



**Funding Research Memo:
Recreation and Tourism Development**
Last updated: August 2018

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM: sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov.

CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from the last funding round and may be unreliable. Check the program’s web site!

FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE

(*Hyperlinks to more complete information later in memo, including links to program web sites)

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline <i>(most recent deadline)</i>	Eligible Costs
<p>Note: The passage of Prop 68 in June 2018 and the potential passage of Prop 3 in November 2018 will add funding resources to some of these grant programs and may also result in additional funding opportunities. At the time of publication these opportunities have not yet been released. Please check the websites of relevant California state agencies for updates. The SNC funding opportunities newsletter will also have the latest information. You can subscribe by adding yourself to the funding listserv here.</p>				
Business Planning and Feasibility Studies				
U.S. Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Planning/Technical Assistance	Up to \$100,000. A 5% cash match is required.	Economic development planning, feasibility studies, data gathering, etc.	Varies <i>(December 1, 2017)</i>	Planning, feasibility studies, analysis, data-gathering, etc. Could be used for county-wide tourism business development plan.
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Development Grants	No maximum, but smaller grants preferred. Match not required, but impacts scoring.	Projects that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses.	Varies <i>(April 30, 2018)</i>	Technical assistance (including feasibility assessments), training programs, small business lending programs, rural distance learning networks.
USDA Rural Community Development Initiative	\$50,000 - \$250,000. 1:1 cash match required.	Develop the capacity and ability of rural nonprofits, low-income communities, and federally recognized tribes to undertake housing, community facilities, or economic development projects.	Varies <i>(June 25, 2018)</i>	Provide technical assistance and capacity building related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development, including staff assistance, training, predevelopment consultations, and some computer and software expenses. Could be used to support tourism business development.

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Recreation/Tourism Planning				
National Endowment for the Arts: Our Town Program: Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects	\$25,000 - \$200,000. 1:1 non-federal match required; it may include in-kind.	Support creative placemaking projects that contribute towards the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core.	September <i>(August 9, 2018)</i>	Eligible project activities include arts engagement, public art, cultural district planning, design of public spaces, or community engagement activities, including design charrettes, design competitions, and community design workshops.
National Endowment for the Arts: Challenge America	\$10,000 1:1 non-federal match required; it may include in-kind.	To support the extension of arts opportunities to underserved populations, including those that have limited access to the arts because of geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability.	April <i>(April 24, 2018)</i>	Funds may be used for salaries and wages, fringe benefits, travel, consultant and artist fees, contractual services, promotion, acquisition fees, rights, evaluation and assessment fees, access accommodations, office expenses, the publication, distribution, translation, and transportation of items, rental of space or equipment, and other project-specific costs.
National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance	No funding provided, technical assistance only.	Development of parks, trails, access to rivers, and other special places.	June, July, or August <i>(June 30, 2018)</i>	Will provide staff assistance in the form of planning, facilitation, design, etc.
Preserve America Communities Program	No funding provided, but designation makes the community eligible for other grant programs.	Preserve America Community designations recognize communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.	August <i>(September 1, 2018)</i>	Benefits of designation include White House recognition, a Preserve America Community road sign, listing in a directory, national and regional press releases, and eligibility for Preserve America awards.

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Specific Park and Project Assistance (For other related grant opportunities, also see the Parks and Trails, and the Land Acquisition Funding Research Memos)				
CA Department of Parks and Recreation Recreational Trails Program	No minimum or maximum. 12% match required.	Development of non-motorized trails.	Not until 2019/20 (November 23, 2016)	Acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors; development and rehabilitation of trails, trailside, and trailhead facilities; and construction of new trails.
CA River Parkways Grant Program	No maximum or minimum. Match not required but adds to priority.	Support the acquisition, restoration, protection, and development of river parkways.	September (September 27, 2018 for concept proposals)	Acquisition and development projects, including community access.
Department of Water Resources Urban Stream Restoration Program	Currently unknown, see new program guidelines when released.	Reduce flooding and erosion, restore or protect the natural ecological values of streams, and promote community involvement and stewardship.	Currently unknown, see new program guidelines when released.	Currently unknown, see new program guidelines when released.
CA Department of Transportation Active Transportation Program	Minimum \$250,000, no maximum. Match encouraged but not required.	Active transportation projects, particularly walking and biking.	July (July 31, 2018)	Infrastructure projects (environmental, design, right-of-way, and construction), non-infrastructure projects (education, encouragement, and enforcement activities), and development of community-wide bicycle, pedestrian, safe routes to school, or active transportation plans (planning funds only in disadvantaged communities.)
CA Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants	Depends on program category. 25% match required.	Planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration, operation, enforcement, programs, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs.	March or April (March 5, 2018)	Very broad – all direct costs plus 15% indirect.

