

# FINANCING WATERFRONT RESILIENCE



Hudson River Estuary Program

## State and federal resources for communities

### 2017 Summary of financial assistance programs

State and federal agencies offer financial assistance to municipalities and non-profit organizations for activities building resilience to waterfront flooding, sea level rise and other climate risks. This document provides an overview of these assistance programs and how to apply. Eligible activities include municipal planning, improving the resiliency of structures, emergency management planning, waterfront revitalization, public outreach, and floodplain protection. A summary table of all resources, organized by agency, areas of assistance and deadlines, can be found at the end of this document.



View of flooded road in Stony Point following Hurricane Sandy in 2012 (L. Konopko)

- **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):** Hudson River Estuary Grants, Climate Smart Communities Grants, Water Quality Improvements Program, Trees for Tribs
- **Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC):** Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning, Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, Green Innovation Grant Program
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Public Assistance, Community Rating System
- **Department of State (DOS):** Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

#### • Other Financial Assistance Programs

- **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA):** Clean Energy Communities Program
- **NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP):** Parks, Preservation and Heritage
- **US Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** Community Block Grant Program
- **Empire State Development (ESD)** Grant program for infrastructure investment
- **Hudson River Greenway** Communities and Compact Grant Programs
- **Open Space Funding Options**

### [NYS Consolidated Funding Application](#)

New York State's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) allows communities to design comprehensive projects and with one application, apply to multiple state funding sources. Communities may not apply to federal programs such as FEMA through the CFA. You can download [the 2017 CFA Available Resources \(PDF\)](#) online.

#### LOCAL EXAMPLE: CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION



Kingston received a \$1.2 million grant for a public-private intermunicipal partnership to design and build a one mile promenade along the Hudson River. The promenade will feature green infrastructure and offer public access and recreation and keep open space along the waterfront. The funds were awarded from the Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program through a CFA application.

## Overview of Financial Assistance Programs

Below is a summary of financial assistance programs identified by their funding categories related to flood resilience.



Municipal planning



Collaboration and public outreach



Resilient structures



Waterfront economy



Emergency management



Floodplain protection

CFA = grants included in the NYS Consolidated Funding Application

## New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

The NYS DEC is a state agency focused on the conservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of environmental resources.



### Hudson River Estuary Program Grants

The [2017 Request for Applications \(RFA\) for Hudson River Estuary Grants](#) (\$670,000) cover *Local Stewardship Planning* and *River Access Improvements for People of All Abilities*. These Requests for Applications (RFAs) implement priorities of the [Hudson River Estuary 2015-2020 Action Agenda](#). Grant awards range from \$10,500 to \$50,000 and require a 15% match. All prospective applicants must register in advance in the [New York State Grants Gateway](#) where they can also search and download the full RFA by searching for 'Hudson River Estuary.' Funding for the grants is provided by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). For more information on these opportunities, contact [HREPGrants@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HREPGrants@dec.ny.gov) and sign up for our [Climate Resilience Newsletter](#).

### Local Stewardship Planning

Up to \$450,000 is available to help communities and local organizations advance six categories of local projects and programs through planning, feasibility studies, and/or design:

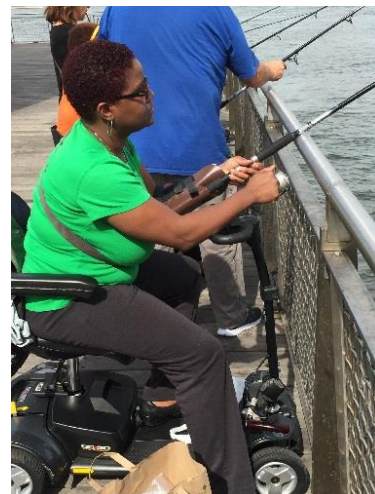
- Climate adaptation along the Hudson River
- Water supply and waste-water infrastructure resiliency
- Green infrastructure to reduce combined and separated sewer overflows
- Watershed planning and management
- Conservation of natural resources and open space planning
- Natural scenery stewardship planning

Deadline: 3:00 pm, July 12, 2017

### River Access Improvements for People of All Abilities

Up to \$220,000 is available to local organizations and communities to improve accessibility at existing river access sites for boating, fishing, swimming, wildlife-dependent recreation, or educational interpretation. Projects may include construction of physical improvements, purchase of adaptive equipment, or development of accessibility improvement plans. Accessibility projects should include accessible parking and pathway to the new element or a reference that these already exist. Incorporating principles of universal design is strongly encouraged.

Deadline: 3:00 pm, July 12, 2017



## Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Grants

Climate Smart Community (CSC) grants (\$9.5M) will support municipal projects that implement certain CSC actions and help them become certified in the program. 50% match required.



