. Eligible activities include municipal planning, improving the resiliency of structures, emergency management planning, waterfront revitalization, public outreach, and floodplain protection. A summary table of all resources, organized by agency, areas of assistance and deadlines, can be found at the end of this document.



View of flooded road in Stony Point following Hurricane Sandy in 2012 (L. Konopko)

- **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):** Hudson River Estuary Grants, Climate Smart Communities Grants, Water Quality Improvements Program, Trees for Tribs
- **Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC):** Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning, Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, Green Innovation Grant Program
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Public Assistance, Community Rating System
- **Department of State (DOS):** Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, Brownfield Opportunity Area

• Other Financial Assistance Programs

- **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA):** Clean Energy Communities Program
- **NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP):** EPF Municipal Grant Program
- **US Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** Community Block Grant Program
- **Hudson River Greenway** Communities and Compact Grant Programs
- **US Department of Agriculture (USDA)** Conservation Programs
- **Open Space Funding Options**

[NYS Consolidated Funding Application](#)

New York State's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) allows communities to design comprehensive projects and with one application, apply to multiple state funding sources. Communities may not apply to federal programs such as FEMA through the CFA. You can download [the 2016 CFA Available Resources \(PDF\)](#) online.

LOCAL EXAMPLE: CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION



Kingston received a \$1.2 million grant for a public-private intermunicipal partnership to design and build a one mile promenade along the Hudson River. The promenade will feature green infrastructure and offer public access and recreation and keep open space along the waterfront. The funds were awarded from the Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program through a CFA application.

Overview of Financial Assistance Programs

Below is a summary of financial assistance programs identified by their funding categories related to flood resilience.



Municipal planning



Collaboration and public outreach



Resilient structures



Waterfront economy



Emergency management



Floodplain protection

CFA = grants included in the NYS Consolidated Funding Application

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

The NYS DEC is a state agency focused on the conservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of environmental resources.



[Hudson River Estuary Program Grants](#)

The [2016 Request for Applications \(RFA\) for Hudson River Estuary Grants](#) (\$1.25 million) cover *Local Stewardship Planning* and *River Access and Education*. These Requests for Applications (RFAs) implement priorities of the [Hudson River Estuary 2015-2020 Action Agenda](#). Grant awards require a 15% match. All prospective applicants must register in advance in the [New York State Grants Gateway](#) where they can also search and download the full RFA by searching for 'Hudson River Estuary.' Funding for the grants is provided by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

[Local Stewardship Planning RFA, Round 18](#)

Approximately \$450,000 is available in Hudson River Estuary Grants for Local Stewardship Planning to support local projects and programs (award minimum is \$10,500, maximum is \$50,000) in six categories:

- Climate adaptation along the Hudson River
- Water supply and waste-water infrastructure resiliency
- Green infrastructure to reduce combined and separated sewer overflows
- Watershed planning and management
- Conservation of natural resources
- Natural scenery stewardship

[River Access and Education RFA, Round 19](#)

Approximately \$800,000 is available in Hudson River Estuary Grants for River Access and Education to support projects and plans (award minimum is \$10,500, maximum is \$200,000) in four categories:

- New Hudson River shoreline access
- Hudson River shoreline access retrofits
- Regional plans for river access
- Hudson River shoreline education facilities



Contact: Keep in touch with the Estuary Program via the [Climate Resilience Newsletter](#) and [Hudson RiverNet](#)

Deadline: June 30, 2016

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Grants

Climate Smart Community (CSC) grants (\$11 million) will support municipal projects that implement certain CSC actions and help them become certified in the program. Award amounts between \$100,000 and \$2 million and require a 50% match.

Implementation projects can include:

- Construction of natural resiliency measures
- Relocation or retrofit of climate-vulnerable facilities
- Conservation or restoration of riparian areas and tidal marsh migration area
- Reduction of flood risk
- Clean transportation
- Reduction or recycling of food waste



Certification projects can include:

- Right-sizing of government fleets
- Developing natural resource inventories
- Conducting vulnerability assessments
- Developing climate adaptation strategies
- Updating hazard mitigation plans to address changing conditions and reduce climate vulnerability

Contact: Climatechange@dec.ny.gov, 518-402-8448

Deadline: Open enrollment until July 29, 2016, CFA

Water Quality Improvement Project

The WQIP program (\$25.9 million) is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that directs funds from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund to projects that reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality and restore habitat in New York's waterbodies. Eligible Project Types include nonagricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, municipal wastewater treatment, aquatic habitat restoration, and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) and require a 15% match.