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National Environmental Education Foundation: Every Day Capacity Building Grants	Up to \$5,000 No match required	Program builds the organizational capacity of 'friends' groups to serve public lands.	November <i>(November 5, 2018)</i>	Organizational development, such as strategic planning, board training, communications, fund-raising, etc.
National Endowment for the Humanities Public Humanities Projects grants	\$40,000 - \$250,000	To fund projects with the potential to reach broad audiences while deepening public understanding and encouraging dialogue and discussion of significant humanities questions. Can include interpretation of historic sites and areas.	January and August <i>(August 29, 2018)</i>	Eligible costs include research, travel, program design, development of materials and exhibits, planning, presentation of public programs, evaluation, curriculum development, etc.
Rails to Trails Conservancy: Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund	\$5,000 - \$35,000 No match required	Organizations that are implementing projects to build and improve multiuse trails. Projects on rail-trails and rails-with-trails are given preference.	January <i>(January 31, 2018)</i>	Capacity building, organizational support, new trail construction, trail facility and infrastructure (including trailheads and bathrooms), land acquisition, trail signage, improvements to existing trails, and significant maintenance.
The Conservation Fund: Land Conservation Loan Program	Loans and technical assistance for conservation organizations to purchase land.	The goal of the program is to conserve America's legacy of land and water resources and to strive to achieve balanced conservation solutions that emphasize the integration of economic and environmental goals.	Rolling	Loans, bridge funding, lines of credit, and technical assistance. Projects should protect natural habitat, provide opportunities for outdoor recreation or educational use, improve water quality, or address threats to conservation values.

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Access Fund: Climbing Preservation Grant Program	\$1,000 - \$4,000	Projects that preserve or enhance climbing access/opportunities, and conserve the national climbing environment. The funding agency seeks projects that build a strong base of local climber support and activism.	March and August <i>(August 1, 2018)</i>	Programs that build local climber involvement and support, encourage access, raise awareness about climber responsibility toward conserving the environment, and develop knowledge about natural and cultural resource values where the information is used to open climbing areas or mitigate climbing impacts.
American Alpine Club (AAC) Cornerstone Conservation Grants	\$1,000 - \$8,000	Creating healthy climbing landscapes, promoting respect for the places we climb, and empowering local climbing communities.	June 15 – August 15 <i>(August 15, 2018)</i>	Trails, waste management policies and systems, etc. Note that the AAC has additional small grant programs for other climbing-related activities.
Polaris Industries: T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program	Up to \$10,000	Promoting safe and responsible riding, and preserving access for all-terrain vehicles.	March and September <i>(September 1, 2018)</i>	Funds can be used by organizations for trail development and maintenance projects, safety and education initiatives, lobbying, and other projects to increase and maintain land access.
Grants that could potentially be used to promote and support Agritourism Activities				
USDA Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	\$50,000 - \$500,000	Loans and technical assistance grants to business assistance organizations to assist rural microenterprises.	Unknown – check the website to see if applications are being accepted	Loan funds obtained are then loaned to rural microenterprises. Technical assistance grants are used to provide business training services.
USDA Rural Community Development Initiative	\$50,000 - \$250,000. 1:1 match required; some federal funding eligible.	Develop the capacity and ability of rural nonprofits, low-income communities, and federally recognized tribes to undertake to housing, community facilities, or economic development projects.	Varies <i>(June 25, 2018)</i>	Provide technical assistance and capacity building related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development, including staff assistance, training, predevelopment consultations, and some computer and software expenses. Could be used to support agritourism business development.

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USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grants	Up to \$250,000.	Advance innovations in sustainable agriculture.	Varies (November 1, 2017)	Funds may not be used for research, tuition reimbursement, or purchase of major depreciable items.
USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program	\$15,000 - \$100,000. No match required.	New market opportunities for farm and ranch operations, farmers markets, roadside stands, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer markets.	Varies (May 7, 2018)	Outreach, training, technical assistance, and business assistance.

