

# Just the Facts:

## Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program

April 2025

This fact sheet provides an overview of the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program. For a full discussion of the program requirements, please see KRS 154.14 and the website at <https://ced.ky.gov/grant>. The GRANT Program is administered by the Cabinet for Economic Development (Cabinet), and the Cabinet will determine the terms, conditions and requirements of applications seeking match awards.

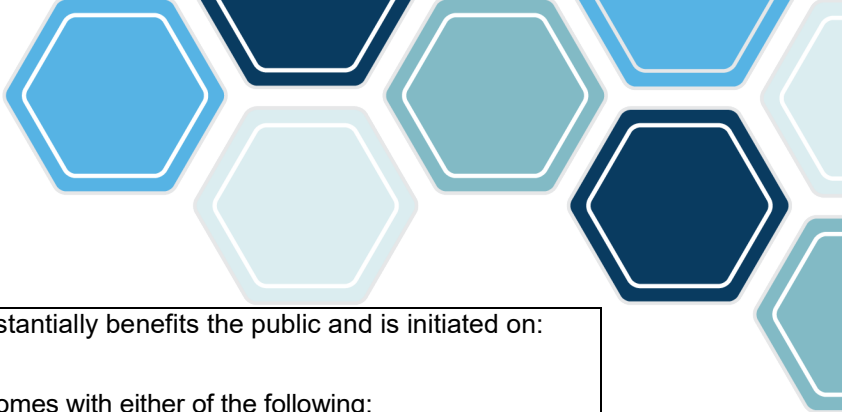
Applicants with potential projects and the intent to submit applications to access federal grant resources that are in the public interest and for a public purpose may seek funding assistance for the proposed project through the GRANT Program. The Cabinet is not providing assistance in preparing and/or completing applications for federal grant resources. The following organizations are available to assist applicants in identifying available federal grant opportunities and preparing the federal grant applications:

- Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts
- Local Area Development Districts
- Local Public Institutions in the Postsecondary Education System

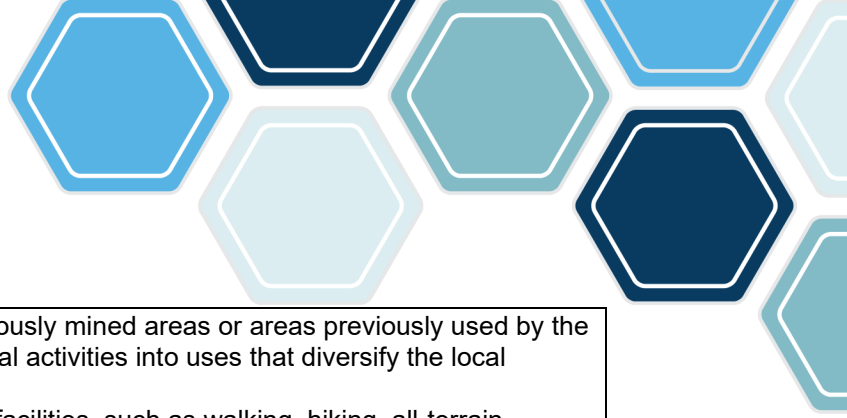
The GRANT Program is a competitive process and is meant to be transformative. Meeting evaluation criteria or being the sole applicant in a city, county or 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization does not guarantee funding. Actual awards for eligible applicants are determined by the results of the Scoring Criteria, ranking and availability of funding.

### Key Program Definitions

Eligible Grant Applicant	An eligible grant applicant is <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a county or city governing body;</li><li>• any entity organized in Kentucky providing public services through law enforcement, fire, emergency medical rescue, waterfront development, a water utility, or a waste water utility to persons domiciled in Kentucky; or</li><li>• a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization engaged in public benefits improvements.</li></ul>
Eligible Project	Meets requirements for a federal grant offered or administered by a qualifying federal entity that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requires a local match; or</li><li>• Is a Delta Regional Authority project that includes language explicitly stating that a local match will make an application more competitive.</li></ul>