Contact: User.Water@dec.ny.gov

Deadline: Open application until July 29, 2016, CFA

Trees for Tribs

The Hudson River Estuary Program's Trees for Tribs offers free native trees and shrubs for streamside buffer planting and restoration projects in the Hudson River estuary watershed. Since 2007, the program has been responsible for planting more than 38,000 native trees and shrubs along 16 miles of stream with the help of thousands of local volunteers.

Contact: Beth Roessler, NYS DEC, 845-256-2253, HudsonEstuaryTFT@dec.ny.gov

Deadline: Apply by August 1st, 2016 for Fall plantings

Environmental Facility Corporation (EFC)

The EFC is a state agency that assists public and private entities to comply with federal and state environmental quality standards through technical assistance, low cost financing, and green innovation grants.



Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant

The EFC, in cooperation with NYS DEC, offers WIEPG grants (\$2 million) for engineering and consulting services to produce engineering reports to construct or improve municipal wastewater systems. A maximum of \$100,000 in funding is available for communities with median household income of \$65,000 or less; the municipality must provide a 20% match. The final engineering report can be implemented using EFC or other financing sources.

Contact: Susan Van Patten, NYS DEC, 518-402-8267, CFAWater@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Deadline: Open application until July 29, 2016, CFA

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The EFC provides various forms of project finance for water-quality protection projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). A variety of publicly-owned water quality improvement projects are eligible for financing, including point source projects such as wastewater treatment facilities, and nonpoint source projects such as stormwater management projects and landfill closures, as well as certain habitat restoration and protection projects in national estuary program areas. Short and long-term loans are available at no interest and low interest rates.

Contact: Dwight Brown, EFC, 518-402-7396, CWSRFinfo@efc.ny.gov

Deadline: Open enrollment

Green Innovation Grant Program

The Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) funds projects (\$10 million total, project require minimum 10% local match) across New York State that utilize unique stormwater infrastructure design and create cutting-edge green technologies. GIGP funds highly-visible projects which:

- Create and maintain green, wet-weather infrastructure
- Spur innovation in the field of stormwater management
- Build capacity locally and beyond, to construct and maintain green infrastructure
- Facilitate the transfer of new technologies and practices to other areas of the State.

Contact: Suzanna Randall, EFC, 518-402-7461, GIGP@efc.ny.gov

Deadline: Open application until July 29, 2016, CFA

LOCAL EXAMPLE: WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING PLANNING



The City of Kingston received a \$25,000 grant to examine long-term adaptive planning for their wastewater treatment plant. They will implement the plan using low interest loans from the CWSRF.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA is a national agency that administers programs providing flood insurance, hazard mitigation assistance, and public assistance grants.



Hazard Mitigation Assistance

FEMA currently provide three types of hazard mitigation assistance (HMA):

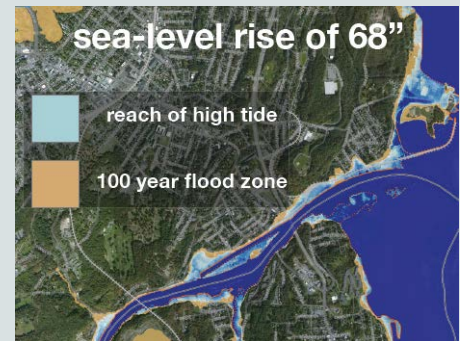
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assists in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures. HMGP funds are triggered by a declared disaster and funneled to individual municipalities through the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES).
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) provides funds on an annual basis for hazard mitigation planning and projects.
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) provides funds on an annual basis for projects to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Public Assistance Grant Program

Through the Public Assistance (PA) Program, FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly- owned facilities, and the facilities of certain private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations. The PA Program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

Contact: FEMA grants are administered by NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). Visit their website for current grant opportunities: <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/grants/>

LOCAL EXAMPLE: HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT



Kingston applied for a \$5 million grant from Hurricanes Irene and Sandy Relief Funds to implement Task Force recommendations riparian buffers, buyouts, the adaptation and fortification of infrastructure, and the purchase emergency generators for pumping stations. The City is awaiting notification of the application's status.

LOCAL EXAMPLE: COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM



The Village of Scarsdale is Class 8 certified in the Community Rating System (CRS), which means the village residents receive a 10% discount on flood insurance. The Village of Hyde Park is currently seeking CRS certification.

