

2015 CFA EPF Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated to assess the degree to which they meet the elements of each criterion below. A successful grant proposal is not expected to meet all of these criteria.

I. Poverty Level (0-5 predetermined, based on project location)

Points are predetermined, based on the project location. The Poverty Table utilized is located at <http://nysparks.com/grants/consolidated-funding-app.aspx>. Also note if this census tract number meets the threshold for 75% funding.

II. Resource Impact (up to 25 points)

For Parks Projects:

A1. Community Impact (0-9) Points are based on the importance of the project to the community (physical or social) in terms of economic stimulus, impetus to community renewal, revenue generation, visual appeal (downtown anchor) or provide health and vitality to the community. If not funded, how would this impact the community?

A2. Local Commitment and Need (0-14) Points are based on community involvement in the concept of the project, as evidenced by documentation of public meetings, involvement of a recreation committee, friends group or community interest group, etc. Consider additional points if the project meets the needs for an aging population, encourages participation by youth and teens, responds to population and social changes in the community, and/or provides new access and/or ensures open and reasonable access to a property. Evidence of need can include documentation of: number of similar facilities in the service area; level of use of existing facility and anticipated level of use of proposed facility; condition of facilities; emergencies, mandates or development pressure.

A3. Advancement of New York Rising or the Opportunity Agendas of the Regional Economic Development Councils (0-2)

For Historic Preservation Projects:

B1. Level of Significance (0-9) Points are awarded based on the level and area(s) of significance recorded for the property in the State/National Register nomination (or in the National Historic Landmark documentation), and consideration of the significance of the specific feature(s) of the property to be addressed in the proposed project (e.g., a primary contributing resource versus a secondary contributing resource).

B2. Severity/Immediacy of Threat (0-14) Points are awarded based on the type (e.g., deterioration, damage, demolition, inappropriate development), extent (e.g., isolated, wide-spread, accelerated), severity, immediacy, and degree (e.g., recent, on-going, imminent) of threat to the property from negligence, development pressure, inappropriate treatment, etc.

B3. Advancement of New York Rising or the Opportunity Agendas of the Regional Economic Development Councils (0-2)

For Heritage Area Projects:

C1. Addresses current Heritage Area programs (0-9) Points are awarded based on how well the project fits into current programs/projects/plans of the Heritage Area, as documented by the applicant, the Heritage Area director, and other community sources. At minimum, the project should be consistent with the Heritage Area Management Plan; at maximum, the project would be essential to the success of the Heritage Area's highest priority programs.

C2. Addresses Heritage Area goals (0-14) At a minimum a HAS project will address one of the HA goals (preservation/conservation, education/interpretation, recreation, and economic revitalization), but a typical HAS project addresses two or more. Therefore, points should reflect both the number of goals met and how well they are met.

C3. Advancement of New York Rising or the Opportunity Agendas of the Regional Economic Development Councils (0-2)

For Acquisition Projects:

D1. Environmental and Recreational Contribution (0-9) Protection of watershed, aquifer, animal or plant species, significant natural communities, or other natural and cultural resources, wetlands, shorelines, unique areas biodiversity, wildlife habitats, forested wildlife, flood plains, corridors. Provide access to water or public fishing rights, trails or greenways, increased land for active recreation in existing or new parklands, buffer/protection to a listed historic resource, property that serves or benefits Heritage Area System visitors and users, a recognized brownfield site for park development.

D2. Surrounding Area Contribution and Impact and Protection of Historic Resources (0-14) Consolidate public ownership by eliminating gaps in ownership between two or more parcels of public land, proximity to urban areas, providing a linkage between parks, trails or designated open space, economic stimulus or community renewal, local revenue generation, visual appeal (downtown anchor) or impetus to community health and vitality, diversity of population served. Significance of resource (national; state or local, contributing element in a district), preserves significant view shed, contributes to existing preservation efforts or established Heritage Area System goals, heritage tourism, or economic development initiative, working landscape, scenic easement, contributes to the economic vitality of the area (i.e., façade easements), provides for the long term preservation of the resource, immediate threat of a listed property.

D3. Advancement of New York Rising or the Opportunity Agendas of the Regional Economic Development Councils (0-2)

III. Planning Initiatives (up to 10 points)

For Parks Projects:

A1. Statewide Index of Need (0-5): (predetermined by SCORP)

A2. Consistent with Plans (0-5): In determining whether the project relates or contributes to documented plans, examine documents cited and submitted, such as:

- NYS Open Space Conservation Plan as a priority project
- Heritage Area Management Plan
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)

- Recognized local Open Space Plan
- Community participation in the Certified Local Government Program (CLG)
- Other state or federal plans
- Local plans adopted or reaffirmed within the last 5 years
- Project implements a prior Planning grant

For Historic Preservation and Heritage Area Projects:

B1/C1. Community Support: In determining whether the project demonstrates community support, examine evidence submitted regarding community support and involvement, including efforts to publicize and/or engage the community in project planning, such as:

- letters of support, especially those from people directly impacted by the project
- official project endorsements/partnerships
- press releases/announcements/publicity
- plans for public outreach or fundraising campaign
- news articles
- records of public meetings (including project-specific meetings (such as press event), official government reviews (e.g., Community Board, Planning Board, etc.) and presentations to a group such as a neighborhood association or interest group

B2/C2. Consistent with Plans: In determining whether the project relates or contributes to documented plans, examine documents cited and submitted, such as:

- New York State Historic Preservation Plan
- Other state/federal/local plans, such as Heritage Area Management Plan, LWRP, Preserve America designation, Path Through History, etc.
- Community comprehensive or master plans
- Local historic preservation ordinance/designations
- Community participation in the CLG program
- Project implements a prior Planning grant

For Acquisition Projects:

D1. Community Support: Demonstration of local participation in and commitment to the project, such as:

- Clear consensus by the local community showing a need to purchase and finance
- Evidence the project is supported by local elected officials and community groups, such as Land Trusts, environmental councils, preservation boards, friends groups, local activists
- Documentation of meetings and involvement (e.g., newspaper articles, meeting notes, letters of support)

D2. Consistent with Plans: In determining whether the project relates or contributes to documented plans, examine documents cited and submitted, such as:

- NYS Open Space Conservation Plan as a priority project
- New York State Historic Preservation Plan
- Heritage Area Management Plan
- LWRP
- Recognized local Open Space Plan
- Community participation in the CLG program

- Other state/federal/local plans, such as Preserve America designation, Path Through History, etc.
- Local plans adopted or reaffirmed within the last 5 years
- Project implements a prior Planning grant

IV. Reasonableness of Cost (0-20)

Project planning, administrative structures and budget demonstrate fiscal prudence and readiness to proceed. Is there a logical justification for all expenses? Does the budget narrative include an explanation for each budget line and clearly support the applicant's need for additional financial resources to achieve project outcomes? Does the budget include the required matching funds? Does the proposal describe how the grant recipient will monitor expenditures during the life of the project to ensure that the project stays on schedule and within budget?

A. Budget

- Budget in the application is complete, detailed, computed correctly and contains no extraneous or ineligible expenses.
- The budget is based on a cost estimate from a reliable source.
- Matching funds are on hand and/or application evidences a reasonable expectation that matching funds will be available as and when needed.

B. Readiness

- Necessary project planning and document preparation has been completed.
- Qualified project professionals, properly procured/hired, are on hand.
- Proposed project/work is appropriate and conforms to accepted professional standards.
- Application evidences viable strategy and resources for implementing/operating and maintaining the project in the future.

C. Feasibility

- Administrative structures are in place to handle grants.
- Applicant has proven experience in projects of similar scale and/or scope.
- Timeframe presented in application is reasonable to accomplish all aspects of the work and grant administration (including any necessary fundraising).

V. OPRHP Commissioner Priorities (0-10)

A. Green improvements – that restore, improve and maintain park lands, historic properties and heritage area resources and infrastructure, and in doing so promote sustainability, increase energy conservation and/or efficiency, install renewable energy sources, and decrease long term maintenance and management costs.

B. Climate Protection - incorporating cost-effective, park-compatible principles that protect park lands, infrastructure, historic properties or heritage-area resources from climate change or storm-related impacts creating a more resilient and sustainable function. Preference may be given to concepts that utilize natural or soft buffering and protections over hardened solutions.

C. Enhanced access, connections, resources – that enhance the public's access to parks and their environmental and recreational resources (including landscape and trail improvements to facilitate connections and special features or signage to improve programming and interpretation), create physical

and functional connections among, or provide or enhance public access to, already-protected state and local lands, historic sites, greenways, trails and waterways to bring visitors back.

D. Partners to State Parks – projects undertaken by partner groups in State Parks and Historic Sites. Letter(s) from the Regional Director and Capital Facilities Manager must be submitted with the application.

VI. Regional Economic Development Council Assessment (0-20)

VII. Statewide Assessment “Commissioner Points” (0-10)

A. Geographic Distribution. Consideration may be given to projects in areas that have or have not received funding in recent cycles or where funding is not commensurate with the population of the area. This will be based on the proximity to other funded sites and the diversity of projects being funded on a regional and local basis, as well as the service area of the developed or planned facilities.

B. Maximize Use and Accessibility. Consideration may be given to projects where funding will allow underutilized facilities to be accessed or to develop underutilized resources for public use. This will be based on the resources offered by the facility, the use of those resources and whether the proposed project will help the facility expand and enhance its public use.

C. Special Engineering, Environmental, Preservation Benefits. Consideration may be given to develop particularly significant resources and facilities or to develop innovative approaches to preserve valuable resources. This will be based on the type of resource being developed or rehabilitated; its rarity on a local, regional, statewide and national basis; the ability of an innovative technology to address an emergency or mitigate future problems; how well a technology can be “exported” for use on other properties and resources; and how/if the project will allow public access that would not otherwise be available.

D. Past Performance. Consideration may be given to how timely an applicant completed previous projects, including its reporting requirements; how successful it was in outreach, especially to minority- and woman-owned businesses; the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the property; and its cooperation in allowing OPRHP to complete inspections and other follow-up activities.

TOTAL (0-100)

VIII. PROJECT IN A HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY COMPACT COMMUNITY (5 percent bonus)

Award points if the proposed project is located in a Hudson River Valley Greenway **Compact** Community, and the application documents that the project is consistent with the Greenway criteria of natural and cultural resource protection, regional planning, economic development, heritage and environmental education, and/or public access to the Hudson River (for information, go to:

http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Planning/Greenway_Compact.aspx or the Greenway map at http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Libraries/PDF_s/Greenway_Map_01-15-2014_1.sflb.ashx).