



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Environmental Justice Community Impact Grants

Wednesday May 25, 2016

AGENDA

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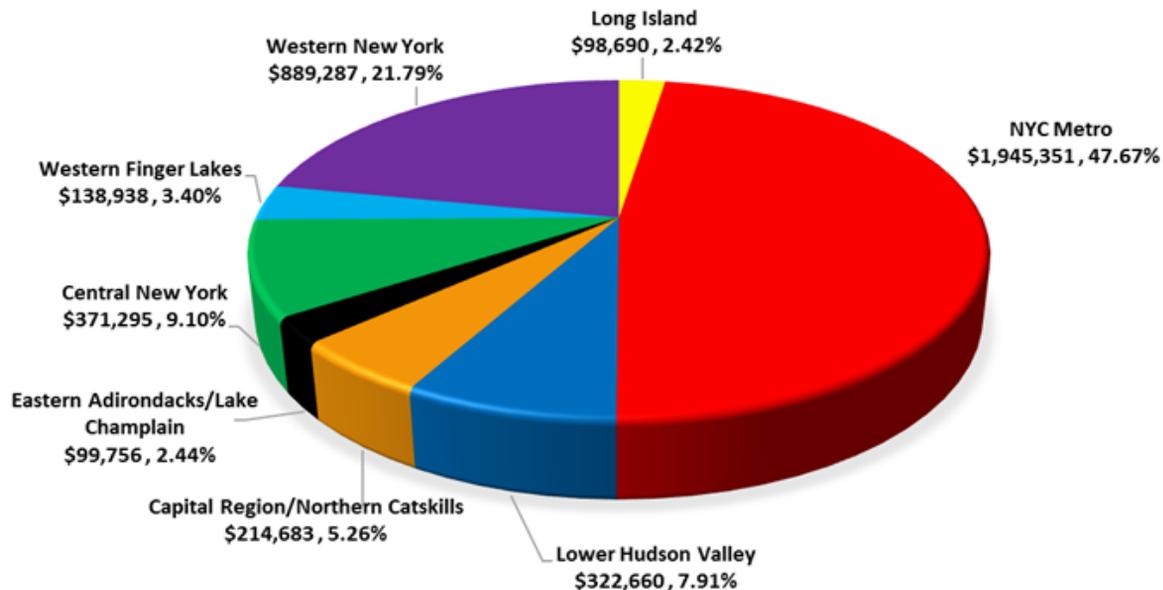
GRANTS BACKGROUND

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- ❑ DEC's Office of Environmental Justice began offering Community Impact Grants in 2006.
- ❑ Have been 5 grant rounds since the inception.
- ❑ Awarded more than \$4 million
- ❑ Awarded 121 grants statewide



COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT SUMMARY 2006-2012



GRANTS GATEWAY

GRANTS GATEWAY

- State of NY launched web-based grants management system in 2013.
- Non-profit organizations can browse, search and review grant opportunities.
- Must register and then prequalify in the Grants Gateway before applying for any grant from the state.
- Can store all necessary documents and information in a secure data vault.
- Stored in vault for 3 years.
- Should begin process as soon as possible to apply for the Community Impact Grant.



GRANTS GATEWAY

- Register for the Grants Gateway
- Complete your prequalification application
- Submit your prequalification application

Specific questions about the prequalification process should be referred to the Grants Reform Team at:
grantsreform@its.ny.gov.

To access the Grants Gateway, visit: grantsgateway.ny.gov

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS OVERVIEW

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- Over \$3 million available in the 2016 cycle
- Funding for environmental justice communities across New York State
- Research and community education component required
- All projects must respond to multiple sources of environmental harms and risks
- Grants of \$2,500 to \$50,000 each



Multiple Sources of Environmental Harms and Risks

Applicants must address exposure to multiple harms and risks:

- A community has multiple sources of environmental harms and risks.
- A community has multiple sources of a single harm or risk.
- A community experiences multiple environmental or health impacts or risks from a single source of environmental harm.



Multiple Sources of Environmental Harms and Risks



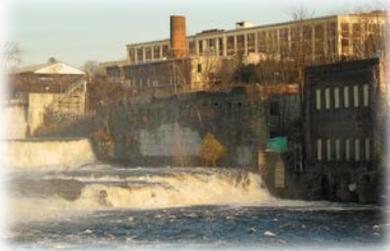
Multiple Sources a Single Environmental Harm and Risk

Living near an expressway + industrial facility + airport = particulate air pollution!