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
Funds for Conferences, Workshops, Festivals, & Misc.				
The Campbell Foundation	Wide range of awards, but usually around \$25,000	Sustainable fisheries, protection of special places, land-sea connection, water quality, or communication of ocean conservation issues. Also models that predict the serious impact climate change will have on water resources in the western U.S.	March and June (June 30, 2018)	Outreach, education, and action programs related to water quality. The foundation gives funding to quite a few environmental film festivals.
Alliance for California Traditional Arts: Living Cultures Grants Program	Up to \$5,000	Sustain and strengthen folk and traditional arts in California; create a sense of belonging, community continuity, empowerment, and action.	July (June 29, 2018)	Workshops and gatherings; conservation, creation, and acquisition of important traditional arts items; purchase of equipment and materials; documentation of traditional arts, skills, ceremonies, beliefs, or performances; public presentations, workshops, and gatherings; and other types of projects that lead to active participation in traditional arts practices.

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Schwemm Family Foundation Grants	Up to \$8,000	Preserve and share history and cultural heritage through literature, digital archives, and other interpretive means.	August <i>(August 31, 2018)</i>	Interpretive projects of pre-WW II history.
Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Foundation	Usually below \$5,000, but there are exceptions.	Programs designed to promote energy sustainability, environmental conservation, and stewardship of land and resources.	Open March through October <i>(October 5, 2018)</i>	No specific limitations. PG&E gives out a lot of grants to a broad range of organizations for a variety of purposes.



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Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Program (Non-entitlement) Planning/Technical Assistance Grants

<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/cdbg/EconDevelopment.html>

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has multiple categories of funding, all of which come out in a 'SuperNOFA' which is usually released at the beginning of each year. Application due dates change yearly. There are many technical requirements for submission of these applications so start the application process early.

Incorporated cities under 50,000 in population and counties with an unincorporated area population of under 200,000 are eligible to participate in the State CDBG Program. These must be 'non-entitlement' jurisdictions, which is pretty much always the case in rural areas. Since only incorporated cities and counties may be applicants, contact the appropriate planning or economic development department to work with you on the application.

Planning and technical assistance studies focus on research, analysis and planning for community needs in regard to housing, public improvements, community facilities, public services and local planning issues. Planning study final products must show a connection to assisting with an eligible CDBG activity. A 5% match is required.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Development Grants

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants>

The Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) program is designed to support and provide targeted technical assistance, training and other activities that lead to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas. The program has two components:

- Rural Business Enterprise Grants, which may be used to acquire or develop land, buildings, plants, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utility extensions, necessary water and supply, and waste disposal facilities; provide technical assistance; establish revolving loan funds; and create rural distance learning programs for adults related to employment or job advancement
- Rural Business Opportunity Grants are used to assist in the economic development of rural areas by providing technical assistance, training, and planning for business and economic development.

Eligible applicants include public entities, tribes, and nonprofit organizations.

Applicants must demonstrate a successful history and track record of administering economic and community development financial and technical assistance programs designed to promote small rural business development.

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The program is only available to rural areas, which are defined as a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less, other than an urbanized area immediately adjacent to a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population in excess of 50,000 inhabitants. There is no maximum, but grants average \$50,000 - \$60,000. Match is not required, but having match impacts the score.

USDA Rural Community Development Initiative

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-community-development-initiative-grants>

The objective of this program is to develop the capacity of private, nonprofit community-based housing, community development organizations, and low-income rural communities to improve housing, community facilities, and community/economic development projects in rural areas.

This grant provides funding to an intermediary organization which will provide the technical assistance to sub-grantees (the community organizations developing the housing, community facilities, or economic development projects). An intermediary can assist multiple sub-grantees if they meet specific organizational requirements. Part of the scoring criteria is the income level for the community served by the sub-grantee organization, which is determined to be the area where the organization's office is located.

Rural Community Development Initiative grants may be used for training sub-grantees to conduct strategic planning, fundraising, and other necessary skills. The grants can also be used for expert assistance, as well as building organizational capacity through board training, workshops, etc.

The grants require a 1:1 cash match; federal funding may be an eligible match in some cases.

National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Program: Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects

<http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/introduction>

Our Town is the National Endowment for the Arts' creative placemaking grants program. These grants support projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. Successful Our Town projects ultimately lay the groundwork for systemic changes that sustain the integration of arts, culture, and design into strategies for strengthening communities.

There are two program areas:

- **Place-Based Projects.** Through arts engagement, cultural planning, design, and/or artist/creative industry support, these projects contribute to improved quality of life in local communities. These projects require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization.

