

**RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM
FY 2011 Funding Cycle
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

**STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCY
Alabama Department of Economic
and Community Affairs**

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RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The Recreational Trails Program was created in 1998 to assist in acquiring, developing, or improving trail and trail-related resources. Eligible applicants include federal and state agencies, local governments and private sector organizations (see eligible organizations and agencies). Applications submitted during this funding cycle will be competing for appropriations from fiscal year 2011 beginning October 1, 2010.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Amount Available:	\$600,000 (Estimated)
Maximum Grant :	\$50,000 - \$100,000
Federal Share:	80%
Matching Source:	Cash, In-kind, Donations
Applications Due:	March 23, 2011 through May 2, 2011 (Post Marked)
Completion Date:	October 1, 2013
Project Selection:	Competitive

FUNDING CYCLE

The pre-applications are reviewed, rated and ranked by ADECA program staff and members of the Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board. Pre-applications will be accepted from March 23, 2011 through **May 2, 2011**.

MAXIMUM GRANT SIZE:

The maximum grant amount that can be applied for this year is **\$50,000** for non-motorized, single-use trails and **\$100,000** non-motorized, diverse use trails (see details below). Only one application may be submitted by an applicant; however, an application may contain multiple sites and the non-federal matching share may exceed the minimum required to satisfy the federal matching requirement. Jurisdictions with an open RTP grant or LWCF grant cannot apply unless the project will be complete by May 1, 2011, or a request for a waiver is filed no later than May 1, 2011.

MATCHING REQUIREMENT:

The Federal share for the RTP is **80%** of the total eligible project costs up to either \$50,000 or \$100,000. The non-Federal share (20%) may come from state, local, or private sources. Other Federal shares cannot be included unless specific legislation allows funds to be used for the matching share (e.g., HUD Community Development Block Grants (P.L. 93-383), Public Works Employment Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-369).

A Federal agency sponsor may provide its own funds toward an RTP project as additional Federal share until the total Federal share reaches 95 percent of the project cost. The limitation is intended to ensure commitment to the project from state, local, or private co-sponsors. Eligible Federal matching programs include but are not limited to:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4607-8).
- Federal-aid highway program funds, such as the Federal Lands Highway

Program, National Scenic Byways Program, and Transportation Enhancement Activities (23 U.S.C. 101 et seq.).

- Funds made available under the Federal Emergency Management Administration.
- Federal funds made available to Indian tribes.
- Challenge Cost-Share programs of Federal land management agencies.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Local Governments

State Agencies

Federal Agencies

Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organizations

PERMISSIBLE USES:

Applications may be submitted for the following activities:

- Development of urban trail linkages near homes and workplaces. This category includes trail linkages to schools, parks, and existing trails.
- Maintenance of existing recreational trails.
- Restoration of areas damaged by usage of recreational trails and back country terrain.
- Development of trail-side and trail-head facilities that meet goals identified by the National Recreational Trails Advisory Committee. This includes trail components or associated facilities which serve the purpose and safe use of the recreational trail 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, such approval to be contingent upon compliance by the federal agency with all applicable laws.
- Purchase of trail maintenance equipment (certain restrictions apply).

USES NOT PERMITTED

- Condemnation of any kind of interest in property.
- Construction of any recreational trail on National Forest System lands for motorized uses unless such lands—
 1. have been allocated for uses other than wilderness by an approved Forest land and resource management plan or have been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress, and
 2. such construction is otherwise consistent with the management direction in such approved land and resource management plan.
- Upgrading, expanding, or otherwise facilitating motorized use or access to trails predominantly used by nonmotorized trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use is either prohibited or has not occurred.
- Planning, Architectural, and/or Engineering only.

- Purchase of land for, or development of, trailhead facilities where a trail does not yet exist.

TYPES OF TRAIL PROJECTS

A. NON-MOTORIZED FOR A SINGLE USE

A project primarily intended to benefit only one mode of nonmotorized 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 improvements for non-motorized, single use trails (such as lighting).

MAXIMUM FEDERAL SHARE: \$50,000

Important note: extra consideration will be given to applications that request far less than the maximum. For example, in FY2010, two projects for circular walking trails in a park setting were approved and were successfully completed for less than \$25,000 each. Typically, these type trails should be no more than 4-6 feet in width.

B. NON-MOTORIZED FOR DIVERSE USE

A project primarily intended to benefit more than one mode of nonmotorized recreational trail use such as: walking and bicycling; or pedestrian and equestrian use; equestrian and bicycle use, etc.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL SHARE: \$100,000

Important note: extra consideration will be given to applications that request far less than the maximum. Circular walking trails of widths greater than 6 feet in a park setting usually are not necessary.

C. MOTORIZED USE

THESE FUNDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN AWARDED FOR FY2011 AND ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THIS GRANT CYCLE.

D. EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS*

Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection, (as those objectives relate to one or more of the use of recreational trails, supporting non-law enforcement trail safety and trail use monitoring patrol programs, and providing trail-related training).

A State may use up to 5 percent of its apportionment each fiscal year for the operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails. This figure is 5 percent of the apportionment rounded down to the nearest dollar. For FY2011, the total amount available is estimated to be a maximum of \$60,000.

A project may provide education and training for government agency staff (including Federal, Tribal, State, and local), youth corps, nonprofit organizations, contractors, volunteers, and the general public. A project may use professional trailbuilders or trainers to provide training, including qualified youth conservation or service corps. See information on trail training coordinated through the **National Trails Training Partnership** at www.NTTP.net.

Typical education projects may include:

- Develop and operate trail safety education programs.
- Develop and operate trail-related environmental education programs.
- Develop and provide training on trail accessibility and sustainability.
- Produce trail-related educational materials, including information displays, in

print, video, audio, interactive computer displays, etc.

- Trail patrols to monitor trail use, safety, conditions, and/or environmental impacts.
- Trail patrols to provide trailside assistance such as providing emergency aid, search and rescue, helping trail users repair equipment, etc.
- Trail patrols to educate trail users, to protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- Develop and deliver 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.
- Develop or support publications related to trail design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment, because these steps relate to safety and environmental protection.
- Applicants are encouraged to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps to develop and provide training and to work in trail patrols.
- Grantees using RTP funds to develop training and education materials and programs should acknowledge the RTP and the FHWA. Written materials developed with RTP funds and the results of the planning and research developed with RTP funds should be available to the general public. Except in rare circumstances, materials produced with RTP funds should be available as public domain material.

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

*** IMPORTANT! INTERESTED PARTIES *MUST* CONSULT WITH ADECA RECREATION PROGRAMS STAFF BEFORE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION UNDER THIS CATEGORY!**

Please contact ADECA's Recreation Programs staff if you are interested in obtaining more information about the Recreational Trails Program.

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