The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program

Part of the Environmental Protection Fund

Office of Climate Change
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
May 2017
Important!

• Read the Request for Applications for complete program information at http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html

• Apply through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) at https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/index.cfm

• Applications due July 28, 2017 by 4:00pm
http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html

Grant Funding for Municipalities

Climate Smart Communities Grant Program

The Climate Smart Communities grant program provides 50/50 matching grants to counties (and NYC boroughs), cities, towns and villages of the State of New York for eligible climate adaptation and mitigation projects.

In 2017, $9.5 million is available for implementation projects related to flood risk reduction, extreme event preparedness, reduction of vehicle miles traveled (VMT), reduction of food waste, reduction of landfill methane leakage, and reduction of hydrofluorocarbons emissions from refrigeration and other air conditioning equipment. In addition, $500,000 is available for certification projects that advance adaptation, land use, transportation, and organic waste management planning, inventory and assessment actions aligned with Climate Smart Communities Certification requirements.

Round two of the program is being offered through the 2017 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). Information on all the funding resources available, as well as application workshop dates, can be found at the Regional Economic Development Councils website. A copy of the 2017 Climate Smart Communities Request for Applications is provided at the link below.

- 2017 Climate Smart Communities - Request for Applications (PDF, 210 KB)

The CFA requires applicants on Monday, May 1, and the deadline for applications is Friday, July 28, 2017 at 4 p.m. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Round one awards were made by Governor Cuomo and the Regional Economic Development Councils in December 2016. The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program awards funded in 2016 are listed by region in file below.

- 2016 Climate Smart Communities Awards (PDF, 102 KB)

If your municipality received a grant awards through the 2016 Climate Smart Communities Grant Program, you will be contacted by a DEC project manager when we are ready to develop the contract for your grant project in the NYS Grants Gateway.

Municipal Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) & ZEV Infrastructure Rebate Program

The Municipal ZEV rebate program provides rebates for costs associated with the purchase or lease (for at least 36 months) of eligible clean vehicles, and installation of eligible infrastructure which supports public use of clean vehicles. The primary purpose of a rebate-eligible facility must be the charging or fueling of clean vehicles by the public. Vehicles must be purchased or leased from a dealer/within New York State.

Round one (2016) closed on March 31, 2017. Round two will be available soon.
www.apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/
About the 2017 Grant Program
Eligibility

• **Municipalities** are eligible, defined as counties (& NYC boroughs), cities, towns, and villages of the State of New York

• Other entities may participate as part of a partnership with a designated, eligible lead applicant.

• Do **NOT** need to be a registered Climate Smart Community to apply
Match Requirement

• Required local match is **50% of eligible project costs**.
  - Can include *in-kind personal services (salary and fringe), contractual services, project-related travel, equipment, supplies & materials*
• No other state or federal funds can be used as match.
• Land acquisition can be included as **match only**.
  - Submit map, current appraisal report, and copy of the recorded deed conveying title.
Funding Available

• $10 million for two major project categories:
  - $9.5 million for *Implementation Projects* (both adaptation and mitigation actions)
  - $500,000 for *Climate Smart Communities Certification Projects* (planning, inventory and assessment)
Implementation Projects
CSC Grants for Implementation

• Total available: $9.5M

• Larger awards: $10,000 to $2 million

• **Construction** projects - no more than 15% on design & engineering

• Two broad categories of implementation:
  
  ➢ Adaptation

  ➢ Mitigation (reducing GHGs from non-power sources)
CSC Grants for Implementation

Eligible adaptation project categories:

- Reduce future flood risk (1 of 2):
  - Increase natural resiliency (e.g., living shorelines)
  - Relocate or retrofit critical infrastructure or facilities
  - Replace or right-size flow barriers (i.e., culverts & bridges)
CSC Grants for Implementation

Eligible adaptation projects:

• Extreme event preparation (2 of 2):
  
  Address anticipated future extreme heat conditions
  
  ▪ E.g., cooling centers, shade structures

  Improve emergency preparedness and response systems
  
  ▪ E.g., warning systems that facilitate emergency response and/or protect people, infrastructure and natural resources
CSC Grants for Implementation

*Eligible mitigation projects:*

- Reduce GHGs from:
  - **Commuting**: more walkable, bike-able routes to work
  - **Food scraps**: increase food donation, or process food scraps at wastewater treatment plants
  - **Landfills**: install methane capture systems, etc.
  - **Refrigerants**: switch to alternatives, or reduce leakage from refrigeration, chillers, & A/C equipment
Looking for projects that…

