



# 2025 Grassroots Grant Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. If we don't have extensive experience working in NYC parks and/or open spaces, can we still apply?**
  - Yes, you are welcome to apply so long as you have some experience working in parks or open spaces. If you have experience working with other NYC agencies such as the DOE, DOT, or DEP, we welcome you to share that information in your application. Applicants should have a clear vision, a realistic plan for implementation, and a strong connection to the communities and spaces that would be supported through the grant proposal.
  
- 2. If we would prefer to apply in Spanish, how can we apply for this opportunity?**
  - The NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant program Guidelines and Application can be found in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome in NYC parks and open spaces, so please feel free to submit your application in either language. Our team will work with translation tools to review your application and support you and your organization's work throughout the grant round.
  
- 3. Do I need to be an expert grant writer to apply for this opportunity?**
  - No. There is no judgment around writing expertise, punctuation, etc. The most important thing for our grant review committee is that you present a clear vision of the work you hope to accomplish. If you ever find yourself struggling with how to answer a question, just bring it back to the basics: who, what, where, when, how, and why.
  
- 4. Is the NYC Green Fund Grassroots Grant program replacing the Capacity Fund, Green Relief & Recovery Fund, and Green Arts / LIVE grants?**
  - Yes, the NYC Green Fund Grassroots grant program is Partnerships for Parks' and City Parks Foundation's new, all-in-one grant initiative designed to support grassroots organizations in their efforts to activate NYC parks and other public open spaces.

## **5. How frequently will this grant be offered?**

- The NYC Green Fund Grassroots program is offered twice each year - once in the spring and once in the fall.

## **6. Do I need to be a registered 501(c)(3) in order to apply?**

- No, you don't! Partnerships for Parks is proud to offer one-time fiscal sponsorship through City Parks Foundation for groups without a 501(c)(3) or external fiscal sponsor, allowing most organizations to access this opportunity regardless of size or formal non-profit status. However, LLCs and 501(c)(4) organizations are ineligible to apply.

Eligible applicants may also consider applying for fiscal sponsorship from another organization. Past grantees have worked with many organizations including the following:

- [Fund for the City of New York](#)
- [FJC](#)
- [Open Space Institute](#)
- [Social Good Fund](#)

## **7. What is one-time fiscal sponsorship?**

- One-time fiscal sponsorship is when a nonprofit organization extends its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status to another organization or group for one-time support of an activity related to the fiscal sponsor's mission. In this case, Partnerships for Parks will offer one-time fiscal sponsorship to select grantees through City Parks Foundation and take on some of the financial and administrative work needed to support the work of a group without 501(c)(3) status.

## **8. How does two-year funding work?**

- Partnerships for Parks is proud to offer the opportunity to apply for two-year grant support. To be eligible for two-year funding, an organization must have been the recipient of a Partnerships for Parks or City Parks Foundation grant in 2020 or later, and must have completed all required interim and final reports.

If applying for two-year funding, when your organization submits its funding request, that amount is the total amount requested per year. Your organization will receive the same amount in each of the two years.

*For example:* An organization whose total expenses were \$20,000 for the most recently completed calendar year may apply for up to \$5,000 per year of a two-year proposal.

The second year of funding is contingent on the level of funding for the NYC Green Fund program and the submission of all reports during the first grant year.

**9. Do I still need to get permits and approval from city agencies like NYC Parks after I've been funded?**

- Yes. This is a coordinated effort in which organizations will need to connect with different city agencies depending on the nature of their work and what kind of open space they are interested in working in. We encourage organizations to look into which city agencies are responsible for the management of the open space they would like to work in.

The most common point of contact for most groups will likely be maintenance & operations (M&O) staff at the park or land management entity. Not sure who your M&O contact is or unsure what permits you'll need to complete your work? Partnerships for Parks can help you connect to the right people.

**10. Help! I can't... in the grants portal (Open Water).**

- If you find yourself struggling to complete part of the application in Open Water or have trouble setting up your profile, please contact [GreenFundGrassroots@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:GreenFundGrassroots@cityparksfoundation.org). We will be happy to assist you with one-on-one support.

**11. Can I speak directly with someone from PfP about my application?**

- Yes, first we recommend attending one of our info sessions, which are held once per week until the end of the application period. Attending an info session is the best way to learn what you need to know to submit a great application.

See the list of dates on our website: <https://cityparksfoundation.org/grants-more/>

After you've attended an info session, you may still want one-on-one time to talk about your application. We offer 30-minute consultations by appointment to those applicants who have already attended an info session.

**12. Who funds the NYC Green Fund?**

- Generous private support for the NYC Green Fund is provided by the Albert Giving Fund, Altman Foundation, Booth Ferris Foundation, The Charles H. Revson Foundation, Con Edison, Essex Avenue Foundation, The J.M. Kaplan Fund, The JPB Foundation, Klein Family Foundation, Leon Levy Foundation, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Libra Fund, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, The Monarch Foundation, The New York Community Trust, and The Thompson Family Foundation.

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