	<p>A project that benefits the public or substantially benefits the public and is initiated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicly owned property;</li> <li>• Property to be acquired which comes with either of the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Legally binding letter of intent or option for the sale to an Eligible Grant Applicant; OR</li> <li>◦ Legally binding sale agreement for the sale to an Eligible Grant Applicant; OR</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Private property on which a project is located that is in the public interest, for a public purpose and benefits an eligible community.</li> </ul> <p>The Eligible Project is required to have available matching funds for the project based on the county population ranking as provided in KRS 154.14 and satisfy the evaluation criteria defined herein.</p>
Eligible Federal Entity	<p>The federal grant funding must be sponsored/administered by one of the following entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United States Department of Housing and Urban Development;</li> <li>• Delta Regional Authority;</li> <li>• Domestic Policy Council;</li> <li>• Office of Management and Budget;</li> <li>• United States Department of Energy;</li> <li>• United States Department of the Treasury;</li> <li>• United States Department of the Interior;</li> <li>• United States Department of Agriculture;</li> <li>• United States Department of Commerce;</li> <li>• United States Department of Labor;</li> <li>• United States Department of Health and Human Services;</li> <li>• United States Department of Transportation;</li> <li>• United States Department of Education;</li> <li>• United States Department of Homeland Security;</li> <li>• United States Environmental Protection Agency;</li> <li>• United States Department of the Army;</li> <li>• Appalachian Regional Commission;</li> <li>• National Science Foundation;</li> <li>• Any federal agency, department, or entity that is the successor of an entity listed above.</li> </ul>
Eligible Use	<p>The authorized purpose for which an awarded grant may be used depends on the source of funds from the Commonwealth. Eligible use may include, but is not limited to, expenditure in any of the following categories or some combination thereof:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance economic vitality, including revitalization of structures with a public purpose or benefit</li> <li>• Promote or develop an artistic or philanthropic purpose</li> <li>• Improve traditional infrastructure, such as water and wastewater treatment facilities, transmission lines, transportation facilities and flood and wastewater management</li> <li>• Create or enhance telecommunications infrastructure, including cellular towers, fiber optic expansion, and technology infrastructure</li> <li>• Promote agricultural activities and development</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance development of previously mined areas or areas previously used by the coal industry and other industrial activities into uses that diversify the local economy</li> <li>• Create or expand recreational facilities, such as walking, hiking, all-terrain vehicle, bike trails, picnic facilities, restrooms, boat docking and fishing piers, and athletic facilities</li> <li>• Acquire private property that promotes local economic vitality and housing development and enhancements</li> <li>• Preserve or enhance buildings that are of local historic or economic interest</li> <li>• Restore or create retail facilities, including related service, parking, and transportation facilities, to revitalize decaying downtown areas</li> <li>• Construct or expand other facilities that promote or enhance economic development or tourism opportunities, thereby promoting the general welfare of local residents</li> <li>• Provide facilities and activities for local residents that enhance quality of life, including but not limited to childcare access and public transportation</li> </ul>																																																								
<p>Impact Counties (KRS 154.32-050(2)(b))</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Adair</td><td>Barren</td><td>Bath</td><td>Bell</td><td>Boyd</td><td>Boyle</td><td>Breathitt</td></tr> <tr> <td>Breckinrdige</td><td>Carter</td><td>Christian</td><td>Clay</td><td>Edmonson</td><td>Elliott</td><td>Estill</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fleming</td><td>Floyd</td><td>Grayson</td><td>Greenup</td><td>Harlan</td><td>Hopkins</td><td>Jackson</td></tr> <tr> <td>Johnson</td><td>Knott</td><td>Knox</td><td>LaRue</td><td>Lawrence</td><td>Lee</td><td>Leslie</td></tr> <tr> <td>Letcher</td><td>Lewis</td><td>Lincoln</td><td>Livingston</td><td>Magoffin</td><td>Martin</td><td>Mason</td></tr> <tr> <td>McCreary</td><td>Meade</td><td>Menifee</td><td>Metclafe</td><td>Montgomery</td><td>Morgan</td><td>Muhlenberg</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ohio</td><td>Owsley</td><td>Perry</td><td>Pike</td><td>Powell</td><td>Pulaski</td><td>Rockcastle</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rowan</td><td>Russell</td><td>Trigg</td><td>Whitley</td><td>Wolfe</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Adair	Barren	Bath	Bell	Boyd	Boyle	Breathitt	Breckinrdige	Carter	Christian	Clay	Edmonson	Elliott	Estill	Fleming	Floyd	Grayson	Greenup	Harlan	Hopkins	Jackson	Johnson	Knott	Knox	LaRue	Lawrence	Lee	Leslie	Letcher	Lewis	Lincoln	Livingston	Magoffin	Martin	Mason	McCreary	Meade	Menifee	Metclafe	Montgomery	Morgan	Muhlenberg	Ohio	Owsley	Perry	Pike	Powell	Pulaski	Rockcastle	Rowan	Russell	Trigg	Whitley	Wolfe		
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<p>Regional Project</p>	<p>An Eligible Project that is proposed by Eligible Grant Applicants residing or having a primary business address in different counties in Kentucky who submit a single grant application.</p> <p>Applicants participating in a multistate project may submit a regional application.</p>																																																								