Community Rating System

FEMA also administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the related Community Rating System (CRS), which allows municipalities to reduce flood insurance rates for all policyholders by instating community-scale projects and policies regarding flood resilience.

Department of State (DOS)

The DOS is a planning agency that focuses on economic revitalization and resilient, livable communities.



Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) provides technical assistance, and matching grants (\$17 million) on a reimbursement basis to villages, towns, cities, and counties located along New York's coasts or designated inland waterways, to prepare or implement strategies for community and waterfront revitalization. Funds are available as a 50% match and the grant categories currently are:

- Preparing or implementing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Redeveloping hamlets, downtowns and urban waterfronts
- Planning or constructing land and water-based trails
- Preparing or implementing a watershed revitalization plan
- Preparing or implementing a community resilience strategy or updating a LWRP to incorporate a resilience strategy

Contact: Jamie Ethier, NYS DOS, (518) 473-3656,
Jaime.Ethier@dos.ny.gov

Deadline: Open application until July 31, 2015, CFA

Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program

The Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) Program provides municipalities and community based organizations with technical and financial assistance to complete area-wide approaches to redeveloping and revitalizing brownfield areas – abandoned, underused or overgrown industrial or commercial sites. Funds cover up to 90% of project costs on a reimbursement basis.

Contact: David Ashton, NYS DOS, (518) 473-2473, David.Ashton@dos.ny.gov

Deadline: Open enrollment

LOCAL EXAMPLE: LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM



The Village of Piermont received a \$35,000 grant to update its Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, first written in 1992, to include strategies from the Task Force's final Resilience Roadmap Report.

Additional Financial Assistance Resources

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

NYSERDA is a state authority dedicated to promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.



Clean Energy Communities Program

Municipalities that complete four of 10 priority actions will be considered Clean Energy Communities, and eligible for grants up to \$250,000 with *no match requirements*. Locally based outreach and implementation coordinators will provide free, on-demand technical assistance, including step-by-step guidance, case studies, and template contracts to help municipalities implement the Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities programs.

Contact: cec@nyserderda.ny.gov

Deadline: Open application until September 30, 2019, or once funds run out

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

THE NYS OPRHP is a state agency dedicated to preserving and enhancing parks, historic assets and heritage areas.



EPF Municipal Grant Program

The OPRHP is providing municipal grants (\$20 million) for planning, acquisition, and development of parks and recreational areas, and improving or acquiring properties listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places. Project awards up to \$500,000 with 50% required match, or 25% match for projects that are located in high-poverty district.

Contact: Erin Drost, NYS OPRHP, (845) 889-3866

Deadline: Open application until July 29, 2016, CFA

LOCAL EXAMPLE: PARK DEVELOPMENT



The Village of Freeport received a \$250,000 grant to replace over 1,000 feet of bulkhead at Waterfront Park to reduce soil erosion and improve public safety and recreational access.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD is a federal agency aimed to support sustainable, inclusive and affordable communities.



Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

HUD is offering competitive grants (\$25 million) for community development projects. Flood resilient infrastructure projects could be applied for under Category 1: Public Infrastructure (\$750,000 max, no match required) and risk assessment and engineering projects could be applied for under Category 3: Planning (\$50,000 per project, 5% cash match).

Contact: 518-474-2057, HCR_CFA@nyshcr.org

Deadline: Open enrollment until July 29, 2016, CFA

Empire State Development (ESD)

ESD is the New York state agency focused on economic development.



Empire State Development Grant Funds

The ESD is offering grant funds (\$175 million) in the 2015 consolidated funding application. Category 2 is for infrastructure investment that can foster new economic development (grant funds cover up to 25% of project soft costs).

Contact: 845-567-4882, nys-midhudson@esd.ny.gov

Deadline: Open enrollment until July 29, 2016, CFA

NYS Hudson River Valley Greenway

The Greenway is state agency focused on using regional collaboration to conserve and enhance the natural, scenic and historic resources of the unique Hudson River Valley.



Greenway Communities Grant Program

Financial assistance for planning (\$5,000 to \$10,000 per project, more if multiple municipalities involved) is available to designated "Greenway Communities" within the Greenway Area. Projects funded under this program include those that relate to community planning, economic development, natural resource protection, cultural resource protection, scenic resource protection, and open space protection. Greenway Compact communities are eligible for greater funds to develop, approve, and implement a regional compact strategy consistent with the Greenway criteria and the Greenway act.

