

Recreational Trails Program

Florida Fact Sheet

What is the Recreational Trails Program (RTP)?

RTP is a competitive program which provides grants for projects that provide, renovate or maintain recreational trails, trailhead and trailside facilities. The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 included the National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRTFA) and established the National Recreational Trails Funding Program (NRTFP). The National Highway System Designation Act (NHS Act) of 1995 amended and revived the NRTFA. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) amended the previous legislation and provided for six years of funding. Project proposals may address the following recreational trail interests:

Motorized Trails

Nonmotorized Trails

Mixed-Use projects (either motorized, nonmotorized or a combination of both)

What is a "Recreational Trail"?

The federal legislation defines a recreational trail as follows: A thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for recreational purposes including, but not limited to, such uses as bicycling, nordic (cross-country) skiing, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging or similar fitness activities, trail biking, overnight and long distance backpacking, roller skating, in-line skating, dog sledding, running, snowmobiling, aquatic or water activity and vehicular travel by motorcycle, four-wheel drive or all terrain, off-road vehicles.

How is RTP Administered?

Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) administers the program in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Who May Apply for RTP Funds?

Municipal or county governments, state or federal governmental agencies, recognized state and federal Indian tribal governments, and organizations approved by the State.

How Do I Apply?

Applicants must submit a completed RTP Grant Application, during the submission cycle of February 13 – March 13, 2006. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 13, 2006. Applicants may submit only one application during the submission period. Applications must involve only one project site.

What is the Maximum Grant Amount?

The current maximum grant amount for mixed-use projects and non-motorized projects is \$200,000. The maximum grant award amount for motorized projects it is \$437,420.

What are the Match Requirements?

All grant awards must be matched. In your application you choose either 50:50, 60:40 or 80:20 match. The more match provided, the more points awarded.

For example, with a \$100,000 project, your match could be any of the following:

| <u>Total Project Cost</u> | <u>RTP Grant</u> | <u>Local Match</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| \$100,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| \$100,000 | \$60,000 | \$40,000 |
| \$100,000 | \$80,000 | \$20,000 |

What Can I use to Match a RTP Grant?

Cash and/or In-kind services.

NOTE: Federal agencies may match grant funds with federal funds up to 95% of total project cost.

How are RTP Grants Awarded?

Each application is reviewed to determine eligibility. The Office of Greenways and Trails, in consultation with the RTP Advisory Committee, evaluates each eligible application according to program policy and assigns a final score. Based on the scores, DEP prepares and submits a recommended priority list to the Federal Highway Administration for funding consideration.

Who Do I Call for More Information?

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