

Slide 1

Welcome

Slide 2 – Program Features

The County Infrastructure Grant Program was allocated \$50M to support County-led infrastructure projects across the state.

The program intentionally focuses on smaller-scale infrastructure projects which may lack standalone funding sources, but are still priority capital projects for Counties.

The program will focus on projects that: contribute to placemaking, support the creation of housing, and encourage visitation and tourism.

There will be enhanced awards for projects which support a certain level of housing, which we will discuss in more detail in a moment.

Applicants eligible to apply for funds include all Counties in New York State, excluding Kings, Queens, Richmond, Bronx, and New York counties.

To further clarify, only Counties are eligible to apply for funding. Also, each County may only submit one project per round.

All applications must be signed by the County's Chief Elected Official and submitted by the County. Proposed projects are not required to provide a county-wide benefit and can benefit a local municipality located within the County.

Slide 3 – Grant Amount Eligibility

Projects that do not propose to directly support the creation of at least 10 new housing units, would be eligible for an award of up to \$500K. This would include projects that do not propose any housing development as well.

Projects proposing to directly support the creation of at least 10 new housing units, would be eligible for an award of up to \$1M.

Only one application and therefore one award are permitted per county, each round.

Any unspent funds will be redeployed in future rounds, at the discretion of ESD.

Our first round is currently open, and we are accepting applications. Round 1 will expire on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, OR when all eligible Counties have either applied or notified us, they do not intend to apply at this time.

Slide 4 – Eligible Projects

The program will support small and moderate-scale infrastructure projects which have been identified by the County as a means to accomplish at least one of the following:

- Directly or indirectly support Economic Development
- Contribute to placemaking
- Encourage tourism
- Support the creation of housing

Slide 5 – Eligible Uses of Funds

How funds are eligible to be used and some examples.

- Construction, expansion and/or rehabilitation of municipal, utility, or other public property and/or ancillary infrastructure to support such development.
- Extension or reconstruction of road, water, sewer, or utilities. *EXAMPLE: Widen a county road to handle traffic to be generated by a new industrial employer, traditional infrastructure.*
- Design or engineering costs related to construction (limited to 20% of total project cost).
- Acquisition of machinery and equipment related to infrastructure projects. *EXAMPLE: Equipment needed to make upgrades to a sewer treatment plant or water treatment system.*
- Placemaking and beautification project costs. *EXAMPLE: sidewalks.*
- Site preparation, demolition, acquisition of real property related to the county-led infrastructure project. *EXAMPLE: Establish a shovel ready site to host a manufacturer.*
- Other capital uses as determined by ESD. *EXAMPLE: non-conventional infrastructure like a visitors' center, historic center, etc.*

Slide 6 – Housing specific Proposals

The intent of the program is to assist with infrastructure projects that support the creation of housing; not the construction of the housing itself.

Any projects proposing 10 or more units of housing, will need to provide a credible plan outlining how you will achieve your housing creation goal.

This Plan should include:

- A notice of specific locations.
- A letter of intent from a credible developer.
- A memo that clearly demonstrates how the goals will be achieved.

Slide 7 – Ineligible Projects/Costs

With relation to the first bullet - there is a difference between eligibility of construction to be privately owned vs. buildings to be used for a municipal use, not for profit use, and/or tourism use (but not for private ownership).

For example:

- A building to be renovated and used for a cultural or historic museum could be eligible.
- Building renovations to create housing would not be eligible (because it will be privately owned). However—any infrastructure improvements related to this same project would qualify as an eligible project.

Another point of clarification is whether there are any ownership restrictions for this program.

- Infrastructure—There is no restriction on whether the utility infrastructure is owned by the County, local municipality, or utility companies.
- Housing—There is no restriction on whether buildings will be owned by a private company. Counties may subgrant funds to a private company to complete upgrades, however, funding will only be provided for the infrastructure upgrades being completed and not construction and/or renovation of a building unless funds are provided to a not-for-profit entity to support placemaking or tourism.
- Tourism/placemaking—Same as above, for housing.

Slide 8 – Project Review Criteria

Projects will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Their alignment with the local Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) goals and development priorities.
- The amount of leveraged funding sources, including demonstration that at least 50% of non-Program funds will be utilized.
 - There is a 50% non-ESD match requirement for each project. We are not prescriptive about where those funds specifically come from. The use of other federal and/or state funding would be an acceptable source of matching funds for a project.
- Has the project demonstrated local government, elected official, and/or community support?
- Project readiness: All projects must be ready to commence within one year of award.
- Eligible project focus: Eligible projects may focus on the uses we previously discussed. The applicant must demonstrate how the proposed project directly or indirectly contributes to economic development, encourages tourism, supports the creation of housing, and/or contributes to placemaking.

Slide 9 –Submission Requirements

We recommend submitting a Letter of Intent before you start the application. This will aid in determining project eligibility prior to initiating the application process.

This form can be found on our website and submitted to the email at the end of this presentation. Also found on our website is a link to the full application, which will be completed through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Portal.

This slide just reviews some of the documents and information that will be required as part of an application submission.

Slide 10—Questions/Contact Info

Please feel free to reach out to the program inbox with any questions that may arise.