

CFA Selection Criteria

Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
Recreational Trails Program (Up to \$1.2 Million)

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Each application will be reviewed for eligibility and, if determined eligible, will be rated according to the Grant Selection Criteria. A successful grant proposal is not expected to meet all of these criteria. Within each region, applications are ranked according to funding category. In selecting which top-ranked projects will get funded, the Commissioner factors in conformance to the mandated spending requirements (Program Mandates). It is not expected that all categories will be funded in all regions.

When award recommendations are finalized, OPRHP submits recommended projects to the Federal Highway Administration for approval. **Grant awards are contingent upon federal approval.** The Grant Selection Criteria are list below

- A. Project provides for innovative recreational trail corridor sharing for motorized and/or non-motorized use. (Maximum points = 5)
Key Consideration: The most important concern is that two or more uses are compatible and provide a safe recreational experience for all users.
- (5) Project involves two or more trails in the same corridor that accommodate both motorized and non-motorized trail uses.
 - (4) Project involves two or more trails in the same corridor that accommodate either motorized or non-motorized trail uses.
 - (3) Project involves one trail with motorized and non-motorized concurrent uses.
 - (2) Project involves time sharing of the trail other than on a seasonal basis.
 - (1) Project involves seasonal time sharing of the trail.
 - (0) Criterion is not applicable.
- B. Project provides for motorized and/or non-motorized use that will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities. (Maximum points = 5)
Key Consideration: An important consideration is that this project will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities available in the community or region.
- (5) Project provides for motorized and non-motorized use for both summer and winter activities
 - (4) Project provides for motorized and non-motorized use for either summer or winter activities
 - (3) Project provides either motorized or non-motorized use for summer and winter activities
 - (2) Project provides either motorized or non-motorized use for either summer or winter activities
- C. Project provides development of urban trail linkages. (Maximum points = 4)
Key Consideration: An important consideration is that this project will improve the quality and quantity of recreational experiences and/or offer alternative methods of transportation from communities to recreational, shopping, work or public places.
- (4) Project meets all of the following:
 - (a) Project provides linkage to other trail opportunities in urban areas

- (b) Project provides linkage to recreational areas, residential communities work or shopping places, schools, parks, etc. (public places) in urban areas
- (c) Project is located in a census defined Standard Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA)

- (3) Project will meet two of the above criteria
- (2) Project will meet one of the above criteria
- (0) Project does not meet any of the above criteria

D. Project is identified as a component of a statewide or national trails system, or furthers a specific goal of SCORP or the Statewide Trails Plan or a local trail plan. (Max. points = 5)

Key Consideration: The degree to which the project is clearly identifiable as a priority for action, ties in with specific goals, priorities and implementation strategies, and/or complies with identified needs of the area.

- (5) Project is a component of a statewide or national trail system (i.e., National Scenic, Historic or Recreational Trails, Millennium Trails, Hudson River Valley Greenway, Heritage Areas, Canal Recreationway or State Snowmobile Plan) as identified in SCORP or the Statewide Trails Plan.
- (4) Project furthers a specific goal of a regional trail plan referenced in the Statewide Trails Plan or SCORP.
- (3) Project furthers a specific goal of a local trail plan referenced in regional or local planning documents.

E. Index of Need – based on the “Relative Index of Needs” table in SCORP. (Max. points = 5)

Key Consideration: The project satisfies county recreation needs based on a statewide supply and demand assessment.

(1 – 5) points based on the average SCORP Index of Need table for trail activities.

F. Citizens were/will be involved in proposal conception and implementation. (Maximum points = 3)

Key Consideration: The major concern is that this project is responding to citizen-identified needs and shows evidence of citizen support.

- (1-3) Citizens or community groups where the project is located have participated in the planning of the project, demonstrated support for the project and/or will be involved in project implementation.

G. Project ties into other trails; greenways; scenic corridors; or natural, cultural, historical and recreational areas. (Maximum points = 4)

Key Consideration:

- (a) Project ties into the Hudson River Greenway Trail or another major greenway
- (b) Project ties into a designated scenic corridor of National, State or regional significance
- (c) Project ties into other trails
- (d) Project links natural, cultural, historic or recreation areas or resources
 - (4) Project will meet three of the above criteria
 - (3) Project will meet two of the above criteria
 - (2) Project will meet one of the above criteria
 - (0) Project does not meet any of the above criteria

H. Volunteer labor, non-traditional labor and other certified donations will be used to accomplish this project. (Maximum points = 6)

Key Consideration: The major concern is that the project will facilitate community involvement in the development of trail opportunities through volunteer labor or other non-traditional labor and/or through the donation of land, equipment or materials.

(a) Land Donations:

(3) points 40+% of total project cost

(2) points 25-39% of total project cost

(1) points 10-24% of total project cost

(b) Equipment, labor and/or material Donations:

(3) points 40+% of total project cost

(2) points 25-39% of total project cost

(1) points 10-24% of total project cost

- I. Project will utilize existing corridors (railroad right-of-way, canal towpath, utility lines, publicly owned river valleys or highland ridges, parkways, etc.). (Maximum points = 3)

Key Consideration: The major concern is to maximize the use and maintain the integrity of existing corridors.

(3) The project will utilize an existing corridor

(0) The project will not utilize an existing corridor

- J. Project will improve the continuity of a trail system. (Maximum points = 4)

Key Consideration: The concern is to encourage the expansion and integration of trails.

NON-MOTORIZED USE (Non-Motorized Single and Non-Motorized Diverse Categories)

(4) Project is part of a trail system over 10 miles in length

(3) Project is part of a trail system 5-10 miles in length

(2) Project is part of a trail system less than 5 miles in length

MOTORIZED USE (Motorized Single, Motorized Diverse and Diverse Categories)

(4) Project is part of a trail system over 50 miles in length

(3) Project is part of a trail system 5-50 miles in length

(2) Project is part of a trail system less than 5 miles in length

- K. Project budget is reasonable, justified and cost-effective. (Maximum points = 18).

Key Consideration: Points are determined by assessing the completeness of the budget for the project, the eligibility and need for the cost items as well as their cost-effectiveness.

(0-3 points) A complete budget containing all details requested in the Request for Applications and in the application

(0-15 points) A budget with eligible and necessary cost estimates that are cost-effective and do not contain extraneous expenses

- L. Project addresses federal program initiatives: (Maximum points = 6)

(2) Project utilizes Youth Conservation or Service Corps (information on National Association of Service and Conservation Corps can be found on www.nascc.org)

(2) Project clearly and specifically provides enhanced recreational access for persons with disabilities

(2) Innovative project to mitigate and or minimize impacts to significant environmental resources

- M. The advancement of New York Rising or the Opportunity Agendas of the Regional Economic Development Councils (0-2)

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

O. Statewide Assessment Factors (Maximum 10 points)

The Commissioner may award any of the following factors up to ten points. All applications will be reviewed for the relevance of these to the project scope:

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)