

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Local Community Grants

Federal Matching & Supplemental Programs

Section 6(f) of the Land & Water Conservation Fund Act prohibits the use of other Federal financial assistance to pay the State or local matching share of an LWCF grant. However, in those instances where the statutory provisions of a subsequent Federal grant-in-aid program explicitly allow recipients to use such assistance to match other Federal funds, Section 6(f)(1) of the L&WCF Act is superseded and a matching arrangement is permissible.

State and local recipients may use the following Federal grant-in-aid programs to match or supplement LWCF assistance and shall indicate in the project application the specific type of matching or supplemental assistance used:

1. Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 91-609), as amended. Section 105(a)(9) (i.e. Community Development Block Grants).
2. Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-609), as amended (also known as the Urban Growth and New Communities Development Act of 1970). Supplemental grants under this program may not exceed 10 percent of the cost of the project.
3. Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-136), as amended by P.L. 91-123 and P.L. 94-487. (i.e. Regional Commission Supplemental Grants).
4. Emergency Jobs and Unemployment Assistance Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-567), as amended (i.e. Title X of the Public Works and Economic Development act of 1965).
5. Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-4) as amended by P.L. 92-65 (Section 214(a)).
6. Trident Community Impact Programs (P.L. 93-552).
7. Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638).
8. Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 (Section 104).
9. Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Section 601 Energy Impact Assistance). The Agriculture Department grants frequently supplement other grant assistance to acquire and develop sites for public facilities. These funds are not available for capital construction.
10. State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 (P.L. 95-512), as amended. (i.e., revenue sharing funds).
11. Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-334) (i.e., Section 347 of the Consolidated Farms and Rural Development Act). Participation is allowable only if the Farmers Home Administration Loan is secured by a means other than land, i.e., chattel, general obligation bonds or general taxes.
12. the time of application, as the sponsor must make full payment on all project expenses before being reimbursed for up to 50 percent of allowable costs.

13. A sponsor must have adequate resources to operate and maintain the area after the project is complete. No funds are available for routine operation and maintenance.
14. The National Park Service provides LWCF oversight on the federal level and assists Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, which administers the stateside of the program.
15. The National Park Service must give its official approval to the sponsor before work on a project may begin. Violations can result in costs being ineligible for reimbursement.
16. There are strict federal regulations regarding project expenditures and billing procedures. Sponsors should fully understand all LWCF financial principles before proceeding with work.
17. Once LWCF funds are used in development or acquisition, the entire recreational site must be managed for outdoor recreation in perpetuity. No part of the site (no matter how small) can be converted to any other use. For example, the property may not be used to site a cell tower, a helipad, a new access road, an office building, etc.
18. The sponsor will be required to submit an official "Section 6(f) Boundary Map" of the project site. The map (submitted on 11" x 17" paper) must include arrows pointing to clearly defined recreational area boundaries and be of high quality.
19. With rare exception, overhead utility lines are not permitted to cross LWCF sites. These lines must be moved away from the site or placed underground, which can be costly. If utility lines exist at your site, contact our office for consultation prior to submitting an application.
20. A sponsor must raise funds to cover the entire project costs through taxes, bond issues, or force account (agency work force). Volunteer services or the donation of materials and equipment, although encouraged, may not be used as matching funds. Only a few federal grants are eligible for use as matching funds. Private donations of cash or land are allowable; however, sponsors should coordinate the timing of land donations with the Montana LWCF Program. Donations made before National Park Service grant approval will be disallowed. Lands purchased and improvements made before grant approval has been given are not allowed as match under any circumstances.
21. LWCF boundary signs, provided by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, must be posted at borders on all project sites. In addition, a sign explaining LWCF assistance must be posted at the main entrance. These LWCF credit signs may be worked into the design of a sponsor's entry. Sponsors should work with FWP to comply with LWCF sign requirements.
22. The sponsor must follow state law on purchases and contracts and must publicly advertise for competitive bidding when necessary. Contractors may be required to submit bid bonds and performance-payment bonds with their bids.

23. Before final reimbursement can be made to the sponsor, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks must make a final site inspection. An "as-built" site plan will be required from the sponsor at the time of the final inspection.
24. The sponsor must follow all applicable state and federal laws.
25. All projects must comply with existing federal, state and jurisdictional laws, regulations, and ordinances. All projects must satisfy the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Every applicant must complete the Environmental analysis (EA) found on the official FWP website. Start work on this part of the application right away and pay special attention to the public comment requirements (30-day notice, etc.) at the end of the EA.
26. As part of the Environmental Analysis, the sponsor will be required to post details about the project in a legal ad in the nearest daily newspaper, and institute a public comment period of at least 30 days.
27. Each grant applicant must contact the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and request a cultural resource file search to determine whether the proposed project has a previously recorded historic site within its boundaries. A SHPO *Letter of Effect* is required documentation. If there is potential for the project to impact cultural properties, the SHPO may recommend that a certified professional conduct a cultural resources inventory at the site. This expense will be borne by the sponsor.
28. As part of its application, a sponsor should provide a synopsis of the results of a community recreation survey completed within the last four years that addresses criteria in the Open Project Selection Process.
29. On the Application Summary Page the sponsor will be asked to provide a "project contact." Ideally, that person should be the one and only contact between Montana State Parks and the grant applicant. When a number of different people have partial information during the grant process it increases misunderstandings and leads to a waste of resources for both the sponsor and the grant program.
30. When the project is completed, and the grant sponsor submits a billing packet to FWP for reimbursement, FWP will schedule a site inspection. No reimbursements can be made prior to an official inspection. The project and all scope of work must be 100% complete. Unfinished projects will not be reimbursed.
31. The grant sponsor must submit a short, one-page description of project accomplishments, and an "as-built" drawing (as applicable) before any reimbursements can be made. See Sample Project Closeout for guidance.