

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

Recreational Trails Program

FY 2015 Funding Cycle

Program Summary

The Recreational Trails Program was created in 1998 to assist in acquiring, developing, or improving trail and trail-related resources. Eligible applicants include federal and state agencies, local governments, and private sector organizations.

Program Information

Estimated FY2015 Funds Available for RTP:	Approximately \$1,153,278
Maximum Grant (varies by trail type and activity):	\$35,000 - \$100,000
Federal Share:	80%
Allowable Matching Source :	Cash, In-kind, or Donations
FY 2015 Pre-Application Due Date:	12 noon, Friday, July 31, 2015
Project Selection:	Competitive

Funding Cycle

The pre-applications are reviewed, rated, and ranked by ADECA program staff and members of the Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board. Pre-applications will be accepted until **12:00 Noon, Friday, July 31, 2015**.

Maximum Grant Size

The maximum grant amount that can be applied for this year is **\$35,000** for non-motorized, single-use trails; **\$100,000** for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; approximately **\$330,000** for motorized, diverse-use trails, or **\$58,246** for education. Only one application may be submitted by an applicant; however, an application may contain multiple sites and the non-federal matching share may exceed the minimum required to satisfy the federal matching requirement. Jurisdictions with an open RTP grant or LWCF grant cannot apply unless the project will be closed by July 31, 2015.

Matching Requirement

The Federal share for the RTP is **80%** of the total eligible project costs up to either \$35,000 or \$100,000. The non-Federal share (**20%**) may come from state, local, or private sources. Other Federal shares cannot be included unless specific legislation allows funds to be used for the matching share (e.g., HUD Community Development Block Grants (P.L. 93-383), Public Works Employment Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-369).

A Federal agency sponsor may provide its own funds toward an RTP project as additional Federal share until the total Federal share reaches 95 percent of the project cost. The limitation is intended to ensure commitment to the project from state, local, or private co-sponsors. Eligible Federal matching programs include but are not limited to:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4607-8)
- Federal-aid highway program funds, such as the Federal Lands Highway Program, National Scenic Byways Program, and Transportation Enhancement Activities (23 U.S.C. 101 et seq.)
- Funds made available under the Federal Emergency Management Administration
- Federal funds made available to Indian tribes
- Challenge Cost-Share programs of Federal land management agencies

Eligible Applicants

All applicants must be currently registered in sam.gov with their own DUNS number. Applications from applicants not meeting this criterion will not be reviewed.

- Local Governments
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Private Organizations

Permissible Uses

Applications may be submitted for the following activities:

- Development of urban trail linkages near homes and workplaces (this category includes trail linkages to schools, parks, and existing trails)
- Maintenance of existing recreational trails
- Restoration of areas damaged by usage of recreational trails and back country terrain
- Development of trailside and trailhead facilities that meet goals identified by the National Recreational Trails Advisory Committee. This includes trail components or associated facilities that serve the purpose and safe use of the recreational trail and may include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) Drainage, 2) Crossings, 3) Stabilization, 4) Parking, 5) Signage, 6) Controls, 7) Shelters, and 8) Water, Sanitary, and Access Facilities.
- The provision of features which facilitate the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities
- The acquisition of easements for trails, or for corridors identified in a state trail plan
- The acquisition of fee simple title to property from a willing seller for trail development
- The construction of new trails on state, county, municipal, or private lands, where a recreational need for such construction is shown
- Only as otherwise permissible, and where necessary and required by a State

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), construction of new trails crossing federal lands, where such construction is approved by the administering agency of the state, and the federal agency or agencies charged with management of all impacted lands, such approval to be contingent upon compliance by the federal agency with all applicable laws

- Purchase of trail maintenance equipment (certain restrictions apply)

Uses Not Permitted

- Condemnation of any kind of interest in property
- Construction of any recreational trail on National Forest System lands for motorized uses unless such lands—
 - Have been allocated for uses other than wilderness by an approved forest land and resource management plan or have been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress, and
 - Such construction is otherwise consistent with the management direction in such approved land and resource management plan.
- Upgrading, expanding, or otherwise facilitating motorized use or access to trails predominantly used by non-motorized trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use is either prohibited or has not occurred
- Planning, Architectural, and/or Engineering only
- Purchase of land for, or development of, trailhead facilities where a trail does not yet exist or will not be built simultaneously

