

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the program intent?

A. As stated in the legislation: “To provide grants to local entities to protect fish, wildlife, and native plant resources, to acquire or develop wildlife corridors and trails, and to provide for nature interpretation programs and other programs which bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas.”

Q. How much is available, and what are the minimum and maximum amounts?

A. Two million dollars is available annually. There is no minimum or maximum grant request amount.

Q. Who can apply for these funds?

A. The following are eligible applicants:

- Cities
- Counties
- Districts, as defined in the legislation

Q. How can these funds be used?

A. Funds can be used for the following:

- Wildlife Area Activities – An event or series of events intended to bring urban residents into areas with indigenous plants and animals (park and wildlife areas)
- Acquisition of species habitats.
- Enhancement or restoration of species habitats.
- Enhancement, restoration, or development of trails.

Q. Can funds be used for both acquisition and enhancement, restoration, development, or Wildlife Area Activities projects?

A. No. Funds can be used either for acquisition or for enhancement, or restoration, or development or for Wildlife Area Activities projects.

Q. Is there a matching requirement, and are there any match limitations?

A. Yes. The HCF grant program requires a dollar-for-dollar match of grant funds. The match must be spent on eligible costs. The match may not come from another state funding source. Indirect costs cannot be used as match.

Q. Can applicants submit applications for more than one project?

A. Yes. However, each project must have its own application package.

Q. When is the application deadline?

A. Project applications must be received by the Office of Grants and Local Services by 4:30 P.M. on, or postmarked no later than, the first work day in October.

Q. Will all applicants be notified of project selection?

A. Yes. All applicants will receive a notification letter at the end of the review process.

Q. Can eligible public entities partner with a non-profit organization?

A. Yes. Although non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for funds, partnerships are encouraged. Applicants must provide detailed information on the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

Q. What are the land tenure/site activity assurance requirements, if the applicant does not own the property in fee simple?

A. For land tenure on enhancement, restoration, or development projects, the applicant must provide a document, signed by the applicant and the land owner that guarantees the applicant's adequate tenure to, and site control of, the project site. All less than fee simple agreements must have a renewal clause and can only be revocable by mutual consent or for cause. Grants require at least 10 or 20 years of land tenure and public recreation operation, depending upon the amount of grant funds requested.

For activity site assurance on Wildlife Area Activities projects, if the proposed project will be on public lands or lands normally open to the public, the applicant must provide a letter that certifies the proposed project sites will be appropriate for project activities.

If the proposed project will be on private lands or lands normally closed to the public, the applicant provide documentation that the APPLICANT has the land owner's permission to conduct the WILDLIFE AREA ACTIVITIES PROJECT activities.

The Wildlife Area Activities Application Guide contains more information about these requirements.

Q. If my project is selected for funding, how long would I have to complete the project?

A. The project performance period for each project is 5 years starting on July 1 of the fiscal year following the application. For example, projects applied for in October of 2010 would start on July 1, 2011 and would expire on June 30, 2016.