

Applicant's To-Do List

Land and Water Conservation Fund

This to-do list is designed to help applicants prepare and submit grant applications for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Grants may be used for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Applicants must submit the information required through [PRISM Online](#), the online project data system used by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). These steps will guide the applicant through RCO's application process.

NOTE: for all documents, forms, and manuals referenced here, go to the [grant Web page](#) and [grant manuals Web page](#).

Step 1: Establish Eligibility

Eligible applicants: Cities, towns, counties, Native American tribes, park and recreation districts, school districts, state agencies, and certain other special purpose districts such as port and public utility districts are eligible if legally authorized to acquire and develop public open space, habitat, or recreation facilities.

A first-time applicant must submit a legal opinion to establish eligibility.

- Make sure the applicant's current recreation plan is on file with RCO. Plans are **due March 1, 2020**. For RCO purposes, plans are good for 6 years, so applicants already may have a plan on file establishing eligibility. See *Manual 2: Planning Policies and Guidelines* and [RCO planning requirements](#).

Step 2: Review Materials

- Review the appropriate Recreation and Conservation Funding Board manuals for this grant category:
 - *Manual 15: Land and Water Conservation Fund*
 - *Manual 3: Acquisition Projects*
 - *Manual 4: Development Projects*

Step 3: Submit an Application–June 1, 2020

PRISM Online Application

PRISM will open in February. To start an application, go to [PRISM Online](#) and select “+ New Application.” Follow the prompts to fill out the application. On-screen instructions, tool tips, and links are available throughout the Application Wizard.

PRISM Attachments

There is an Attachments screen for each PRISM Online application. Applicants must attach the following documents before submitting an application. Include the applicant name, project name, and RCO grant number on each attachment. Maps must include a north arrow, scale, and labels for any major highways, roads, cities, water bodies, etc. If the project includes acquisition and development, attach the documents required for both project types.

- Authorizing Resolution/Application Authorization** (due by the technical completion deadline) shows the application is supported by the elected council or commission, board, or executives of the applicant’s organization. Applicants must adopt the text verbatim even if they choose to use their own format.
- Control and Tenure Documentation** (development projects only). Include property ownership information, such as a deed, and all applicable leases, easements, and use agreements. See *Manual 4: Development Projects*, for additional details about control and tenure.
- Landowner Acknowledgement Form** (acquisition projects only). An applicant must demonstrate that the landowner is aware of the applicant’s interest in purchasing the property. There are several options to meet this requirement (see Section 3: Application Requirements in *Manual 3: Acquisition Projects*).
- Map: Area of Potential Effect** showing the location of all proposed ground-disturbing activities, including access and staging areas. The map must include a polygon of the entire project area and must include section, township, and range information, project name and number, and sponsor name. A U.S. Geological Survey quad map is the preferred base map, though the applicant may use an aerial base map, as long as section, township, and range information are included on the map. Section lines and numbers must be clearly visible in the map. Applicants may need to attach more than one map—one zoomed out far enough to depict section lines and numbers, and another zoomed in close enough to clearly depict the boundaries of all proposed ground-disturbing activities.

- ❑ **Map: Boundary Map** shows the park area the applicant proposes to be covered by federal anti-conversion protections. For detailed map requirements, see Boundary Map in Section 2 of *Manual 15*.
- ❑ **Map: Parcel Map** (acquisition projects only) shows the parcels to be acquired in the scope of work as well as adjacent land ownership. Show the parcels in relation to local roads, landmarks, etc. Include the county parcel numbers on the map.
- ❑ **Map: Population Proximity.** Depict on a map 1) the project boundary or the geographic envelope and 2) the nearest city or town's urban growth area boundary. Next, draw a straight line, measure and record on the map the shortest distance in miles "as the crow flies" between 1 and 2 above. Include a scale and legend on the map for reference.
- ❑ **Photograph.** Every application requires at least one general project photograph in .jpg format. A current ground shot or aerial view of the project site is appropriate.
- ❑ **Site Plan: Conceptual Site Plan** (acquisition projects only) provides a visual diagram of the intended future use and development of the property.
- ❑ **Site Plan: Development Site Plan** (development projects only) shows the proposed improvements at the project site. Development site plans should show site boundaries, major site features, and proposed project elements. Existing and future elements should be distinguished from those in the current project. Master, schematic design, design development, and construction document level plans are suitable for development site plans.