- Reduce risks to critical infrastructure and vulnerable populations
- Increase preparedness for extreme weather
- Implement plans based on climate projections or greenhouse gas emissions inventories
- Make meaningful reductions in non-power sector greenhouse gas emissions
- Implement food recovery programs to eliminate methane-producing waste
Certification Projects
CSC Grants for Certification

• Total available: $500,000

• Smaller awards: $10,000 to $100,000

• Planning projects

  ➢ 24 different types of assessments, inventories, plans that align with the CSC Certification Program

CSC Grants for Certification

- Climate Change Adaptation Strategies – *for example*:
  - Vulnerability assessments (7.1)
  - Review existing plans and projects to identify adaptation strategies (CSRP – 7.3)
  - Update multi-hazard mitigation plan to address changing conditions (7.6)
  - Watershed assessment to identify flooding priorities (7.10)

- Land-Use Planning – *for example*:
  - Update comprehensive plan w/ sustainability & smart growth elements (6.1, 6.2)
  - Natural Resources Inventory (6.17)
CSC Grants for Certification

- **Transportation Strategies – *for example*:**
  - Plan for right-sizing municipal fleet (3.11)
  - Develop strategies that support bicycling and walking (6.10)

- **Organic Waste Mgmt. Strategies – *for example*:**
  - Develop a plan to provide organic waste collection and composting in local gov’t bldgs. (3.21)
  - Conduct local gov’t waste audit and track diversion rate over time (3.23)
Looking for projects that...

- Lead to implementation
- Lead to CSC Certification
- Address climate change projections or identified greenhouse gas emission reduction targets
- Advance work in priority areas – adaptation, land use, and non-power sector mitigation
Key Information Sources (1)

Climate change projections & data

- NY Climate Change Science Clearinghouse – [https://www.nyclimatescience.org/](https://www.nyclimatescience.org/)
Responding to Climate Change in New York State (ClimAID)

- 2014 Supplement - Updated Climate Projections Report (PDF)
  - 2014 Supplement - Updated Projections Summary (PDF)
  - Responding to Climate Change in New York State Synthesis Report (PDF)
  - Report 11-18 - Responding to Climate Change in New York State (full technical report) (PDF/18 MB)
    - Introduction (PDF)
      - Chapter 1: Climate Risks (PDF)
      - Chapter 2: Vulnerability and Adaptation (PDF)
      - Chapter 3: Equity and Economics (PDF)
      - Chapter 4: Water Resources (PDF)
      - Chapter 5: Coastal Zones (PDF)
      - Chapter 6: Ecosystems (PDF)
      - Chapter 7: Agriculture (PDF)
      - Chapter 8: Energy (PDF)
      - Chapter 9: Transportation (PDF)
      - Chapter 10: Telecommunications (PDF)
      - Chapter 11: Public Health (PDF)
      - Chapter 12: Conclusions and Recommendations (PDF)
    - Annex I: Expert Reviewers for the ClimAID Assessment (PDF)
    - Annex II: NYS Adaptation Guidebook (PDF)
    - Annex III: An Economic Analysis of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations in NYS (PDF)
https://www.nyclimatescience.org/
Key Information Sources (2)

Other adaptation information & tools


May 30, 2017

NYSDOH County-Heat Health Profiles will be available at http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/public_health_tracking/

Downloadable data at census tract level

Includes information on temperature exposure, heat-impacted health and heat vulnerability in each county.
Key Information Sources (3)

Mitigation information & tools

  ▪ Inventory completed down to the county level, and in some cases, to the municipal level

• NYSERDA report – Benefit-Cost Analysis of Potential Food Waste Diversion
Regional GHG Inventories in New York State

Under the Cleaner, Greener Communities program, contractors prepared regional GHG inventories for each of the state’s ten economic development regions. The ten regional inventories allocated each region’s emissions down to the county level. In other words, GHG inventory was completed for every county in New York State. If you’re curious about the emissions profile for your community, check out the regional and county-level GHG inventories that are part of the Regional Sustainability Plans (link at right).

Through the Climate Smart Communities program, the GHG inventories for the four pilot regions were allocated down to the municipal level. A community-level GHG inventory was completed for every municipality and county in the four Climate Smart Community pilot regions: Capital District, Central New York, Long Island, and Mid-Hudson.
Additional Information
Pass/Fail Criteria for all Projects

• You are a county (or NYC borough), city, town or village of NYS and you’ve submitted a **municipal resolution** authorizing application submission.
• You are proposing an eligible action and have clearly described the need for the project in reference to **projected future climate conditions or greenhouse gas inventory data**.
• You have attached a **completed expenditure budget** that itemizes costs and clearly articulates the requested funding amount and eligible match.
• You have attached a **detailed work program** outlining what specific tasks will be undertaken to complete the project, from initiation through completion.
• If applicable, you have documented **land ownership or an agreement with the landowner for land access and use**.
http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html
Expenditure Budget

