

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES GRANTS



Office of
Climate Change

Part of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund

The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program is a competitive 50/50 matching grant program for municipalities to conduct climate change adaptation or mitigation implementation projects, or to undertake eligible actions as part of a strategy to achieve Climate Smart Communities Certification.

Implementation Projects

Up to \$8,239,000 is available for implementation grants of between \$10,000 and \$2,000,000 for the project types listed below. No more than 15% of an implementation grant may be used for design and engineering costs.

Eligible Adaptation Actions:

- Increase natural resiliency and decrease vulnerability to future flood risks.
- Relocate or retrofit critical infrastructure to reduce future flood risks.
- Replace or right-size flow barriers to facilitate emergency response or protect people, infrastructure and natural resources.
- Address anticipated future extreme heat conditions.
- Improve emergency preparedness and response systems (excluding radio communication systems) for anticipated future extreme climate conditions.

Eligible Mitigation Actions:

- Projects or programs that improve non-recreational, non-motorized transportation, improve transit, or reduce commuting distances through densification or smart growth strategies.
- Projects or programs to increase food donation and directly support food recovery efforts, or facilitate food scraps recycling at wastewater treatment facilities.
- Projects to reduce methane leakage at landfills such as installation of capture systems or leak detection equipment, and implementation of monitoring programs.
- Projects that reduce HFC emissions from refrigeration, chillers, and A/C equipment including replacement or retrofit, enhanced monitoring and disposal, or adoption of measures enabling alternative refrigerant use.

Certification Projects

Up to \$550,000 is available for Climate Smart Communities certification grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000, and up to five grants of between \$2,500 and \$9,999 each to municipalities of population sizes less than 40,000 for the project types listed below.

- **Adaptation actions** such as vulnerability assessment, identification of climate adaptation strategies, and developing strategies to address future climate conditions.
- **Land use actions** such as development of comprehensive plans with sustainability or smart growth principles, conducting resource inventories, or development of a complete streets policy.
- **Transportation actions** such as planning to right-size the municipal fleet, developing strategies to increase transit, or facilitating alternative transportation.
- **Organic waste management actions** such as conducting waste audits, and developing waste management, food waste reduction, and recycling or composting strategies.

Applicants for certification projects should review the Climate Smart Communities Portal, available at <https://www.ClimateSmart.ny.gov>, for detailed information on individual actions.

Climate Smart Communities Grant Program Details

Eligible Applicants. Any county (or New York City borough), city, town, or village of the State of New York is eligible to apply. Registered and Certified Climate Smart Communities (CSC) will receive points in the competitive scoring system, but applicants need not be Registered or Certified CSCs to apply.

Partners. Non-eligible entities, e.g., non-profits, may participate as part of a CSC project in partnership with an eligible lead applicant. Letters of partnership and/or partnership agreements should be submitted as part of the grant application.

Match. A local match equal to 50 percent of total eligible project costs is required. Other state and federal funds are NOT eligible as match for a Climate Smart Communities grant award. Land acquisition may be included AS MATCH ONLY.

Funding Restrictions. Eligible costs include in-kind personal services (salary and fringe), contractual services, project-related travel, equipment, supplies & materials. See the Request for Applications for complete details on eligible and ineligible costs. Land acquisition is NOT eligible for funding through this program.

Climate Change Mitigation Easement. This requirement applies for all projects that involve property not owned by the applicant. The easement must be executed between the applicant and the landowner and must ensure 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.

Contract Term. Funded projects should be ready to begin upon award. All projects MUST be completed within a five-year contract term.

Payment and Reporting. This grant program is a reimbursement program. Grant recipients must submit regular progress reports, including project-appropriate metrics, as part of the reimbursement process. For climate mitigation actions, greenhouse gas emissions reductions resulting from the project must be estimated and reported.

Request for Applications. The complete request for applications (RFA) for the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program is available from the Office of Climate Change at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html>. It is essential to read the RFA to obtain complete details on the program, including information on application evaluation and scoring.

2018 Consolidated Funding Application

Apply for the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program through the NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), available online at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>. Hand-delivered, facsimile, mailed, or e-mailed applications will NOT be accepted.

In addition to the application portal, information on other NYS grant opportunities, instructions for applicants, and a schedule of statewide application workshops are available at the CFA website.

Applications are due by 4:00 pm on July 27, 2018. Applications will NOT be accepted after this date and time.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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