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- **Knowledge Building Projects.** These projects build and disseminate knowledge about how to leverage arts, culture, and design as mechanisms for strengthening communities. These grants are available to arts service or design service organizations, and/or other national or regional membership, policy, or university-based organizations. These projects require a partnership that will facilitate the knowledge sharing and/or exchange.

The grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000. A 1:1 non-federal match is required, which can include in-kind contributions.

National Endowment for the Arts: Challenge America

<https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/challenge-america/grant-program-description>

The purpose of this program is to support the extension of arts opportunities to underserved populations, including those that have limited access to the arts because of geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Funding is available for professional arts programming, and for projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in community development. Projects may be large or small, new or existing, and may be part of or outside of the applicant's scope of regular programming.

Projects must involve experienced artists and arts professionals, and must engage the public with diverse and excellent art. Eligible projects may include:

- Arts events that will feature one or more guest artists
- Cultural tourism, specifically the unified promotion of community-wide arts activities and/or the development of cultural tourism products
- Public art projects, primarily visual arts projects, which may be temporary or permanent, and that are community-based, professionally directed, and developed through a meaningful community engagement process

Applicants may be arts organizations, local arts agencies, arts service organizations, and other organizations. They must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, units of state or local government, federally recognized tribal communities, or local education agencies.

National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

<http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

This program does not provide funding, but rather NPS staff provide free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise for projects related to development of parks, trails, access to rivers, and other special places. They can help guide a project from conception to completion. Some of the ways they can help:

- Define project vision and goals.
- Inventory and map community resources.
- Identify and analyze key issues and opportunities.

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- Engage collaborative partners and stakeholders.
- Design community outreach and participation strategies.
- Develop concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas.
- Set priorities and build consensus.
- Identify funding sources.
- Develop a sustainable organizational framework to support the project.

The 2018 application deadline was June 30. It is a good idea to contact the staff several weeks in advance of the deadline to discuss your project.

Preserve America Communities Designation Program

<https://www.achp.gov/>

The purpose of this program is to grant eligible communities with a Preserve America Community designation. Designations recognize communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

Benefits of designation include:

- White House recognition
- A certificate of recognition
- A Preserve America Community road sign
- Authorization to use the Preserve America logo on signs, flags, banners, and promotional materials
- Listing in a web-based Preserve America Community directory
- National and regional press releases
- Eligibility for Preserve America awards, when funded by Congress
- Enhanced community visibility and pride

The project that the applicant selects to feature must be one that has been supported by the community within the last three years and is complete and/or currently promoting heritage tourism or otherwise fostering economic vitality.

CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Recreational Trails Program

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds annually for recreational trails and trails-related projects. This program channels federal transportation funding through the CA Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) [Active Transportation Program](#) (ATP). There is no maximum or minimum limit on grant request

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amounts for the program generally, but a maximum grant amount may be set each year by DPR.

Eligible projects include acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors; development and rehabilitation of trails, trailside, and trailhead facilities; and construction of new trails.

The maximum amount of RTP funds allowed for each project is 88 percent of the total project cost. The applicant is responsible for obtaining a match amount that is at least 12 percent of the total project cost. Eligible match sources include state funds (including state grant funds), local funds (including general funds and bond funds), private funds, donated materials and services, value of donated land (for acquisition projects only), and other federal funds.

The next round of funding for this program will be in 2019/20.

California River Parkways Grant

<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/california-river-parkways/>

The purpose of this program is to support the acquisition, restoration, protection, and development of river parkways. River parkways are defined as outdoor areas adjacent to a river or stream, set apart to conserve scenic, natural, open space or recreational values to afford public access to open space, low impact recreational activities, and/or wildlife habitat. They may encompass ecological restoration, flood management, water quality and/or urban waterfront revitalization benefits. Projects must involve natural creeks, streams, and/or rivers, even if they flow only during the rainy season, or channelized or culverted creeks, streams, and/or rivers. Projects must provide public access or be a component of a larger parkway plan that provides public access.

