

Questions and Answers from LAND/PARC Grant Workshops
May 16 and 17, 2018

Question: Do LAND grants have a Small Town category like the PARC grants?

Answer: No. There is no population threshold for LAND grants.

Question: Can an Open Space and Recreation Plan draft be submitted at the same time as the grant application?

Answer: Yes, but please package it in a separate envelope from the grant application.

Question: If two parcels of land are a part of the same greenway, but are non-contiguous, can they be combined into one grant application?

Answer: No. Non-contiguous land that is not held by the same landowner must be submitted as two separate applications.

Question: Is a second appraisal required for land acquisition projects that are more than \$750,000 in value?

Answer: While not required, it is highly recommended.

Question: Is it possible to apply for multiple grant programs for the same parcel of land?

Answer: Yes, but only one grant will be awarded to that parcel.

Question: What is “accessible to public transportation” when it comes to the PARC grant?

Answer: Public transportation is accessible when it is within a half-mile to the park.

Question: If the purchase price is higher than the appraised value, on which figure will the grant award amount be based?

Answer: The grant award is based on the approved purchase price or appraised value, whichever is lower.

Question: Can a PARC grant application be submitted for only construction?

Answer: Yes. Many communities will pay for their own design and only request construction costs in year 2 of the grant.

Question: If a community is currently working on a large-scale park project, is it possible to apply for only one phase of the work?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Is it possible to apply for a LAND grant this year to acquire a property and a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant in a future year to develop trails on the same property?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Are there any rating criteria that specifically favor rural communities?

Answer: The rating criteria do not favor one type of community over any other.

Question: Is low-income housing a criterion for Environmental Justice designation?

Answer: No.

Question: Is it possible to apply for a LAND grant in coordination with a federal grant that does not allow Conservation Restrictions to be placed on the property?

Answer: Yes. Land acquired with a LAND grant does not need to have a CR placed on it.

Note, however, that any land acquired with Community Preservation Act funding does require a CR.

Question: Can a PARC grant be submitted for work being done on non-contiguous parcels if the work is along the same theme?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Is it possible to reach out to DCS staff to determine whether the LAND or PARC grant is a better fit for a project?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Are LAND grants required to be accessible to people with disabilities?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Does DCS look favorably on projects where one parcel is being submitted for a LAND grant and an adjacent property is being submitted for a PARC grant?

Answer: While there are no points in either rating system for this type of project, it is good when a community identifies what types of outdoor recreation needs it has and submits grant applications to fulfill those needs.

Question: Do the site visit findings weigh into project ratings?

Answer: The site visits may impact a project's rating. This is because a site evaluation form is completed at each site visit and may uncover information that was not provided in the application's project description. It also could impact the project quality score.

Question: How important is stewardship to the LAND grant?

Answer: The LAND grant rating system lists the point value for every category.

Question: Does a park have to be located in an Environmental Justice neighborhood to be eligible for a PARC grant?

Answer: No, but DCS is looking to fund grants in EJ neighborhoods. That is reflected through the grant's rating system.

Question: Must a draft OSRP include the Letters of Review?

Answer: No, they can be submitted later.

Question: When will funding be awarded for the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant that is due in June?

Answer: At this point, a specific date is not known.

Question: If a PARC grant involves a multi-phase project, do all phases need to be completed by the time it is being closed out?

Answer: No, only the project elements included in the grant contract's scope must be finished.

Question: Can an updated appraisal be submitted for an acquisition project?

Answer: Perhaps, but this is project specific. Please be in touch with Emmanuel or Melissa to discuss your individual situation.

Question: If an OSRP has conditional approval, is the municipality still eligible to apply for a grant?

Answer: Yes. A condition of award will be that the plan must receive final approval prior to a final reimbursement will be processed.

Question: How is the reimbursement rate determined?

Answer: Grant reimbursement rates vary between 52 and 70% of the total project cost up to that year's grant award maximum and are determined by Equalized Valuation Per Capita. The wealthier communities are reimbursed less than the less wealthy communities.

Question: Are any costs associated with the development of artificial turf fields eligible for reimbursement?

Answer: Any costs within the turf's perimeter are not eligible for reimbursement.

Question: Can a municipality with an active grant apply for another grant?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Are any artificial turf field alternatives eligible for funding?

Answer: Only natural grass fields are eligible for funding.

Question: Is there a minimum grant request?

Answer: No.

Question: Must power lines be buried at the time of a grant application submission?

Answer: No. Any existing power lines must be buried prior to the grantee receiving its final reimbursement.