



## **Grant Application Guidelines: Compact Community Grant**

### **Overview**

The Hudson River Valley Greenway's Compact Community Grant promotes the economic development of designated Compact Communities while respecting local decision making. Planning projects funded through this program preserve, enhance, and develop the scenic, natural, historic, cultural, and recreational resources in the Hudson River Valley.

A designated Compact Community is a municipality that has formally adopted its County's Compact Plan, a strategy that identifies how a county will integrate Greenway Criteria into its planning work.

Compact Communities can apply for Compact Community Grants up to \$50,000 for municipal projects and up to \$110,000 for intermunicipal projects. Additional funding is available for Compact Plans. To be considered for a Compact Community Grant, applicants should incorporate the Greenway Criteria.

### **Greenway Criteria:**

- **Regional Planning**  
Development of cooperative regional strategies addressing resource protection, economic development, public access, and heritage and environmental education.
- **Natural and Cultural Resource Protection**  
Protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural communities, open spaces, historic and cultural resources, scenic roads, and scenic areas.
- **Economic Development**  
Promotion of economic growth compatible with resource preservation, including agriculture, tourism, and revitalization of established community centers and waterfronts.
- **Public Access**  
Expansion of public access to the Hudson River, including parks and the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail System.
- **Heritage and Environmental Education**  
Increased awareness among residents and visitors of the Valley's natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources.



## Hudson River Valley Greenway

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**KEVIN BURKE**  
Chair, Greenway Conservancy

**MEG DOWNEY**  
Chair, Greenway Council

**ANDY KITZMANN**  
Executive Director

## Eligibility

The Compact Community Grant provides funding to municipalities and counties.

### To qualify for a Compact Community Grant, municipalities must:

1. Be located within the Greenway Area; and
2. Formally adopt their County's Compact Plan, designating it as a Compact Community; and
3. Complete all previously awarded Communities Grant projects prior to submitting a new application.

### To qualify for a Compact Community Grant, counties must:

1. Be located within the Greenway Area; and
2. Have an adopted Compact Plan that incorporates the Greenway Criteria; or
3. Be in the process of creating a Compact Plan that incorporates the Greenway Criteria; and
4. Complete all previously awarded Compact Community Grant projects prior to submitting a new application.

Currently, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, and Dutchess are the only Compact Counties. However, all counties located within the Greenway Area are eligible to become Compact Counties.

A map and list of eligible communities can be found at <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/greenway-area-map>.

### Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive or master planning
- Zoning and subdivision ordinance updates
- Natural resource inventories and protection plans
- Open space inventories and conservation strategies
- Cultural and historic resource planning initiatives
- Waterfront revitalization planning along the Hudson River and its tributaries

Projects involving public infrastructure must comply with the New York State Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRA) and demonstrate consistency with mitigation of future risks associated with sea-level rise, storm surge, and flooding. Guidelines available at <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/climate-change/new-york-response/crra>.



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## Funding

### Maximum Funding Available per Project

- Municipal Planning Project – \$50,000
- Intermunicipal Planning Project – \$110,000
- County Compact Update – \$75,000
- County Compact Development – \$100,000

### Match Requirement

This program requires a dollar-for-dollar match. HRVG funding may not exceed 50% of the total approved project cost. Eligible local match may include contractual and professional services; equipment, supplies, and materials; construction; or in-kind services and volunteer labor. Professional in-kind services must be performed by active professionals, who possess appropriate licensing for their work. Rates for retired professionals and general volunteers must be aligned with rate established for New York State by [Independent Sector](#).

Federal or private funds may be used as match; State funds may not.

All match expenditures must occur during the contractual period (MOU start to MOU end date).

### Reimbursement

- Compact Community Grants are administered on a reimbursement basis.
- Applicants must submit itemized invoices, proof of payment, and documentation of in-kind contributions when requesting reimbursement.
- HRVG is not responsible for cost overruns beyond the approved project budget.

### Reporting and Acknowledgment

Awarded municipalities are required to submit progress reports every six months during the contract term.

All projects awarded funding for the development of local planning documents must have those documents formally adopted by the governing body prior to receiving full and final grant payment.

All final products—including reports, signage, maps, and publications—must acknowledge Greenway funding and display the Greenway logo. Draft materials must be submitted for review prior to final production.

Grants in the amount of \$10,000 or more are subject to the provisions of the New York State Master Contract for Grants - Standard Terms and Conditions.



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## Evaluation Criteria

**Applications are evaluated competitively based on the following criteria:**

1. Advancement of Greenway Criteria
2. Advancement of your county's Compact Plan
3. Degree of intermunicipal collaboration
4. Community-wide impact
5. Level of public participation
6. Successful completion of prior Greenway-funded projects
7. Demonstrated project readiness
8. Project milestones are achievable within contract period
9. Long-term sustainability and continued implementation of project goals

### **Additional Compact Community Grant Considerations**

The Greenway Act of 1991 provides incentives to communities that adopt and implement the Greenway Compact, including a 5% preference in certain State grant ranking systems.

County Compact update and development projects may be structured in phases. Final disbursement of funds requires formal approval or adoption by the county legislature and chief executive officer, followed by final acceptance by the Greenway Communities Council.

### **Resolution**

A notarized municipal resolution supporting the project and committing municipal match is required at time of application. A sample resolution can be found in the supporting documents section of McHenry Community Planning Grants webpage, <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/community-compact-grants>.