



Financial Resources

As scenic byway, the Durham Valley Scenic Byway is eligible for several funding and financing options. Three main sources of funding opportunities exist for scenic byways— federal, state, and other. The majority of funding will be found at the federal and state levels through government grants, trusts, and assistance programs. Additional funding may be found in other public agencies or from private groups.

Each funding program has requirements for eligible applicants and stipulations on how the monies can be used. Most often, these determinations are made on a case-by-case basis dependent on the applicant's needs. Several funding opportunities that could be applied to the Scenic Byway Corridor are detailed below:

Federally Funded Programs

National Scenic Byways Discretionary Grants

Provides merit-based funding for byway-related projects each year. The eight categories of eligible project activities include: State and Tribal Programs, Corridor Management Plan, Safety Improvements, Byway Facilities, Access to Recreation, Resource Protection, Interpretive Information, and Marketing Program

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

A matching grant program for the acquisition, development and/or rehabilitation of outdoor park and recreation facilities. Funds are available to municipal public agencies and Indian tribal governments. Funded projects must reflect the priorities established in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and be available to the public.

Recreational Trails Program

A matching grant program for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of trails and trail-related projects. Funds are available to non-profit organizations, municipal, state and federal agencies, Indian tribal governments and other public agencies and authorities. Funded projects must be identified in, or further a specific goal of, the SCORP and must be available to the public.

Certified Local Government Program

A matching grant program for the expansion and maintenance of the National Register of Historic Places and support of historic preservation activities, to include survey and inventory. Only Certified Local Governments may apply.

State Funded Programs

Parks Program

A matching grant program for the acquisition or development of parks and recreational facilities for projects to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures for park, recreation or conservation purposes. Funds may be awarded to municipalities or not-for-profits with an ownership interest, for indoor or outdoor projects and must reflect the priorities established in the SCORP.

Historic Preservation Program

A matching grant program to improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate or restore properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places. Funds are available to municipalities or not-for-profits with an ownership interest.

Heritage Areas Program

A matching grant program for projects to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures, identified in a management plan approved by the Commissioner. Projects must fall within a New York State Designated Heritage Area.

Acquisition

A matching grant program for the acquisition of a permanent easement or fee title to lands, waters or structures for use by all segments of the population for park, recreation, conservation or preservation purposes. To be used for all three program areas where acquisition is of more importance than development.

Snowmobile Trail Grant Program

A grant program that allocates funds to local governments that engage in the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails designated as part of the State Snowmobile Trail System. The authorization for the program is found in Article 27 of NY Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. Funding is allocated on a pro-rated basis.

Legislative Initiatives

A program for recipients pre-designated by the State Legislature.

Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Programs

Statewide Grant Program provides funding for projects demonstrating direct environmental benefits that will help reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality and restore habitat in New York State waters.

Grants Program for the Hudson River Estuary

The Estuary Grants were created to help fulfill those goals of the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda that can be implemented most effectively by municipalities, not for profits, and other local partners. Estuary grants are offered in five categories: Community Interpretive Centers and Education; Open Space Planning and Acquisition; Community-based Habitat Conservation and Stewardship; Watershed Planning and Implementation; and Hudson River Access.

Aquatic Invasive Species Eradication Grant Program

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) provides State assistance funding through reimbursement for projects to eradicate aquatic species identified as being invasive within water bodies and wetlands of New York State. Acceptable projects are proposals to kill and/or permanently remove plants or animals that meet the definition of aquatic invasive species or aquatic nuisance species from waterbodies or wetlands in New York State. The most important aquatic invasive species are listed below.

Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program

Under the Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in partnership with the New York State Department of State, provides financial and technical assistance to municipalities and community-based organizations. Funding can be used to complete revitalization plans and implementation strategies for areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites, as well as site assessments for strategic sites.

Environmental Restoration Program

In an effort to spur the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields, New Yorkers approved a \$200 million Environmental Restoration or Brownfields Fund as

part of the \$1.75 billion Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996 (1996 Bond Act). Enhancements to the program were enacted on October 7, 2003. Under the Environmental Restoration Program, the State provides grants to municipalities to reimburse up to 90 percent of on-site eligible costs and 100 percent of off-site eligible costs for site investigation and remediation activities. Once remediated, the property may then be reused for commercial, industrial, residential or public use.

Landowner Incentive Program

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is a unique partnership between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and private landowners to protect the habitat of at-risk species on private lands. The program is funded by a grant from the Department of the Interior, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Urban and Community Forestry Grants

The State Urban and Community Forestry Program encourages and assists municipalities as they develop and implement sustainable local urban forestry programs. Grants are designed to encourage communities to actively enhance tree cover along their streets and in their parks, to properly care for and maintain their community trees, to develop tree inventories and management plans, and to inform their residents of the value and benefits of urban trees.

Terrestrial Invasive Species Eradication Grant Program

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will provide State assistance funding through reimbursement for projects to eradicate terrestrial species identified as being invasive within the boundaries of New York State. Acceptable projects are proposals to kill and/or permanently remove plants or animals that meet

the definition of terrestrial invasive species. A list of species is included in the grant application and instructions booklet.

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

Created in 2002, the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) is a public-private partnership between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Land Trust Alliance that invests in New York land trusts. Grants are funded through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) annually. The program is managed by the Land Trust Alliance in coordination with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Farmers' Market Grant Program

Article 22 of the Agriculture and Markets Law authorizes grants for the purpose of providing state assistance for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, expansion or rehabilitation of farmers' markets.

County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Planning Grants

Article 25-AAA of the Agriculture and Markets Law authorizes a State agricultural and farmland protection program to provide financial and technical assistance, within funds available, to assist counties and municipalities in developing agricultural and farmland protection plans and to assist both in the implementation of such plans. The purpose of these programs is to fund local initiatives that are intended to maintain the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and its supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture.

Other Funding Opportunities

The Main Street Revitalization Program – Greene County

Offers matching grants covering up to 50 percent of a project's cost as well as architectural assistance for exterior improvements along traditional Main Streets throughout Greene County.

Microenterprise Assistance Program – Greene County

Assists in the establishment and expansion of small businesses and the creation of new jobs through business training, low-interest loans and technical assistance. All business sectors – including industry, retail, services, agriculture and tourism – are eligible for the program.

Small Grants Program – Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley

The program provides funding for trail planning, construction and amenities, historic landscape preservation, regional and local partnership development as well as many other resource enhancement and economic development projects.

Greenways Communities Grants – Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley

The Greenway Council awards matching planning grants, up to \$10,000 for single municipality projects, to communities who vote to become a Greenway Community. The Council also awards grants to communities that adopt a regional or subregional Greenway Compact plan.

New York Land Protection Fund – Open Space Initiative

Capitalized in part with a Program Related Investment (PRI) from the Kaplan Foundation, operates from the Adirondacks to the Hudson Highlands just north of New York City. Though unsolicited applications for loans are accepted

throughout the region, the Open Space Initiative gives preference to projects that are identified within the Open Space Initiative's core focus areas: Adirondacks, Catskills, Capital Region, and Hudson River Valley.

Northern Forest Protection Fund – Open Space Initiative

A matching capital fund created to support the permanent protection of large forest landscapes in northern New York and New England. The Northern Forest Protection Fund appreciates the delicate and intricate balance between community development and natural resources in the Northern Forest and works to preserve this equilibrium by supporting acquisitions that protect ecological reserves and working forestlands. The Northern Forest Protection Fund is administered by the Open Space Conservancy, an affiliate of the Open Space Institute.