## County Population Ranking and Required Local Match

KRS 154.14 requires the Cabinet to calculate the County Population Ranking on or before May 1, 2024 and no later than May 1 every two (2) years thereafter. The County Population Ranking is determined by adding the population density ranking to the ten (10) year percentage change in population ranking (both terms defined in statute). The dollar amount of the required local match is the sum of the following calculation for each participating county:

$$\frac{\text{Requested GRANT Program Funding}}{\text{Number of Participating Counties}} \times \text{Local Required Match \%}$$

The table below details the required local match percentage for each county:

Ranking ≥ 193 Local Match of 1% Required	Ranking < 193 and ≥ 145 Local Match of 2% Required		Ranking < 145 and ≥ 97 Local Match of 3% Required		Ranking < 97 and ≥ 49 Local Match of 4% Required	Ranking < 49 Local Match of 5% Required
Ballard	Bell	Robertson	Adair	Logan	Allen	Anderson
Butler	Breathitt	Rockcastle	Bourbon	Lyon	Barren	Boone
Carlisle	Breckinridge	Todd	Bracken	Marion	Bath	Boyle
Crittenden	Caldwell	Trigg	Carroll	Mason	Boyd	Bullitt
Cumberland	Casey	Trimble	Carter	Monroe	Calloway	Campbell
Elliott	Clay	Wayne	Christian	Muhlenberg	Clark	Daviess
Fulton	Clinton	Webster	Edmonson	Nicholas	Gallatin	Fayette
Hickman	Estill		Fleming	Pendleton	Grant	Franklin
Knott	Floyd		Garrard	Perry	Larue	Hardin
Lee	Green		Graves	Russell	Marshall	Jefferson
Leslie	Harlan		Grayson	Washington	McCracken	Jessamine
Lewis	Jackson		Greenup		Meade	Kenton
Livingston	Letcher		Hancock		Mercer	Laurel
Magoffin	Martin		Harrison		Powell	Madison
Owsley	McCreary		Hart		Pulaski	Montgomery
Union	McLean		Henderson		Rowan	Nelson
Wolfe	Menifee		Henry		Simpson	Oldham
	Metcalfe		Hopkins		Taylor	Scott
	Morgan		Johnson		Whitley	Shelby
	Ohio		Knox			Spencer
	Owen		Lawrence			Warren
	Pike		Lincoln			Woodford

Regional projects require the county's local matching funds to be pooled for each county.

## Evaluation Criteria

The GRANT Program is only eligible for projects that are in the public interest and the grant funds will be used for a public purpose. Projects that are in the public interest and for a public purpose can include a derivative private benefit if:



- The project will enhance a community or region;
- The granting entity for which the GRANT Program funds matching grant is being used requires a public purpose for the grant eligibility; or
- The Cabinet in its judgment concludes the proposal will enhance the quality of life or services in a community or region

Any area in Kentucky that is eligible for federal grant resources may be eligible for the obligation of state funds under the GRANT Program. Areas within Priority Communities will receive additional points in the scoring process as they are identified in the statute as a priority for the obligation of the GRANT Program matching funds.

The Cabinet shall consider the following in evaluating each project:

- Applicant’s eligibility when evaluated against the requirements of the federal grant; and
- Application completeness when evaluated against the requirements of the federal grant

**Scoring Criteria**

The Cabinet shall develop a scoring system for the project proposed by each match applicant based on the total projected return on investment and the relative positive impact in the community. The scoring system shall include a score in each category and total weighted score, which is the average of the scores in each of the following categories:

- Projected return on investment the project will yield, which includes an assessment of the following:
  - Likelihood of project completion both with the Cabinet’s funding and without
  - Application content when evaluated against the federal grant program’s publicly available scoring rubric or evaluation criteria, if any
  - Projected gross economic impact of the proposed project on the community
  - Projected number of jobs created by the proposed project and subsequent impact on the community
  - Determination of the cost of the project based on the cost expended by the Cabinet if it obligates the requested grant amount to the applicant
  - Evidence of community support for the project
  - Likelihood that the applicant can successfully manage the federal grant’s administration requirements
  - Likelihood of success based on a federal agency prioritization of a particular applicant
- Overall positive impact the project will have on the surrounding community as evidenced by clear and feasible projected outcomes of the grant-funded project

