ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

What are Community Impact Grants?

Community Impact Grants provide community-based, not-for-profit and Tribal Organizations with funding for projects that address various environmental and public health concerns.

The program focuses on low income and minority communities historically burdened by environmental problems such as: a large number of regulated facilities; contaminated sites; noise, air and water pollution; health problems, lack of green space, and waterfront access.

The grants empower stakeholders to be actively engaged in finding solutions to the disproportionate burdens that environmental justice communities may experience.

Where do the funds come from and what is the maximum award amount?

Funding for this grant opportunity is provided from the State **Environmental Protection Fund**. Applicants may be awarded up to $200,000 each.

Who is eligible to apply?

The applicant must be a not-for-profit community-based organization, or an unincorporated community-based organization may partner with an incorporated not-for-profit known as a fiscal sponsor. Entities that are not eligible to apply and receive funding under this grant program are: individuals; universities; government bodies; water districts or similar entities; large non-governmental organizations such as a county (outside New York City), regional, state, or national environmental groups and organizations.

For purposes of this grant application, a community-based organization:

a. Serves the residents of an area equal to or smaller than one county outside of New York City, or an area equal to or smaller than one of the five boroughs within New York City; and
b. Has a total annual revenue that does not exceed $3,000,000, based on the applicant's IRS Form 990 filing from the previous year; and
c. Cannot have its charter revoked or otherwise be dissolved through the action of another organization; and
d. Is able to enter into legal agreements independent of any affiliated not-for-profit organization, government body, university or other entity that would be ineligible to apply for this grant; and
e. Focuses on addressing the environmental and/or public health problems of the residents of the community that is impacted by the multiple environmental harms and risks that are the focus of the project (the "affected community"); and
f. Has its primary office location in the affected community; and
g. Has more than 50 percent of its members residing in the affected community, or more than 50 percent of the people served by the applicant community group residing in the affected community.

Please review the Request for Application for this opportunity closely to review all organizational and location eligibility requirements.

When will the next grant opportunity be released?

The Community Impact Grant bid period is expected to be released May 7, 2025. All bids are due **August 13, 2025 at 3pm ET**.

What kinds of projects are funded?

Community Impact Grants fund projects addressing multiple environmental or public health risks.

Examples of past funded projects include:

- Community gardens and urban farming/agriculture
- Programs to educate youth on animals and plants that are important to community/culture
- Projects around traditional foods and medicine
- Activities related to monitoring populations and contaminate impacts to native plants and animals
- Organic waste/composting
- Habitat restoration,
- Tree plantings,
- Capacity building,
- Air, soil, and water testing/monitoring

Project proposals **must** be located in an environmental justice community and include a **research component** that will be used to expand the knowledge or understanding of the affected community.

What are eligible project expenditures?

Eligible project expenditures can include but are not limited to:

- Personnel Services and Fringe (up to 30% of total grant award to any one individual including fringe)
- Contractual Services
- Travel (within New York State)
- Equipment
- Supplies and Materials
- 10% Grant Administration

Please see Request for Application for more details on eligible expenditures.

How long is the contract period?

All projects must have defined Objectives, Tasks, and deliverables accounted for in Performance Measures that can be completed and invoiced within a **three-year contract period/term**.

How can I apply?

Organizations must apply for the Community Impact Grants on the New York Statewide Financial System (SFS). **Applications will not be evaluated if the applicant is not Registered and Prequalified on SFS.**

Registration - All Applicants must be Registered with SFS Grants Management to apply. Please visit https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/register-your-organization-sfs to register.

Prequalification - Once they are registered with SFS, not-for-profits must fill out an online Prequalification application. The application requests an upload of basic organizational documents and asks straightforward questions about a not-for-profit's capacity and integrity. Not-for-profits can secure their application materials in SFS where they will be accessible to all state agencies.

OEJ GRANTS WEBPAGE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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