**Implementation projects** fund \$10,000 and \$2 million to:

- Flood risk reduction
- Extreme event preparation
- Reduction of vehicle miles travelled
- Reduction of food waste, landfill methane leakage or hydrofluorocarbons emissions

**Certification projects** fund \$10,000 to \$100,000 to:

- Adaptation, land use, transportation and organic waste management planning
- Inventory and assessment actions aligned with [CSC certification](#) requirements

Contact: [Climatechange@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Climatechange@dec.ny.gov), 518-402-8448

Deadline: 4:00 pm, July 28, 2017, CFA

## Water Quality Improvement Project

The WQIP program (\$87M) is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that directs funds from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund to projects that reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality and restore habitat in New York's waterbodies. High priority wastewater treatment improvement projects require a 15% match. Land acquisition for source water protection, salt storage, aquatic habitat restoration, municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), and non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control projects require a 25% match. General wastewater infrastructure improvement projects require a 60% match.

Contact: [User.Water@dec.ny.gov](mailto:User.Water@dec.ny.gov)

Deadline: 4:00 pm, July 28, 2017, CFA

## Trees for Tribs

Do you own or manage land along a stream? You can apply for free native plants to help reduce erosion and improve habitat along your stream! The [Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribs](#) Program offers free native trees and shrubs for planting along the tributary streams in the [Hudson River Estuary watershed](#). Our staff can help you with a planting plan and work with your volunteers.

Contact: Beth Roessler, NYS DEC, 845-256-2253, [HudsonEstuaryTFT@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HudsonEstuaryTFT@dec.ny.gov)

Deadline: Apply by March 1, 2017 for Spring plantings, August 1, 2017 for Fall plantings



## Environmental Facility Corporation (EFC)

The EFC is a state agency that assists public and private entities to comply with federal and state environmental quality standards through technical assistance, low cost financing, and green innovation grants.



### Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant

The EFC, in cooperation with NYS DEC, offers WIEPG grants (\$3 million) for engineering and consulting services to produce engineering reports to construct or improve municipal wastewater systems. A maximum of \$100,000 in funding is available for communities with median household income of \$85,000 or less in Mid-Hudson and NYC regions and \$65,000 or less in the Capital District region; the municipality must provide a 20% match. The final engineering report can be implemented using EFC or other financing sources.

Contact: Susan Van Patten, NYS DEC, 518-402-8267,  
[CFAWater@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:CFAWater@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Deadline: 4:00 pm, July 28, 2017, CFA

### Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The EFC provides various forms of project finance for water-quality protection projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). A variety of publicly-owned water quality improvement projects are eligible for financing, including point source projects such as wastewater treatment facilities, and nonpoint source projects such as stormwater management projects and landfill closures, as well as certain habitat restoration and protection projects in national estuary program areas. Short and long-term loans are available at no interest and low interest rates.

Contact: Dwight Brown, EFC, 518-402-7396, [CWSRFinfo@efc.ny.gov](mailto:CWSRFinfo@efc.ny.gov)

Deadline: Open enrollment

### Green Innovation Grant Program

The Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP, \$15M) funds projects across New York State that utilize unique stormwater infrastructure design and create cutting-edge green technologies. 10% to 60% match required. GIGP funds highly-visible projects that are directly attributable to the improvement or protection of water quality and integral to the success of the following eight specific green infrastructure practices:

- Bioretention
- Downspout disconnection
- Establishment or Restoration of, Floodplains, Riparian buffers, Streams or Wetlands
- Green roofs
- Green walls
- Permeable pavements
- Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse, e.g. Rain Barrel and Cistern Projects
- Stormwater Street Trees / Urban Forestry Programs Designed to Manage Stormwater

Contact: Suzanna Randall, EFC, 518-402-7461, [GIGP@efc.ny.gov](mailto:GIGP@efc.ny.gov)

Deadline: 4:00 pm, July 28, 2017, CFA

#### LOCAL EXAMPLE: WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING PLANNING



The City of Kingston received a \$25,000 grant to examine long-term adaptive planning for their wastewater treatment plant. They will implement the plan using low interest loans from the CWSRF.

## Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA is a national agency that administers programs providing flood insurance, hazard mitigation assistance, and public assistance grants.



