## Purpose

Provide grants to acquire land and develop facilities for public outdoor recreation. Projects must be located within or serve an Urbanized Area (population of 50,000 or more) as designated by the Census Bureau from the 2010 Census.

Projects also should be in or directly accessible to neighborhoods or communities that are underserved in terms of parks and recreation resources, and where there are significant populations of people who are economically disadvantaged.

"Underserved communities" are those with: 1) no existing parks; 2) some existing parks but not enough to support the size of the population of the service area or otherwise able to satisfy existing recreational demand; or (3) some existing parks (potentially even an adequate number of parks) that are so deteriorated/obsolete or underdeveloped that a major redevelopment or rehabilitation is necessary to significantly increase the number of people or user groups who could be served in a way that would be equivalent to a new park.

## Program Priorities

The competition will prioritize the selection of projects that will directly connect people to outdoor places, and that:

- serve communities that are underserved in terms of number of parks and other outdoor recreation areas and have significant numbers of individuals who are economically disadvantaged;
- create short-term and/or permanent jobs;
- help stimulate local economic development;
- engage and empower members of the affected community in the development of the project;
- create or expand public-private partnerships;
- benefit from a high degree of coordination among the public, multiple levels of government, and the private sector, to improve recreation opportunities for all; and
- advance goals of, or meet, priority recreation needs identified in the state’s SCORP and other local, regional, state plans and/or initiatives.
### Who may apply?
- Cities
- Counties
- Native American Tribes (federally recognized)
- Special purpose districts
- State agencies

### Are there other eligibility requirements?
Applicants must:
- Represent a jurisdiction of at least 50,000 people, AND
- Be situated within or contiguous with the geographic boundary of one of the 497 urbanized areas delineated by the Census Bureau. *A list of the 497 urbanized areas was published in the Federal Register on March 27, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 18652-18669). The Census Bureau has published maps delineating each urbanized area, which can be found at [https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html](https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html).*

If the project sponsor is a state agency or a county, the project must serve an eligible jurisdiction of 50,000 people that is within a designated urbanized area as described above.

### When are applications due?
Complete applications must be submitted by **July 21, 2021**

### Is a plan required?
Yes, applicants need a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The planning eligibility deadline was **March 1, 2021**. Check by organization type on this page to see if your plan is on file. Reference: [Manual 2, Planning Policies and Guidelines](https://rcoweb.ca.gov/planning_policies_and_guidelines). If you do not meet the planning eligibility criteria, contact RCO for options.

### What are the requirements for first-time applicants?
If you are a first-time applicant to RCO, submit a legal opinion to establish eligibility.

### What types of projects are eligible?
- Development or renovation
- Land acquisition
- Combination (land acquisition and development or renovation)

### What are the grant limits?
$300,000 minimum to $4,800,000 maximum

### What must I contribute?
At least 50 percent of the total project cost

### How do I apply?
Submit your application to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) using **PRISM Online**. This program uses a written evaluation process, so you will be writing responses to evaluation criteria, and providing other written and visual materials for your application.

### How will RCO select projects for
The Land and Water Conservation Fund Advisory Committee will review and provide feedback on projects using the federal evaluation criteria.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>the national competition?</th>
<th>RCO’s director then will submit the proposals to the National Park Service.</th>
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<tr>
<td>How is my project evaluated?</td>
<td>A technical panel of National Park Service staff and a peer-based merit panel will review and evaluate the applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>When are grants awarded?</td>
<td>About 12 to 18 months after applications are submitted.</td>
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