Multiple Sources of Health Impacts or Risks from a Single Source of Environmental Harm

Industry polluting water = contaminated food source + fish kills



Applicant Requirements

- Not-for-profit organization
- Serves an area equal to or smaller than a town or city (outside NYC)
- Serves an area equal to or smaller than a NYC borough
- Total annual revenue equal to or less than \$3 million
- Sufficient organizational independence as defined in the RFA
- Focus on addressing environmental or public health problems of the affected community
- An office located in the affected community
- At least 50 percent of its members or people served live in the affected community



Ineligible Organizations

Ineligible organizations

- Government entities
- Universities and school districts
- Non-profit organizations that serve a county or larger (outside of NYC)
- Non-profit organizations that serve more than one NYC borough
- Private individuals and for-profit entities
- Organizations with a total annual revenue exceeding \$3 million
- A dependent subsidiary of a larger organization (an organization that is not able to independently enter into legal agreements, or can be unilaterally disbanded by the parent organization)



Further Guidance for Applicants

- Ineligible organizations can provide technical support
- Ineligible nonprofits can be fiscal sponsors for community organizations
- Ineligible nonprofits can serve as fiscal sponsors for more than one applicant
- Any revenue generated by a project activity must be reinvested in the project

Costs Eligible for Funding

- All expenses must be for the funded project
- Paid staff expenses
- Contractual services
- Supplies
- Equipment
- Communication
- Publication
- Training
- Travel
- Other expenses required for the project (e.g. rental of meeting space)

Ineligible Costs

- 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

Application Review

- ❑ **Eligibility Review** – Does the application meet basic requirements of the EJ Grant Program?
- ❑ **Scored Review** – Reviewers independently evaluate eligible applications and assign scores



CASE STUDY & SAMPLE PROJECTS

CASE STUDY

Organization: Bronx River Alliance

Funding: \$10,000 in 2012/2013 grant round

Project: The Starlight Park Education Initiative

Multiple harms and risks: impacts of stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflow events

Research: Water quality monitoring and mitigation of stormwater runoff and associated erosion

Results: Students were able to test theories and develop new ideas to improve water quality of the Bronx River and increase understanding of the importance of the BR and green spaces in urbanized areas.

SAMPLE OF PAST PROJECTS

- Environmental inventories
- Community gardens
- Air and water quality monitoring (citizen science)
- Environmental education for EJ communities
- Household hazardous waste reduction
- Open space and green infrastructure projects
- Subsistence fishing outreach
- Pollution education
- Green jobs outreach, education, and training



OTHER PROJECT IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- ❑ Research used to build public interest in daylighting streams - redirecting them into above-ground channels - to restore them to a more natural state.
- ❑ Education campaign on negative impacts of litter and animal feces in waterways.

Addressing Water Impacts



OTHER PROJECT IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- ❑ Community composting projects - equipment training, education
- ❑ Food diversion projects - food pantry and soup kitchens use and support assistance; equipment, transportation to and from, storage, routing evaluation, collection logistics
- ❑ Local dispersion of compost - education to community of available materials, storage if needed, fostering other uses
- ❑ Backyard composting diversion - revitalize backyard composting efforts; education, bins, workshops, etc.

Addressing Organic Waste Impacts



OTHER PROJECT IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- Tree planting
- Enhanced tree pits for stormwater capture
- Green walls
- Green roofs
- Naturalized landscaping
- Swales
- Raingardens and rain barrels
- Projects that enhance wildlife habitat, e.g. connecting greenspaces
- Riparian restoration
- Permeable pavement
- Community gardens
- Urban woodwaste utilization
- Natural coastal protection

Addressing Green Infrastructure



OTHER PROJECT IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- ❑ Identify barriers to participating in existing energy performance programs for multi-family dwellings or develop materials to connect communities to programs and increase access.
- ❑ Reduce emissions and air pollution from transportation, increase access to low emission transportation or integrate low or no-emission options into planning for community resilience.
- ❑ Community involvement and education campaigns in transit-oriented development plans, multi-modal transportation programs, programs to expand access to electric vehicles and charging infrastructure or plans to integrate electric vehicles into resiliency planning.
- ❑ Assessments or educational campaigns focused on the health or social impacts from air pollution or climate change in affected communities.
- ❑ Inventories of energy use or air emissions from sources such as fuel oil and wood boilers, diesel-powered electricity generators or high-volume vehicle traffic areas.

Addressing Energy or Climate Change Impacts



OTHER PROJECT IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- ❑ Sampling (mobile source emissions) street-level air quality in an urban neighborhood parks
- ❑ Air sampling (particulates) of neighborhood impacts from local sources using biomass fuel for heat
- ❑ Air sampling in vicinity of frequently used diesel generators
- ❑ Air sampling of neighborhood electric generator (<79.9 MW) used during peak usage periods of electricity.
- ❑ Assessment of air quality near multiple diesel sources such as bus and train depots
- ❑ Community sampling of volatile organic compounds near natural gas pipeline compressor stations
- ❑ Fund collaborative efforts to resolve odor and/or noise issues between neighborhood residents and local industrial sources.

Addressing Air Impacts



Common Problems with Grant Applications

- Ineligible applicant
- Incomplete application
- Benefit to community unclear
- Insufficient community education component
- Relationship to environmental harm is unclear or insufficiently addressed by project
- Inadequate project narrative
- Vague budget or ineligible costs

Thank You

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