**Funding Maximum**

The maximum funding authorized by the General Assembly to fund the GRANT Program is \$200,000,000 and is broken down as follows:

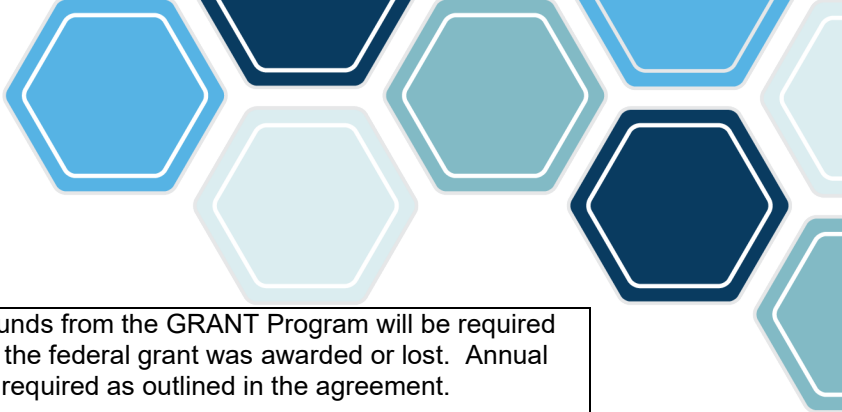
Applicant	Maximum % Available	Maximum Match Awards Available
501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization	20%	\$40,000,000
County or City governing bodies	80%	\$160,000,000

The GRANT Program will sunset on December 31, 2026, thus, applications will no longer be accepted after this date.



## The Process – Application, Approval/Obligated Funds, Agreement

<p><b>Pre-Application</b></p>	<p>Eligible Grant Applicants identify federal grant opportunities to submit an application.</p>
<p><b>Application Submission</b> Due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month</p>	<p>Eligible Grant Applicants with a potential Eligible Use for an Eligible Project with intent to apply for a federal grant opportunity requiring matching funds will submit an application to the email <a href="mailto:CED.GRANT2024@ky.gov">CED.GRANT2024@ky.gov</a> along with supporting documentation providing details of the proposed project and federal grant opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eligible Grant Applicants with a potential Eligible Use for a Regional Project will submit a single application and supporting documentation providing details of the proposed project.</li> <li>○ Eligible Grant Applicants qualifying as 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organizations will be required to submit a copy of its determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service.</li> </ul> <p>A resolution of the city, county, eligible public service entity or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is required to be attached to the application authorizing submission of the application and authority to enter into any legal agreements.</p> <p>If the federal grant opportunity is extremely close to the deadline for application, please contact the Area Development District office in your region and ask for assistance to coordinate with the Cabinet for expedited GRANT application consideration.</p>
<p><b>Review, Score, Rank</b> Finalized by the end of each month if completed application was received without any errors or omissions</p>	<p>Upon receipt of a completed application with required supporting documentation, Cabinet staff will complete the following process for each application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review to determine if the request meets the Evaluation Criteria</li> <li>○ Score based on the Scoring Criteria</li> <li>○ Rank to prioritize the greatest return on investment and relative positive impact and based on the project evaluation and project score of at least 60 points</li> </ul> <p>GRANT Program awards will be identified by the Cabinet based on the evaluation, score, ranking and available funds.</p>
<p><b>Notification, Agreement and Decision</b> Month following completion of Review, Score, Rank</p>	<p>GRANT Program awards selected will be sent a letter/notification of award with an agreement for execution. The project will have 30 days from the date of the letter to accept the award. Acceptance of the award will be acknowledged by signing and returning the agreement. Once received, the Cabinet will sign the agreement, and a fully executed agreement will be provided to the awarded entity.</p>



<b>Monitoring / Compliance</b>	<p>Each entity awarded funds from the GRANT Program will be required to notify the Cabinet if the federal grant was awarded or lost. Annual status updates will be required as outlined in the agreement.</p> <p>If the federal grant was lost, the agreement will automatically terminate and the funding will be returned to the available balance for consideration of other projects.</p> <p>If the federal grant was awarded, the entity awarded funds from the GRANT Program will be required to submit disbursement requests and supporting documentation, including the federal award notice. Upon receipt and verification of documentation, funds will be disbursed. Project reporting will continue until the project is completed.</p>
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