Projects must meet at least two of the following five statutory conditions:

- Recreation: provide compatible recreational opportunities, including trails for strolling, hiking, bicycling, and equestrian uses along rivers and streams
- Habitat: protect, improve, or restore riverine or riparian habitat, including benefits to wildlife habitat and water quality
- Flood management: maintain or restore the open space character of lands along rivers and streams so that they are compatible with periodic flooding as part of a flood management plan or project
- Conversion to river parkways: convert existing, developed riverfront land into uses consistent with river parkways
- Conservation and interpretive enhancement: provide facilities to support or interpret river or stream restoration or other conservation activities

Eligible projects include:

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- Creation or expansion of trails for walking, bicycling, and/or equestrian activities that are compatible with other conservation objectives
- Improvement of existing river parkways by providing amenities such as picnic and rest areas or shade ramadas
- Conversion of channelized streams or rivers to a more historical flow pattern that will promote the structure, function, and dynamics of riparian and riverine habitat
- Acquisition of land that will be managed to increase the size and quality of existing riparian habitat
- Expansion of existing river parkway by acquiring adjacent lands to accommodate periodic flooding
- Conversion of riverfront land from industrial use into public multiuse areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, public trails, etc.
- Revitalization of urban neighborhoods by removing abandoned structures along the riverfront to provide open space river access for the public
- Construction of an overlook area for a restored wetland with interpretive signage, where the public can observe the project benefits
- Construction of a boardwalk adjacent to sensitive habitat to allow public viewing without disturbing flora or fauna

The application process is two-step, starting with a concept proposal. Priority is given to projects that leverage private, federal, local funding or produce the greatest public benefit.

Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program.

<http://www.water.ca.gov/urbanstreams/>

This Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant provides funding to reduce flooding and erosion, restore or protect the natural ecological values of streams, and promote community involvement and stewardship. The last round of funding was in 2014, but the program has been re-funded under 2018 Proposition 68 so there is likely to be another round of funding soon. See the website for more information.

California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) Active Transportation Program (ATP)

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/atp/>

The purpose of the Active Transportation Program (ATP) is to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation such as biking and walking. The ATP consolidates previous federal and state transportation programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), and State Safe Routes to School (SR2S), into a single program. Eligible projects include:

- Safe Routes to School projects that improve the safety of children walking and bicycling to school, in accordance with Section 1404 of Public Law 109-59.
- Recreational trails and trailheads, park projects that facilitate trail linkages or connectivity to non-motorized corridors, and conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to trails.

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- Development or improvement of bikeways and walkways that improve mobility, access, or safety for non-motorized users.
- Development of a community wide bike, pedestrian, safe routes to schools, or active transportation plan in a disadvantaged community.

There is no stated maximum grant. The minimum grant is \$250,000. Matching funds are encouraged but not required.

CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Off Highway Vehicle Program

http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164

<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/>

This program supports the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration, operation, enforcement, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs, and programs involving OHV safety or education.

Relevant activities that can be funded include:

- Ground Operations - Maintenance and/or conservation of facilities; compliance with soil standards and Habitat Management Programs; and protection of natural and/or cultural resources
- Development - Construction of, and improvements to, facilities to sustain or enhance OHV recreational opportunities and experiences (trails, trailhead staging areas, parking, picnic and restroom facilities, etc.)
- Planning - Development of plans for future projects
- Restoration - Provide ecological restoration to habitat damaged by authorized or unauthorized OHV use
- Acquisition - Secure interests in land to sustain or expand OHV recreation access and OHV opportunities
- Law Enforcement - Provide financial assistance to local and federal agencies for protection of life and property related to OHV recreation
- Education and Safety - Provide public awareness and safety programs for responsible OHV recreation

A 25 percent match (cash or in-kind) is required. This can include volunteer services. A higher match brings in higher scores.

The proposed activity must be directly related to OHV recreation. In general, the more robust the OHV opportunities (more diverse OHV options, more developed facilities, signage, education programs, monitoring, and enforcement, etc.), the higher the application will score. The application requires detailed information about the OHV project, and the information must be well-documented by reports, statistics, plans, studies, and other records.

National Environmental Education Foundation: Every Day Capacity Building Grants

<https://www.neefusa.org/resource/2018-every-day-capacity-building-grants>

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The purpose of this program is to build the organizational capacity of 'friends' groups to serve public lands. 'Friends' groups are defined as 501(c)(3) community-based nonprofit organizations whose mission is focused on serving a public land site and the improvement and responsible use of that site, and public lands are defined as any federal, state, local, county, or regional land or waterway held in the public trust and/or spaces that are accessible to the public. Examples of public land include national forests, national parks and monuments, national wildlife refuges, and state/local lands that are accessible to the public, such as state parks and forests, community gardens, and urban green spaces.

