

**Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs**

**Recreational Trails Program**

**FY 2022 Funding Cycle**

**Program Summary**

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was created in 1998 to assist in acquiring, developing, and/or improving trail and trail-related resources.

**Program Information**

Estimated Funds Available for RTP	Approximately \$1,600,000.00
Maximum Grant-Non-motorized (varies by trail type and activity)	\$200,000.00 - \$400,000.00
Maximum Grant-Motorized	\$524,937.00
Federal Share	80%
Allowable Matching Source	Cash, In-kind, and/or Donations
FY 2022 Application Due Date	12 Noon, Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Project Selection	Competitive

**Funding Cycle**

RTP applications will be accepted until **12:00 Noon, Tuesday, October 12, 2021**. The applications will be reviewed, rated, and ranked by Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' (ADECA) Recreation and Conservation Programs staff and members of the Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board.

**Eligible Applicants**

All applicants must be currently registered in SAM.gov with a unique Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. Applications from project sponsors not meeting this criterion will be deemed ineligible and will not be reviewed. Eligible applicants include:

- Local Governments
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies

**Maximum Grant Size**

The maximum grant amount is **\$200,000.00** for non-motorized, single-use trail projects; **\$400,000.00** for non-motorized, diverse-use trail projects; **\$524,937.00** for motorized, diverse-use trail projects; and **\$87,489.00** for educational projects which promote safety and environmental protection.

**Matching Requirement**

The Federal share for the RTP is up to **80%** of the total eligible project costs up to the

grant ceiling. The non-Federal share (at least **20%**) may come from state, local, or private sources.

### **Permissible Uses**

Applications may be submitted for one or more of the following activities:

- The development of urban trail linkages near homes and workplaces (this category includes trail linkages to schools, parks, and existing trails)
- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails
- The development of trailside and trailhead facilities. This includes trail components or associated trail facilities 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, with the approval contingent upon the Federal agency complying with all applicable laws
- The assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance
- The operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails

### **Types of Trail Projects**

At least thirty percent of Alabama's RTP funds must be used for motorized trail projects, at least 30 percent for non-motorized trail projects, and at least 40 percent for diverse-use trail projects. Diverse-use motorized projects (such as ATV and motorcycle use) or diverse-use non-motorized projects (such as pedestrian and equestrian use) 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, when feasible.

- **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 and trailside improvements for non-motorized, single use trails (such as lighting).

- **Non-Motorized For Diverse-Use**

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

- **Motorized For Diverse-Use**

A project primarily intended to benefit more than one mode of motorized recreational use, such as, motorcycle and ATV use; ATV and 4x4 OHV (truck) use; etc. 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.

Typical education projects may include:

- Development and operation of trail safety education programs
- Development and operation of trail-related environmental education programs
- Development and delivery of training on trail accessibility and sustainability
- Production of trail-related educational materials, including information displays, in print, video, audio, interactive computer displays, etc.
- Development and delivery of 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.
- Development or support of publications related to trail design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment, because these steps relate to safety and environmental protection

The RTP and the Federal Highway Administration should be acknowledged on training and education materials, programs, publications, etc. developed with RTP funds.

NOTE: Some materials may only be partially educational. For example, the development/printing of a trail system map generally is not considered an educational project. However, if one side of the map is dedicated to trail safety and environmental protection education, then educational funds may participate in half of the

development/printing cost.

**Important note: Interested parties must consult with ADECA's Recreation and Conservation Programs staff prior to submitting an application under this category.**

Applicants are encouraged to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps for the performance of construction and maintenance of recreational trails and to submit innovative project proposals to make environmental improvements to existing trail facilities.

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

Only one application may be submitted per entity during the funding cycle

### **Thresholds**

Prospective applicants are not eligible to apply if the entity:

- has an open Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or RTP grant as of October 12, 2021.
- has unresolved compliance issues from a previous LWCF or RTP grant.
- did not respond in writing to a LWCF or RTP inspection report which contained deficiencies and the entity has not obtained approval of a Corrective Action Plan for previous compliance issues.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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