

# Parks and Open Space Application Instructions Webinar

## Questions and Answers

### September 14, 2023

#### Question Asked

#### Answer

For 1(d), if we are a county with greater than 75,000 population, but our application is in partnership with a city with population less than 10,000, which option do we choose?

Per Rule 62-818.003(8)(b) applicants are required to provide a match unless all local governments applying on the same application are a small local government (less than 75,000 for counties, less than 10,000 for cities). This partnership application described would not meet the small local government criteria because the county would not qualify. Therefore, you would pick one of the four criteria of 1(d) based on the first match option presented.

What if the site is owned by the city for longer than 24 months ( i.e. a park, public lands, etc.)?

It is not eligible for grant funding.

What is the minimum number of points an application must get to be considered for funding?

There is no defined minimum as the point threshold varies each year based on the number of applications received and the amount of funds available to be awarded.

What is the maximum award amount?

The maximum award amount is \$5 million.

When do projects need to be implemented?

You have three years to build out the project site per the project's Management Plan and Dedication to Public Use and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants (DDRC). The three-year window commences on the date of the final disbursement of the grant award.

What is the timeframe required to complete improvements? Land acquisition will take place in October and is currently unimproved.

All improvements and development of the project site must be completed within three years of the grant being awarded.

Can a dog park with dog play area be considered a playground?

No, a dog park will not qualify for a grant award.

Do you have to select no on both the bold and below documentation question of the application?

No. Blank spaces will be considered a "No" response. However, you will still need to address it in the tab as "NA" or "Not Applicable".

If my municipality has a population under 10,000, then we do not require a match?

That is correct; a match is not required if a municipality has a population under 10,000.

Can one government entity submit more than one application?

Yes, as long as the total amount for all applications is no more than \$5 million.

What does an "active grant agreement" entail?

An active grant agreement signifies that the project has been selected for funding and the applicant(s) acknowledges that. The grant agreement is signed and is active while both parties

work through the acquisition phase. Once the project is ready to be funded by FCT, the applicant signs the Dedication to Public Use and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants (DDRC) that protects the site in perpetuity and binds the grantee to commit to all improvements of the project site reflected in the application.

Do individual or partnership applications generally score higher?

No, not necessarily. It will depend upon the individual project's application submission.

Is it a maximum of three Grant Agreements that are open or no more than two?

It is a maximum of three. If there are already two open grants, then only one grant can be applied for during this application cycle.

If we currently have two open projects, can we submit for a third?

Yes, in regard to grant agreements, which are not the same as open and active projects. Having an active grant agreement means the project has been selected for funding in an application cycle, but FCT funds have not yet been awarded.

In a joint acquisition, are there different guidelines regarding revenue?

No, there are not different guidelines regarding revenue in a joint acquisition.

For match exceptions, is it 75,000 in a county and less than 10,000 in a municipality or is it 75,000 in a county or 10,000 in a municipality?

Per Rule 62-818.003(8)(b), it is "and" for match exceptions. All applicants are required to provide a match unless all of the local governments are small governments.

If a contiguous property has been acquired, but not previously included in the grant, can we use it for the match?

Yes, it will have to be part of the active project site. All of the due diligence products would be required. Make sure it is identified on the application as adjacent to the project site. It cannot be used for a match after an application has already been submitted. The use of the property as a match will have to be reflected in the application at the time of submission.

Can this grant be used to apply for reimbursement of property that has already been acquired?

Yes, property that has been pre-acquired within 24 months of the application deadline to submit, January 10, 2024, is eligible.

Regarding the three open applications limitation – do the three applications limit applying to any Division of State Land and Recreation Grants? For example, we have two FRDAP and one RTP grant open in different cycles or fiscal years, would that be considered part of the three application limitation?

No. This only applies to Florida Communities Trust grants. To clarify, the limitation is in regard to open grant agreements, not the number of applications.

***If you have additional questions, email them to:***  
***[FloridaCommunitiesTrust@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:FloridaCommunitiesTrust@FloridaDEP.gov)***