

2011 NYSDEC Environmental Justice Community Impact Grants



Funding for Community Projects

- Funding for community-based organizations
- 501(c)(3) not required – can have a not-for-profit fiscal sponsor
- Research and community education projects that address multiple sources of environmental harms and risks
- Grants of \$2,500 to \$50,000 each
- Approximately \$1 million total funding available
- Application deadline Friday, September 9, 2011



Projects That Can Be Funded

- Environmental Inventories
- Community Gardens
- Air and Water Quality Monitoring
- Environmental Education for Environmental Justice Communities
- Household Hazardous Waste Reduction
- Open Space and Green Infrastructure Projects
- Subsistence Fishing Outreach
- Pollution Education
- Green Jobs Outreach, Education, and Training
- Other projects that benefit the community



Multiple Sources of Environmental Harms and Risks

- Multiple sources of different environmental and health problems, such as multiple contaminated abandoned properties
- Multiple sources of a single type of environmental harm, such as multiple sources of particulate air pollution
- Multiple impacts from a single source, such as air and water contamination from a single facility



Costs that are Eligible for Funding

- All expenses must be for the funded project
- Paid staff expenses
- Contractual services
- Supplies
- Equipment
- Communication
- Publication
- Training
- Travel
- Other expenses



Ineligible Expenses

- Costs that are paid by other funding sources
- General operating costs
- Liability insurance
- Preparation of the grant application
- Costs incurred before the start date or after the completion date of the grant contract
- Litigation expenses
- Actions intended to influence legislation or actions of a government agency



Restrictions on Applications

- Ineligible Organizations
 - Government entities
 - Universities and school districts
 - Non-profit organizations that serve a county or larger
 - Private individuals and for-profit companies
- Ineligible organizations can provide technical support
- Ineligible non-profits can be fiscal sponsors for community organizations
- One application per community group or fiscal sponsor
- Establish financial viability of project



Common Problems with Grant Applications

- Ineligible applicant
- Incomplete application
- Benefit to community unclear
- Insufficient community education component
- Environmental harm is unclear or is not sufficiently addressed by project
- Inadequate project narrative
- Vague budget or ineligible costs



New Requirements

- Role of new Regional Economic Councils
 - Alignment of project with strategic priorities of the Regional Economic Plans
 - Effect on 2011 EJ Community Impact Grant Cycle
 - More information at <http://nyworks.ny.gov/>
- Restriction on the portion of grant award fiscal sponsors can receive
 - 10% for administrative overhead related to fiscal sponsorship
 - Up to 40% for costs that include technical support



Application Review and Grant Awards

- Eligibility Review - OEJ
- Scoring Review
 - Three DEC reviewers – OEJ, Regional, and Technical
 - Projects then ranked by their aggregate point totals
- Grant Recipients Notified by Call and Letter in November followed by Public Announcement
- OEJ prepares a grant contract for each recipient
- Project begins from the start date specified in the grant contract



Estimated EJ Grant Timeline

- Webinar and video conference August 10, 2011
- **Applications due Friday, September 9, 2011**
- Eligibility Review immediately after deadline
- Ineligible applicants notified by mail
- Eligible applications reviewed by DEC staff in October
- Awards announced late November
- Grant contracts finalized and first payments in January 2012
- Grant contracts last three years; two 1-year extensions are possible



More Information

- DEC Environmental Justice Grant Program Website
 - <http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/31226.html>
- Doug Morrison, Grant Coordinator
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 - 518-402-8556
 - 1-866-229-0497
 - ej@gw.dec.state.ny.us

