

## **CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND**

#### **Title 11: Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grants 2011-12**

Applications are being solicited through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Applications are due on October 31, 2011 by 4:00PM and must be submitted through the Consolidated Funding Application. To apply or to view application materials, go to <http://nyworks.ny.gov>

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program provides 50/50 matching grants on a competitive basis to revitalize communities and waterfronts.

#### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

Eligible applicants include municipalities (villages, towns, cities, and counties) located within the State Coastal Area, or along a major inland waterway designated pursuant to Executive Law, Article 42.

For general program planning to advance any of the eligible activities listed below:

- Any municipality located on the State's coastal waters or on a designated inland waterway, or a county that encompasses an eligible waterbody/waterway and is working in partnership with one or more eligible municipalities.

For planning, feasibility, design, or marketing of specific projects to advance eligible activities:

- Any municipality or a county working in partnership with a municipality, currently preparing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, or with an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

For construction projects needed to advance eligible activities:

- Any municipality or a county working in partnership with a municipality, with an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program or with the relevant Local Waterfront Revitalization Program component substantially completed.

#### **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:**

Funding is available for the following grant categories:

#### **Preparing Regional Strategies for Community and Waterfront Revitalization**

Traditionally focused at the municipal level, Waterfront Revitalization Programs are evolving to provide a regional framework for communities to cooperatively address waterfront revitalization issues and to advance ongoing and emerging state initiatives, including community sustainability, smart growth, environmental justice, climate-smart communities and ecosystem-based management. Regional strategies for community and waterfront revitalization bring to bear the resources and authorities of multiple levels of government to address all relevant issues

for a given region, and engage the public in the management of coastal, waterfront, and related resources and their use. The strategies will focus on economic development and revitalization, capitalize on regional assets, and result in sustainable communities and regions.

Applicants may apply for funding to start new regional strategies, or to complete and promote existing regional strategies

### **Completing or Implementing a Local or Regional Waterfront Revitalization Program**

A Waterfront Revitalization Program is a comprehensive land and water use program that expresses a vision for the waterfront and refines state policy to reflect local or regional needs. It can also be prepared as a series of components, advancing completion of a program in stages by addressing the highest priority issues first. Completing a program follows a step-by-step process that advances from a vision to implementation, and is associated with numerous benefits including: the ability to attract appropriate development that will respect unique cultural and natural characteristics; technical assistance as part of a long-term partnership among local government, community-based organizations, and the State; the ability to ensure that state and federal permitting, funding, and direct actions are consistent with the approved program; and increased ability to obtain public and private funding for identified projects.

Waterfront Revitalization Programs are evolving to provide a framework for local communities to address ongoing and emerging state initiatives, including smart growth and ecosystem-based management. Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs can play a significant role in addressing all relevant issues for a given place, bringing to bear the resources and authorities of local government, and engaging the public in the management of coastal and waterfront resources and their use.

Building on a vision and revitalization strategy, eligible applicants may apply for grant funding:

- to complete the preparation of a Local or Regional Waterfront Revitalization Program
- to incorporate smart growth and ecosystem-based management tools and principles in Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs
- to complete general planning related to the completion, revision or implementation of a Local or Regional Waterfront Revitalization Program
- for project or site-specific planning, feasibility, design, or marketing needed to implement an approved Waterfront Revitalization Program, or to implement or advance approved plans or strategies developed as part of Local or Regional Waterfront Revitalization Program planning
- for the construction of projects necessary to implement an approved Waterfront Revitalization Program, or a substantially-completed component of a Waterfront Revitalization Program under preparation
- to develop systems for defining and measuring progress and success in community and waterfront revitalization
- for the development of local or intermunicipal Geographic Information Systems to improve management of coastal areas and resources

### **Redeveloping Urban Waterfronts**

Redevelopment of waterfronts is essential for many urban neighborhoods. The Department of State, working with other state agencies, provides both financial and technical assistance to prepare and implement redevelopment strategies for urban waterfront areas.

Eligible applicants may apply for grant funding to advance the preparation or implementation of site-specific urban waterfront redevelopment projects.

### **Revitalizing Downtowns and Hamlets**

Downtown and hamlet revitalization includes activities designed to create a positive image of a municipality's downtown commercial district or hamlet center(s), to encourage consumers and investors to live, work, shop, play and invest in the downtown or hamlet, and to improve their physical and economic characteristics. Eligible applicants are encouraged to undertake coordinated activities to lay the foundation for a comprehensive downtown or hamlet revitalization program based on the approach used throughout the country by the National Main Street Center.

A comprehensive downtown or hamlet revitalization program includes development of a vision for revitalization, identification of the economic and market niche of the downtown or hamlet, preparation of a revitalization program and implementation strategy consistent with the vision and niche, establishment of a sustainable organizational capacity for implementation of the strategy, and the implementation of the vision and strategy.

Eligible applicants may apply for grant funding for planning and implementation activities.

### **Planning or Constructing Water Trails**

Blueways are small boat and paddling routes that combine water-based recreation and environmental awareness and allow users to travel between designated stops that link New York's heritage sites, trails, greenways, historic resources, scenic byways, and revitalized community centers. Blueway trails contribute to regional economies, and individual blueway projects can be catalysts for local economic development and promote environmental preservation and stewardship by connecting communities to nearby waterways.

Applicants may apply for grant funding to undertake the planning and design of regional blueway trails. Applicants should demonstrate how their proposal complements, builds on, or fills gaps in existing corridor or regional plans, or how their proposal creates a regionally-integrated land and water-based revitalization and development strategy.

### **Improving Water Quality**

Regions are dependent on high-quality surface and ground water resources for water supply, recreation, tourism, and to support agriculture, local businesses, industry, and economic development. Improving water quality requires constructing capital projects and the management of land use to reduce point and nonpoint source pollution.

Significant contributing areas surrounding and draining into a waterbody often lie within more than one municipal jurisdiction. Consequently, advancing on-the-ground projects and preparing watershed management plans on a cooperative regional basis has been shown to be an effective way to achieve local, regional and statewide goals for the high quality water needed to sustain

natural resources and economic development. Preparing a watershed management plan involves significant public engagement and an arrangement for long-term involvement, often through an intermunicipal watershed organization. Networking with other communities, agencies and organizations with experience in the successful preparation and implementation of watershed management plans can lead to efficiencies that minimize costs.

A watershed management plan is comprehensive in its description of existing water quality and watershed conditions, including assets, impairments and threats, as well as in its identification and prioritization of actions needed to protect and restore water resources. A watershed management plan also contains implementation strategies that identify stakeholder roles and the financial and institutional resources needed to undertake these priorities. To advance priority actions, plans contain the means to measure success, track implementation, and monitor performance.

Applicants may apply for grant funding to prepare, complete, update, or implement a comprehensive watershed management plan.

**AWARD, CONDITIONS & REQUIREMENTS:**

Grants will be available for up to 50% of the total eligible project costs set forth in the application and as approved by the Department.

**CONTACT/ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

The Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Request for Applications, including scoring criteria, the list of Coastal Waterbodies and Designated Inland Waterways used in determining applicant eligibility, and workshop schedule are available at [http://www.nyswaterfronts.com/grantopps\\_EPF.asp](http://www.nyswaterfronts.com/grantopps_EPF.asp)

For more information, eligible applicants should contact Ken Smith at the New York State Department of State, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12231, call (518) 474-6000, email [kenneth.smith@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:kenneth.smith@dos.state.ny.us), or visit <http://www.dos.ny.gov/communityprojects/funding.html>.