Contact: 518-473-3835, hrvq@hudsongreenway.ny.gov

Deadline: Two rounds with deadlines of May 6, 2016 and September 9, 2016

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The USDA is a federal agency focused on rural economies, agriculture, health, conservation and more.



The USDA has [multiple programs](#) for infrastructure grants and low-interest rate loans for communities and non-profits. They also administer two programs in New York that can be used to support the conservation and reconnection of floodplains for mitigating flood waters:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Contact: Enroll in EQIP through [local NRCS office](#)

Deadline: Open enrollment

LOCAL EXAMPLE: GREENWAY COMMUNITIES GRANT



The Village of Ossining received a \$15,000 grant to create a Waterfront Recreational Resource Plan to identify ways to promote water-related uses on their 3 miles of Hudson River waterfront, and to outline strategies to increase public access, catalog existing recreational assets, and engage stakeholders to determine demand for possible upgrades.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is administered by the NYS Farm Service Agency (FSA) and targets high-priority conservation issues identified by local, state, or tribal governments or non-governmental organizations. In exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and introducing conservation practices, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural land owners are paid an annual rental rate. Participation is voluntary, and the contract period is typically 10–15 years, along with other federal and state incentives as applicable per each CREP agreement.

Contact: Enroll in CREP through [local FSA office](#)

Deadline: Open enrollment

Open Space Funding Options



Preserving land as open space in floodplains and in coastal areas is an important aspect of flood resilience recommendations. Here are several options for municipalities looking to preserve open space in their community:

- The municipality can advocate to have their land included in the NYS Open Space Plan that is updated every 5 years. This helps the community to show that the land has value outside of traditional development and is a good way to prepare for purchase of the land for open space. The State receives annual funding to purchase lands specifically mentioned in the plan. Municipalities can also seek grant funds to write or update their own Open Space Plan and include floodplain protection as one of the important values that open space provides.
- The municipality can work with a private land trust, like the Wallkill Valley Land Trust or the Open Space Institute to purchase the land using easements if it has scenic, ecological and/or agricultural value. Then, the community may be able to work with the land trust to make the property more valuable as floodplain protection.
- The municipality can purchase the land for open space by taking on debt (bonds) or instigating a tax levy. One example of a relevant tax levy is called a Real Estate Transfer Tax, which has been passable by local law since NYS passed the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act of 2007. This tax is applied to mortgages on local real estate and is used to create a conservation fund for the community, which can be used to preserve open space.

LOCAL EXAMPLE: REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX



The Town of Warwick passed a 0.75% Real Estate Transfer Tax and the Town of Red Hook a 2% tax to create a conservation fund to help provide financial support for their Open Space Plans.

Summary table of all funding assistance programs

Agency	Assistance Program	Priority Funding Categories	Grant amounts, required match	Deadline, CFA
DEC	✓ Estuary Grants		\$10,500-\$200,000, 15%	6/30/16
	✓ CSC Grants		\$100,000-\$2M, 50%	7/29/16 ☑CFA
	✓ WQIP		15%	7/29/16 ☑CFA
	✓ T4T		N/A	8/1/16
EFC	✓ WIEP		≤\$100,000, 20%	7/29/16 ☑CFA
	✓ CWRLF		N/A	Open
	✓ GIGP		10%	7/29/16 ☑CFA
FEMA	✓ HMGP, PDM, FMA		N/A	Trigger by natural disaster
	✓ PA, CRS		N/A	Open
DOS	✓ LWRP		50%	7/29/16 ☑CFA
	✓ BOA		10%	Open
OTHER	✓ NYSERDA		≤\$250,000	Open until 9/30/19
	✓ OPRHP		≤\$500,000, 50%	7/29/16 ☑CFA
	✓ HUD		\$50,000 - \$750,000, 5%+	7/29/16 ☑CFA
	✓ ESD		75% for soft costs	7/29/16 ☑CFA
	✓ Greenway		\$5,000 - \$10,000+	5/6 & 9/9/2016
	✓ USDA		N/A	Open Enrollment
	✓ Open Space		N/A	N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Libby Zemaitis

Climate Outreach Specialist, Hudson River Estuary Program

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

21 S Putts Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561

(845) 256-3153 | Libby.zemaitis@dec.ny.gov | www.dec.ny.gov