Types of Trail Projects

Thirty percent of Alabama's RTP funds must be used for motorized trail uses, 30 percent for non-motorized trail uses, and 40 percent for diverse trail uses. Diverse motorized projects (such as ATV and motorcycle) or diverse non-motorized projects (such as pedestrian and equestrian) may satisfy two of these categories at the same time. The State encourages applicants to consider projects that benefit both motorized and non-motorized users, such as common trailhead facilities.

- **Non-Motorized For A Single Use**

A project primarily intended to benefit only one mode of non-motorized recreational trail use, such as pedestrian only, or equestrian only. Projects serving various pedestrian uses (such as walking, hiking, skating, wheelchair use, running, bird watching, nature interpretation, backpacking, etc.) constitute a single use for the purposes of this category. This category also includes trailhead improvements for non-motorized, single use trails (such as lighting).

Maximum Federal Share: \$35,000

Important note: extra consideration will be given to applications that request far less than the maximum. Short distance circular walking trails of widths greater

than 4-6 feet in a park setting usually are not necessary (single use).

- **Non-Motorized For Diverse Use**

A project primarily intended to benefit more than one mode of non-motorized recreational trail use such as walking and bicycling; or pedestrian and equestrian use; equestrian and bicycle use, etc.

Maximum Federal Share: \$100,000

Important note: extra consideration will be given to applications that request far less than the maximum.

- **Motorized For Diverse Use***

A project primarily intended to benefit more than one mode of motorized recreational use, such as motorcycle and ATV use or ATV and 4x4 OHV (truck) use. A project may be classified in this category if the project also benefits some non-motorized uses (it is not necessary to exclude non-motorized uses), but the primary intent must be for the benefit of motorized use.

- **Educational Projects***

Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection.

The State may use up to 5 percent of its apportionment each fiscal year for the operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails.

A project may provide education and training for government agency staff (including Federal, Tribal, State, and local), youth corps, nonprofit organizations, contractors, volunteers, and the public.

Typical education projects may include:

- Develop and operate trail safety education programs
- Develop and operate trail-related environmental education programs
- Develop and provide training on trail accessibility and sustainability
- Produce trail-related educational materials, including information displays, in print, video, audio, interactive computer displays, etc.
- Trail patrols to monitor trail use, safety, conditions, and/or environmental impacts
- Trail patrols to provide trailside assistance such as providing emergency aid, search and rescue, helping trail users repair equipment, etc.
- Trail patrols to educate trail users, to protect environmentally sensitive areas
- Develop and deliver training that promotes safety or environmental protection related to recreational trails. This includes training related to trail design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment, because each of these steps can relate directly to safety and environmental protection. Note: this does

not include training related to club or organizational development or grant-writing skills.

- Develop or support publications related to trail design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment, because these steps relate to safety and environmental protection
- Applicants are encouraged to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps to develop and provide training and to work in trail patrols
- Grantees using RTP funds to develop training and education materials and programs should acknowledge the RTP and the FHWA
- NOTE: Some materials are only partially educational. For example, a trail system map generally is not an education project. However, if one side of a map is dedicated to trail safety and environmental protection education, then educational funds may participate in half of the cost of the map.

Important note: interested parties *must* consult with ADECA recreation programs staff before submitting an application under this category!

Other Application Information

Technical assistance prior to pre-application preparation is *strongly recommended*.

An entity may not apply for both RTP and LWCF assistance for the same project without prior approval from ADECA.

- Prospective applicants are not eligible to apply if:
- Entity has an open LWCF or RTP grant as of July 31, 2015
- Entity has unresolved compliance issues from a previous LWCF or RTP grant
- Entity did not respond in writing to a LWCF or RTP inspection report which contained deficiencies and entity has not completed a Plan of Correction for previous compliance issues

For more information, please contact Crystal Davis, Recreation and Conservation Program Manager, at 334-353-2630, or crystal.davis@adeca.alabama.gov.