### Hazard Mitigation Assistance

FEMA currently provide three types of hazard mitigation assistance (HMA):

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assists in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures. HMGP funds are triggered by a declared disaster and funneled to individual municipalities through the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES).
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) provides funds on an annual basis for hazard mitigation planning and projects.
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) provides funds on an annual basis for projects to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

### Public Assistance Grant Program

Through the Public Assistance (PA) Program, FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly- owned facilities, and the facilities of certain private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations. The PA Program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

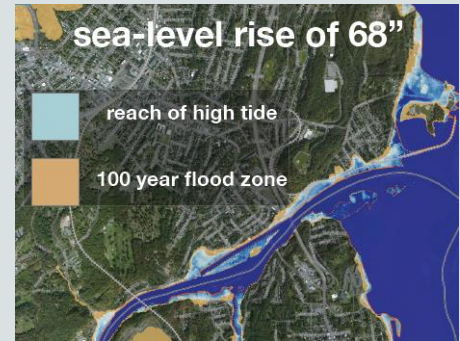
Contact: FEMA grants are administered by NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). Visit their website for current grant opportunities: <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/grants/>

### Community Rating System

FEMA also administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the related Community Rating System (CRS), which allows municipalities to reduce flood insurance rates for all policyholders by instating community-scale projects and policies regarding flood resilience.

Contact: 317-848-2898, [nfipcrs@iso.com](mailto:nfipcrs@iso.com)

#### LOCAL EXAMPLE: HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT



Kingston applied for a \$5 million grant from Hurricanes Irene and Sandy Relief Funds to implement Task Force recommendations for riparian buffers, buyouts, the adaptation and fortification of infrastructure, and the purchase emergency generators for pumping stations. The City is awaiting notification of the application's status.

#### LOCAL EXAMPLE: COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM



The Village of Scarsdale is Class 8 certified in the Community Rating System (CRS), which means the village residents receive a 10% discount on flood insurance. The Village of Hyde Park is currently seeking CRS certification.

## Department of State (DOS)

The DOS is a planning agency that focuses on economic revitalization and resilient, livable communities.



### Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) provides technical assistance, and matching grants (\$15.2M) on a reimbursement basis to villages, towns, cities, and counties located along New York's coasts or designated inland waterways, to prepare or implement strategies for community and waterfront revitalization. Funds require a 25% match (15% for environmental justice communities) and the grant categories currently are:

- Preparing or Implementing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)
- Updating an LWRP to Mitigate Future Physical Climate Risks
- Redeveloping Hamlets, Downtowns and Urban Waterfronts
- Planning or Constructing Land and Water-based Trails
- Preparing or Implementing a Lakewide or Watershed Management Plan
- Implementing a Community Resilience Strategy

Contact: Jamie Ethier, NYS DOS, (518) 473-3656,  
[Jaime.Ethier@dos.ny.gov](mailto:Jaime.Ethier@dos.ny.gov)

Deadline: 4:00 pm, July 28, 2017, CFA

#### LOCAL EXAMPLE: LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM



The Village of Piermont received a \$35,000 grant to update its Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, first written in 1992, to include strategies from the Task Force's final Resilience Roadmap Report.

## Additional Financial Assistance Resources

### New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

NYSERDA is a state authority dedicated to promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.



### Clean Energy Communities Program

Municipalities that complete four of 10 priority actions will be considered Clean Energy Communities, and eligible for grants up to \$250,000 with *no match requirements*. Locally based outreach and implementation coordinators will provide free, on-demand technical assistance, including step-by-step guidance, case studies, and template contracts to help municipalities implement the Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities programs.

Contact: [cec@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:cec@nyserda.ny.gov)

Deadline: Open application until September 30, 2019, or once funds run out

## NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

THE NYS OPRHP is a state agency dedicated to preserving and enhancing parks, historic assets and heritage areas.



### Grant Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage

The OPRHP is providing grants (\$20M) for acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas. Project awards up to \$500,000 with 50% required match, or 25% match for projects that are located in high-poverty district.

Contact: Erin Drost, NYS OPRHP, (845) 889-3866

Deadline: 4:00 pm, July 28, 2017, CFA

## US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD is a federal agency aimed to support sustainable, inclusive and affordable communities.



### Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

HUD is offering competitive grants (\$20M) for community development projects. Resilient drinking water, clean water and/or stormwater infrastructure projects could be applied for under Category 1: Public Infrastructure (\$750,000 max, \$900,000 for joint applicants, no match required), construction and renovation under Category 2: Public Facilities (\$300,000 max), and risk assessment and engineering projects could be applied for under Category 4: Community Planning (\$50,000 per project, 5% match).

Contact: 518-474-2057, [HCR\\_CFA@nyshcr.org](mailto:HCR_CFA@nyshcr.org)

Deadline: 4:00 PM, July 28, 2017, CFA

## Empire State Development (ESD)

ESD is the New York state agency focused on economic development.



