

Conservation Assistance Workshop Questions and Answers

How much detail is needed in the budget sheet for the application?

Applicants should be able to list specific dollar amounts that are necessary to complete the work as they will have received quotes from contractors prior to submitting the grant application.

Are wetlands delineations an eligible cost?

Perhaps. If they are in support of a grant application, yes. If just a one-off cost, no. Please be in touch with Darya to go over specifics to know for certain.

If land is being transferred from one municipal department to another, may we apply for a grant for due diligence costs?

No. This is not an eligible cost under this grant.

What is a qualified land trust in terms of the grant BID document?

Per the terms of the grant BID, a qualified land trust is defined as a, “501(c)(3) land trust organizations that have been formed for one of the purposes described in Section 4 of Chapter 180 of the General Laws.”

Is The Trust for Public Land eligible?

To determine if a specific applicant is eligible, please be in touch with Darya, the grant manager.

If we are applying for a grant that involves a land acquisition, are we required to complete the transaction to get the reimbursement?

No. We understand that land transactions can fall apart through no fault of the grant applicant.

Can a grant for OSRP assistance involve making copies of the document, graphic design and copy editing?

No. Grants for OSRPs must include the entirety of the process, including the public process, drafting, etc.

Is the \$100,000 grant maximum for one project or is that for multiple projects?

Per the grant’s BID document, “Eligible Regional Planning Agencies and qualified 501(c)(3) land trust organizations may seek funding to assist multiple eligible applicants with one or more projects, services, or deliverables within one application; however the maximum award amount is \$100,000 per applicant per grant round.”

What is protected parkland?

Land that is dedicated to park and recreation purposes in its property deed.

If a community is transferring land from one department to another, is that an eligible cost?

No, that is not an eligible cost.

If we may need a longer period of time to complete the project, should we still apply considering the June 30, 2025 deadline?

Yes, apply for the costs needed to complete the FY25 work.

In this case, could we reapply in a future grant round for an additional phase?

Yes.

Could we use the grant to hire a park planner for a site design?

Could we use the grant to hire a PARC grant writer?

Could we use the grant to hire a MVP grant writer?

Could we use the grant to hire a grant writer to apply for a non-DCS grant?

Yes to all!

Could we apply for a parcel prioritization planning project?

No, this is an ineligible type of project.

Can a community apply for LAND or PARC grants in consecutive years?

Yes.

Are school playgrounds eligible for PARC grants?

In general no, as parks that are funded through PARC must be dedicated to park purposes and open to the general public during the school day.

Can you apply for multiple projects on the same grant application?

Yes, as long as they stay under the grant award maximum.

Does the appraisal value include buildings?

No as grant awards are not for buildings.

Does the work associated with the grant have to be completed by June 30, 2025?

Yes as the grant is for Fiscal Year 2025, which ends June 30, 2025.

Would title research qualify for the grant?

If it is needed in order to apply for a grant.

Does a grantee have to receive its grant reimbursement through automatic deposit or can it have a paper check?

Grant reimbursements are through electronic funds transfer.

If an applicant is working in different municipalities, can that work be submitted through one application?

Yes.

Could you get one grant for due diligence work and then get an acquisition grant through the LAND grant?

Yes.

Do you have to follow the budget format provided in the grant application or can you use your own?

As long as all required information is provided, you can use your own format.

How quickly will a grant applicant know if the grant award has been made?

Presuming the grant manager is in the office, the grant applicant should be provided a contract within a matter of days.

If you're a land trust applying for work on your own behalf, you're eligible to apply for \$60,000, if you're a land trust applying to do work for others, you can apply for \$100,000.

Is this correct?

Yes

Is there anything to preclude a better resourced land trust to apply for just their own work and not work on the behalf of smaller organizations and/or communities?

As long as the application is for eligible work, that is the case.

What is the total grant budget?

It is currently set around \$1 million, but it may change.

Are these funds specifically targeted towards smaller communities?

The idea is to help fund under-resourced communities and organizations, but there is no population maximum associated with the grant application.

Are you anticipating that this will continue next year?

That is the hope.

If applying for an Open Space and Recreation Plan, must it be completed by the end of the fiscal year?

Yes.

Would just the ADA section of an OSRP need to be completed by June 30th or the entire document?

If the grant is for the entire OSRP to be written, then the entire OSRP must be completed by June 30th.

Can we submit a draft application for review prior to submission?

Given the length of the applications, which shouldn't be very long, it's preferable to set up a meeting with the grant manager instead of submitting a draft application for review.

Could an eligible project be hosting landowner workshops to pull together a Landscape Partnership grant?

If a sufficient number of landowners are included in the outreach in order to potentially apply for a grant, this potentially could be an application.

Is there a reasonableness test for the hourly rate?

Not currently, however, DCS does reserve the right to approve the final budget and scope of any project.

Does the grant require the successful completion of a grant project?

It depends on the project – something like an OSRP or an appraisal must be completed. But something like a land transaction may not be completed through no fault of the grantee.

Can we add on to an existing project we're currently working on?

The intent behind the grant would be for new work and projects to be completed, but contact the grant manager to go over specific ideas.

If the grant applicant also applied for a Forest Reserves grant, can this grant cover the remaining 50% of costs not covered by the grant reimbursement?

No.

Can this grant reimburse for a Forest Reserves grant survey?

Potentially, however, if the grant applicant already submitted a grant application with the survey as a part of that budget, then no.