

FY24 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Workshop Questions and Answers

Question: Will a five-year-old Open Space and Recreation Plan qualify my community for the grant?

Answer: An applicant to the LWCF grant must have an up-to-date OSRP on file with the Division of Conservation Services by the grant deadline or submit a draft plan with the grant application.

Question: When would you anticipate grantees will receive an executed contract?

Answer: It is anticipated that grant contracts will be executed a year from now, so an executed contract could reasonably be assumed to be received by the beginning of calendar 2025.

Question: Can you provide a list of prior LWCF funded projects?

Answer: Yes. If you email Melissa at melissa.cryan@mass.gov, she can email it to you.

Question: How much funding is available this year?

Answer: The federal apportionment letter from Congress that will fund this grant round has not been received, but the previous couple of letters have awarded ~\$6 million to Massachusetts.

Question: What percent of applications have been funded in the past?

Answer: Typically between 50-75% of applications received are funded.

Question: How do you know if an appraiser is qualified to complete a Yellow Book appraisal?

Answer: They can provide you evidence that they have the qualifications to complete one.

Question: Will an affirmative vote at our May Town Meeting meet the grant requirements?

Answer: Yes. Just make sure to have Melissa Cryan review the vote language prior to having it voted on.

Question: Is a draft update of the OSRP acceptable for a community to apply for this grant?

Answer: Yes. A draft OSRP must contain all nine sections of the plan and the community must have completed the public participation process, meaning that no further edits to sections 6-9 of the plan will be made after submission. Minor edits to sections 1-5 could be made after submittal, but that's it.

Question: Is the LWCF grant compatible with state funding programs, such as the Municipal Vulnerability Program?

Answer: It may be since it's a federal grant, but it's best to check with Melissa Cryan on your budget just to be sure.

Question: For trail projects: Can municipalities apply for a project that would take place over multiple, decentralized parcels, such as trail construction on multiple sites?

Answer: Since all projects must submit a project boundary map to the federal government that depicts the land that will become protected parkland or conservation land in perpetuity, this sounds potentially like a future management issue. Typically, parcels on which trail work is being completed should be contiguous to each other to make it easier to find encroachments or other problems.

Question: Is there a document that contains sample wording for warrant articles?

Answer: Yes, the [LWCF Grant BID Document](#) Attachment D includes sample municipal vote language.

Question: For reimbursement purposes, if the land purchase price is \$1MM, what is the grant award?

Answer: Since the LWCF grant reimbursement rate is 50%, presuming the \$1MM purchase price is the lower of the appraised value and/or purchase price, the grant award would be \$500,000 (\$1MM x 50% = \$500,000).

Question: Can we get a copy of the PDF slide show emailed to us?

Answer: The slide show will be posted on the [grant's website](#).

Question: Is pool construction an eligible grant application project?

Answer: Yes, as it is a recreational amenity.

Question: If the site was purchased 30 years ago with state support, could we still apply for renovation this year?

Answer: Yes. There is no limit on when land was acquired for it to be eligible for a renovation grant.

Question: If my town does not own the property but will co-hold a Conservation Restriction (CR) where the trails would be constructed, could we still be eligible for this grant?

Answer: Yes, since the town has a permanent interest in the land through the CR.

Question: There is a requirement for access for people with disabilities. Does this apply to conservation land trails or do these types of projects just rate better?

Answer: All projects must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, meaning that all land, including conservation land, must provide access to people with disabilities. Not all trails constructed on conservation land must be 100% accessible, but we are looking for projects that do and prioritize them through the rating system.

Question: Is the grant's default reimbursement percentage 50%, or would you possibly receive a lower percentage?

Answer: The reimbursement percentage is based on the total eligible project cost submitted and the grant amount requested. The eligible project cost is divided by the grant amount to determine the reimbursement percent.