Note that letters and other documented expressions of project support or concern submitted with the application will be made available for advisory committee review. Applicants should also summarize this in their presentations for technical review and evaluation. **All letters must be combined into one PDF and attached to the project in PRISM.**

Also note that except for a few protected items, such as cultural resources data or confidential appraisal documents, as soon as the application is started in PRISM, it and most attachments will be available for review by RCO staff, evaluators, and the public.

Step 4: Present Project for Technical Review–June 25-26, 2020

Applicants will present their projects to the advisory committee. Participation in this in-person technical review is not required but is highly recommended. It serves as a practice session for the upcoming evaluation and gives applicants valuable feedback. The focus of review is on eligibility and the technical aspects (scope, design, cost, feasibility, etc.) of the project.

- ❑ Prepare a PowerPoint presentation responding to the evaluation criteria in Manual 15. Note that handouts or other materials will not be permitted. See *Tips for Developing a*

PowerPoint Presentation for Grant Applicants for more information. RCO will schedule a time for the presentation to the evaluation team.

- Attach the PowerPoint presentation to PRISM Online at least 3 business days before the scheduled review meeting.
- Present the project to the advisory committee. Technical review sessions for this program are 20 minutes. Applicants have up to 12 minutes to present the project. The remaining 8 minutes are reserved for questions by the advisory committee.

Committee members provide feedback and make suggestions about changes needed to improve the project and presentation.

RCO staff also will review the application for eligibility, completeness, and clarity, and return the application with questions or suggested changes.

Step 5: Re-Submit Application by Technical Completion Deadline–August 10, 2020

- Address issues raised during technical review and make modifications, if needed.
- Authorizing Resolution/Application Authorization** shows the application is supported by the elected council or commission, board, or executives of the applicant's organization. Applicants must adopt the text verbatim even if they choose to use their own format.
- Complete all revisions and resubmit the application in PRISM Online by the technical completion deadline or the application will be deemed ineligible.

Step 6: Present Project for Evaluation–September 24-25,2020

Participation in the project evaluation meeting is mandatory for all projects considered for funding. All presentations are given in-person in Olympia.

- Prepare (or update from technical review) a PowerPoint presentation responding to the evaluation criteria found in Manual 15. Respond to the criteria in order. Handouts and other materials will not be permitted. RCO will schedule time for the presentation to the evaluation team.
- Attach the PowerPoint presentation and presentation notes to the application in PRISM Online at least 3 business days before the scheduled evaluation.
- Present the project to the evaluation team. Evaluation sessions are 20 minutes. An applicant will have up to 12 minutes to present a project. The remaining 8 minutes are reserved for questions and deliberation by the advisory committee.

Evaluators may ask clarifying questions and will score the project using the board-adopted evaluation criteria.

RCO staff tabulates the results and shares the preliminary ranked list with the advisory committee to validate the results, establish the committee's funding recommendation, and discuss any proposed process or policy changes.

RCO then announces the results of the evaluation and posts the preliminary ranked lists on its Web Site.

Step 7: Submit Pre-Agreement Materials–May 1, 2021

- Provide a **Certification of Applicant Match** to show what amounts and sources of match are in hand for the project. Attach it to the application in PRISM Online at least 1 calendar month before the board funding meeting, per Washington Administrative Code 286.
- If a combination project, the applicant must secure the property at least 1 month before the board considers approving funding (see *Manual 3*).
- Provide any other requested pre-agreement materials as required by RCO.

Step 8: Sign Project Agreement–After July 1, 2021

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approves the grant awards, contingent on Congressional approval of funding for the program.

- Applicant submits the following:
 - Copy of issued U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit, if required for the project.
 - National Park Service Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form. See also Manual 15.
 - Federal form: [Assurances for Construction Programs](#) (SF 424D).
- RCO works with applicant to execute a project agreement before work begins.
- Applicant reviews other RCO policy manuals:
 - *Manual 7: Long-Term Obligations*
 - *Manual 8: Reimbursements*
- Applicant reviews the Successful Applicant Workshop materials, then completes the project.