Use the NYS Grants Gateway cost categories:

• Personal Services
• Non-personal Services
  ▪ Contractual
  ▪ Travel
  ▪ Equipment
  ▪ Other
Work Program

Use the NYS Grants Gateway format:

Objective – Large task to be accomplished (e.g., “1) Project Design”)

Task – Specific components of the large task (e.g., “1a) Complete 70% designs, 1b) Hold project meeting, 1c) Complete final designs, 1d) Submit final designs to agency”)

Performance Measure – How will you know you completed the task? (e.g., “Project design completed and submitted to agency”)

Evaluation Criteria

- Financial hardship
- Climate Smart Communities status
- Implementation or Certification readiness
- Project criticality
- Effectiveness of proposal
- Planning context
- Quality of application
- Reasonableness of cost
The applicant provides a completed Expenditure Budget in the requested format that itemizes costs and clearly articulates and differentiates the requested funding amount and an eligible match.

The applicant provides a detailed work program and timeline for work outlining individual work tasks and their sequence, from initiation through completion.

If applicable, documentation of land ownership and/or the necessary land access and use agreement(s) are provided.

Selection Criteria

Each eligible application will be scored by an evaluation team consisting of technical reviewers from DEC and other state agencies in appropriate disciplines. Using information gathered during technical review sessions, each eligible project will be scored according to the selection criteria outlined below. Technical reviewer scores will be averaged, and REDC priority points will be incorporated to develop a numerical score and ranking for all eligible projects. Funding will be recommended based on highest to lowest ranks within each funding category and within the expressed funding limits for municipalities with population size over 100,000 and/or any single municipality, as described in this RFA, until available funding has been exhausted.

Scoring Overview for Implementation Project Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Max. Points</th>
<th>Min. Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Hardship (6)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSC Status (4)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation Readiness (15)</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Context (8)</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Quality of Application (5)</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Economic Development Priority (20)</td>
<td>To be awarded by the REDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Available Points</td>
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</table>

Implementation - Scoring Criteria and Values

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<tr>
<th>Scoring Criterion</th>
<th>Point Values</th>
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Financial Hardship (6)

a) Applicant is a community with a Median Household Income (MHI)\(^2\) less than 80% of the 2015 Statewide MHI (i.e., MHI less than $47,415) – 6 points
b) Applicant is a community with a MHI less than the 2015 Statewide MHI but not less than 80% of the 2015 MHI (i.e., MHI greater than or equal to $47,415 but less than $59,269) – 2 points
c) Applicant is not a hardship community, as defined above – 0 points.

CSC Status (4)

a) Applicant is a certified Climate Smart Community - 4 points
b) Applicant is a registered Climate Smart Community and has submitted documentation for certification, but is not yet certified – 3 points
c) Applicant is a registered Climate Smart Community – 2 points
d) All other applicants – 0 points

Implementation Readiness (15)

Application clearly describes the following:
- the proposal is consistent and clear in its description of the project as proposed;
- project participants and their roles;
- project key project partnerships and agreements;
- ownership of as well as source of permit or approval;

Application clearly describes at least 3 of the above factors, including:
- a realistic schedule for obtaining all necessary permits or approvals;
- an available source of eligible match;

Application does not identify an available source of eligible match, has outlined a realistic schedule for obtaining all necessary permits or approvals, and does not clearly describe the factors listed above.

Project Criticality (12)

Application specifically identifies and describes:

\(^2\) Median Household Income (MHI) may be established using publicly available census data and does not require detailed demographic and economic data from the municipality. For the U.S. Census American Community Survey (https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/tablesa-and-tools/data-profiles/2015/), the 2015 Statewide MHI for New York State is $59,269.
### Scoring Overview for Certification Project Categories

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Grant Awards & Contracts
Program-specific Terms & Conditions

• If not already registered, take the Climate Smart Communities Pledge to become a registered CSC during the grant contract term.

• For climate mitigation actions, estimate and report greenhouse gas emissions reductions resulting from the project.

• For planning and assessment projects (certification actions), follow the requirements and standards of the Climate Smart Communities Certification Manual - [http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html)
Climate Change Mitigation Easement

• Applicable for all projects that involve property not owned by the applicant.

• Easement must ensure that the property:
  • is accessible to the municipality to achieve the project purpose for the anticipated life of the project;
  • provides the identified public benefit for the anticipated life of the project;
  • is used to achieve the climate protection and mitigation goals of the CSC grant program for the anticipated life of the project; and that
  • the property owner shall provide information and data, or access for the collection of data, to the municipality; and that
  • the anticipated life of the project is no less than ten years.
Thank You!

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