### Empire State Development Grant Funds

The ESD is offering grant funds (\$150M) in the 2017 consolidated funding application. Category 2 is for infrastructure investment that can foster new economic development (grant funds cover up to 25% of project soft costs).

Contact: 845-567-4882, [nys-midhudson@esd.ny.gov](mailto:nys-midhudson@esd.ny.gov)

Deadline: 4:00 pm, July 28, 2017, CFA

### LOCAL EXAMPLE: PARK DEVELOPMENT



The Village of Freeport received a \$250,000 Parks grant to replace over 1,000 feet of bulkhead at Waterfront Park to reduce soil erosion and improve public safety and recreational access.

## NYS Hudson River Valley Greenway

The Greenway is state agency focused on using regional collaboration to conserve and enhance the natural, scenic and historic resources of the unique Hudson River Valley.



### Greenway Communities Grant Program

Financial assistance for planning (\$5,000 to \$10,000 per project, more if multiple municipalities involved) is available to designated “Greenway Communities” within the Greenway Area. Projects funded under this program include those that relate to community planning, economic development, natural resource protection, cultural resource protection, scenic resource protection, and open space protection. Greenway Compact communities are eligible for greater funds to develop, approve, and implement a regional compact strategy consistent with the Greenway criteria and the Greenway act.

Contact: 518-473-3835, [hrvg@hudsongreenway.ny.gov](mailto:hrvg@hudsongreenway.ny.gov)

Deadline: 4:00 pm, September 8, 2017

## Open Space Funding Options



Preserving land as open space in floodplains and in coastal areas is an important aspect of flood resilience recommendations. Here are several options for municipalities looking to preserve open space in their community:

### LOCAL EXAMPLE: REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX



The Town of Warwick passed a 0.75% Real Estate Transfer Tax and the Town of Red Hook a 2% tax to create a conservation fund to help provide financial support for their Open Space Plans.

- The municipality can advocate to have their land included in the NYS Open Space Plan that is updated every 5 years. This helps the community to show that the land has value outside of traditional development and is a good way to prepare for purchase of the land for open space. The State receives annual funding to purchase lands specifically mentioned in the plan. Municipalities can also seek grant funds to write or update their own Open Space Plan and include floodplain protection as one of the important values that open space provides.
- The municipality can work with a private land trust, like the Walkkill Valley Land Trust or the Open Space Institute to purchase the land using easements if it has scenic, ecological and/or agricultural value. Then, the community may be able to work with the land trust to make the property more valuable as floodplain protection.
- The municipality can purchase the land for open space by taking on debt (bonds) or instigating a tax levy. One example of a relevant tax levy is called a Real Estate Transfer Tax, which has been passable by local law since NYS passed the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act of 2007. This tax is applied to mortgages on local real estate and is used to create a conservation fund for the community, which can be used to preserve open space.

### LOCAL EXAMPLE: GREENWAY COMMUNITIES GRANT



The Village of Ossining received a \$15,000 grant to create a Waterfront Recreational Resource Plan to identify ways to promote water-related uses on their 3 miles of Hudson River waterfront, and to outline strategies to increase public access, catalog existing recreational assets, and engage stakeholders to determine demand for possible upgrades.



## Summary table of all funding assistance programs

Agency	Assistance Program	Priority Funding Categories	Grant amounts, required match	Deadline, CFA
DEC	✓ Estuary Grants		\$10,500-\$50,000, 15%	7/12/17
	✓ CSC Grants		\$10,000-\$2M, 50%	7/28/17 ☑CFA
	✓ WQIP		15-60%	7/28/17 ☑CFA
	✓ T4T		N/A	3/1, 8/1/17
EFC	✓ WIEP		≤\$100,000, 20%	7/28/17 ☑CFA
	✓ CWRLF		N/A	Open
	✓ GIGP		10-60%	7/28/17 ☑CFA
FEMA	✓ HMGP, PDM, FMA		N/A	Trigger by natural disaster
	✓ PA, CRS		N/A	Open
DOS	✓ LWRP		15-25%	7/28/17 ☑CFA
OTHER	✓ NYSERDA		≤\$250,000, 0%	Open until 9/30/19
	✓ OPRHP		≤\$500,000, 25-50%	7/28/17 ☑CFA
	✓ HUD		\$50,000 - \$900,000, 0-5%	7/28/17 ☑CFA
	✓ ESD		75% for soft costs	7/28/17 ☑CFA
	✓ Greenway		\$5,000 - \$10,000+	9/8/17
	✓ Open Space		N/A	N/A

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Libby Zemaitis

Climate Outreach Specialist, Hudson River Estuary Program  
**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**  
 (845) 256-3153 | [Libby.zemaitis@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Libby.zemaitis@dec.ny.gov) | [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)