

FY26 Land Conservation Assistance Grant Workshop Questions and Answers

Questions from January 21, 2026

Question: Is RPA staff time covered if they are assisting a municipal applicant?

Answer: Yes, if a grant recipient has a contract with an RPA to assist with a project, the recipient (the municipality) may submit that invoice which may include RPA staff time. However, we cannot reimburse for grantee staff time.

Question: For the "CEO Authorization Letter" - if we are a municipality applying, would that letter need to be from our Town Manager/Mayor?

Yes, for municipalities the "CEO" is the mayor, city manager, town manager, town administrator, etc – the specific role varies by municipality.

Question: Can Regional Planning Agencies still be the applicant? We're contemplating pursuing a regional OSRP, would that be eligible?

We would ask that one of the municipalities take the lead on that as a 'lead applicant' since the project is on their behalf. The regional OSRP should reflect the population thresholds and any other requirements for a regional OSRP.

Question: I assume we need to submit a separate application for each project?

No, you can bundle multiple projects into one application, if you have multiple projects ready at the same time. The asks would be reviewed together, and contracted under one contract, which can be more efficient for everyone.

Question: Can you apply for funding for some of the listed approved expenses (baseline document reports) for properties you already own- either closed on very recently or you have owned for some time?

No. If you already own the land, those costs are outside the scope of this grant program.

Question: We are seeking to update our Open Space and Recreation Plan. Do I go to town meeting for cost approval prior to submitting a grant application?

The Town will need to ensure they have the funding to pay the costs up front since this is a reimbursement grant. If these costs require authorization via Town Meeting vote, then yes, that vote is needed prior to contracting. If the funds can be authorized via a different avenue, then the authorization letter will be sufficient.

Question: Do acquisition costs pertain to closing costs on donated land such as title exam, deed transfer, recording costs?

Yes. Title exams, deed transfer and recording costs are eligible for reimbursement in cases where the acquisition is via the donation of land.

Question: Can you apply for funding to contract someone to write a land management plan for a property we are acquiring? I understand now that you can't apply for this for property you already own.

Generally speaking, no. The exception would be if a grant application requires a management plan on the property acquired as a condition of funding.

Question: What is the current timeframe from application to approval?

We are working to ensure the timeline for approval is around 4-6 weeks. Unfortunately, sometimes the approvals have encountered delays. Please reach out to discuss if you have a particular deadline or time constraint for work to be performed.

Do we have access to past awardee applications for this grant program?

Applications are not readily accessible. However, you will be better served by discussing your application with the grant manager. This application is designed to be brief and straightforward, since this is a noncompetitive program – all eligible requests will be funded as long as funding is available.

Question: If we have completed the majority of an OSRP with DLTA funds, but require a little more to complete it, is this a good grant to apply for that?

Yes, potentially. However, keep in mind that other sources of state grant funding can not be used as the applicants' minimum 10% contribution to project cost.

Can an RPA help a municipality apply via the GMS?

Unfortunately, at this time, the GMS requires the contact person associated with the municipality to create an account and submit the application. EEA is working to better accommodate partners that are assisting with grant applications in the GMS.

Questions from October 1, 2025

Question: Should cost estimates/quotes be included in OSRP update applications?

Yes.

Question: Does the "Eligible services" category include the due diligence items you listed earlier (appraisal, title work, environmental assessment, surveys, etc.)? And if yes, would an appraisal in this category be different than one under the category of an appraisal required by a grant program, which is capped at \$5,000?

The BID caps the appraisal at \$5,000. If you need more than that amount, please reach out to discuss. Surveys may be costing more than the maximum amount allowed in the BID as well. Reach out to the grant manager if that's the case.

Question: For costs that are unknown, is it okay to estimate the cost?

Yes.

Question: Are we able to submit an application for a project we worked on last year?

Yes, it's fine to apply again for the next phase of the same project.

Question: What is total Conservation Assistance grant funding for FY26?

There isn't a set budget.

Question: Is environmental remediation an eligible cost?

No, but there are other funding sources for those types of costs.

Question: What are the grant award caps that we should know about?

These caps are listed on page 2 of the BID document.

Question: Are park design and planning costs eligible?

The work that is necessary to be completed to submit a grant application is eligible, such as a site design and Enhanced Outreach in Environmental Justice Populations.

Question: Does municipal MBTA Communities compliance effect nonprofit eligibility for grants?

If the applicant is a non-profit, this does not weigh into the decision. Municipalities currently must be in compliance with MBTA communities in order to receive funding.

Question: What are the timeframes for application to approval to contract?

We intend to have a contract in your hands within four weeks of receiving a completed grant application. However, there are approvals that must be sought, so sometimes these can take longer than anticipated to receive.

Question: Is there a threshold for demonstrating financial need?

Financial need is not considered for this grant.

Question: For community outreach, is outreach to the entire community eligible or is it just for EJ neighborhoods?

Outreach to the entire community is eligible.

Question: Could the budget be provided as a spreadsheet?

The budget template, which is an Excel spreadsheet, is available in the Grants Management System and on the grant program webpage.

Question: Would it be possible for the list of application questions to be posted?

An application guide, which includes application questions and required uploads, is available in the GMS and on the [grant webpage](#).

Question: Are there any ineligible types of match?

Any other types of state funds are not eligible as match. It's always a good idea to check with the grant manager about what is eligible or not eligible. Both cash and in-kind match can be used.

Question: Are costs associated with a donation eligible for a grant, i.e. the Conservation Assistance applicant won't be applying for a grant to close on the property?

Yes.