Proposals must align with one of the following project types:

- Organizational assessment
- Strategic planning
- Board development
- Communications
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Tax-exemption process
- Technology
- Staff training
- Volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer training

Successful applications must:

- Demonstrate a positive, collaborative partnership with a local public land site that has been in effect for at least one year
- Describe a needed and well-planned project that can be carried out by the applicant within the duration of the project period
- Demonstrate that the project will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the organization
- Demonstrate that the project will strengthen the organization's ability to serve the public land site

National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) Public Humanities Projects Grants

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/public/public-humanities-projects>

Public Humanities Projects grants support projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences. Projects must engage humanities scholarship to illuminate significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art, or to address challenging issues in contemporary life. NEH encourages projects that involve members of the public in collaboration with humanities scholars, or that invite contributions from the community in the development and delivery of humanities programming.

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This grant program supports a variety of forms of audience engagement. Applications can be in one of these three formats: community conversations, exhibitions, and historic places. This latter format supports the interpretation of historic sites, houses, neighborhoods, and regions, which might include living history presentations, guided tours, exhibitions, and public programs.

Applicants are advised to consider forming partnerships with other institutions, particularly organizations such as local cultural alliances, broadcast media stations, cultural heritage centers, arts councils, veterans' centers, and branch libraries.

Planning grants (available in the categories of Exhibitions and Historic Places) provide up to \$40,000 to refine the content, format, and interpretive approach of a humanities project; develop the project's preliminary design; test project components; and conduct an evaluation of the project's likely impact. Implementation grants (\$50,000 to \$400,000) are for projects that are in the final stages of preparation to "go live" before the public.

Rails to Trails Conservancy: Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund

<https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/doppelt-family-trail-development-fund/>

The purpose of this program is to support organizations that are implementing projects to build and improve multiuse trails. Projects on rail-trails and rails-with-trails will be given preference; however, rail-trail designation is not a requirement. Projects must take place on trails that serve or plan to serve multiple user types, such as bicycling, walking, and hiking, and must be considered a trail, greenway, multiuse trail, or shared-use path. Projects must advance trail development, help establish corridor connections, or improve current conditions on the trail.

Applicants may apply for one of the following award types:

- **Community support awards:** These are capacity-building awards that are intended to help groups that need critical funding to help get trail development or improvement efforts off the ground. Eligible projects may include promoting a local trail project in the local media, conducting feasibility studies, or adding personnel or volunteer coordination capacity.
- **Project transformation awards:** Awards are designed to have a substantial impact on an organization's ability to complete a significant trail development or improvement project. Funds should serve as a catalyst to start such projects and could be used to leverage other funding sources through matching opportunities. Eligible projects may include new trail construction, trail facility and infrastructure (including trailheads and bathrooms), land acquisition, trail signage, improvements to existing trails, and significant maintenance.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, state, regional, or local government agencies, tribal government agencies, and other organizations.

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The Conservation Fund: Land Conservation Loan Program

<http://www.conservationfund.org/what-we-do/land-conservation-loans>

The purpose of this program is to assist and empower conservation organizations to accelerate the pace of conservation in their operating regions. Awards provide recipients with flexible financing and capacity to swiftly purchase high-priority lands that come up for sale. In the past, purchase lands have included historic battlefields, state parks, natural areas for wildlife, forests, farms, historic sites, trails, and open space areas. Ultimately, the goal of the program is to conserve America's legacy of land and water resources, and to strive to achieve balanced conservation solutions that emphasize the integration of economic and environmental goals.

The Conservation Fund provides loans and bridge funding, and also offers technical assistance throughout real estate deals to assist award recipients.

Applicants must describe how their proposed projects:

- Protect the natural habitat for fish, wildlife, plants, or ecosystems
- Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and educational use, or support government policy such as protecting farmland, fulfilling a Wildlife Action Plan, or implementing a local open space plan
- Improve water quality
- Address threats to conservation values that may occur if the project is not completed or will be addressed by new stewardship practices

There is no deadline for the program; applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information, contact one of the California Field Offices: <http://www.conservationfund.org/about-us/contact-us>.

Access Fund: Climbing Preservation Grant Program

<https://www.accessfund.org/take-action/apply-for-a-grant>

The Access Fund's Climbing Conservation Grant Program funds projects that preserve or enhance climbing access and opportunities, and conserve the climbing environment throughout the U.S. The fund supports projects that demonstrate local climber support, collaboration with land managers, and a commitment to long-term change. Efforts should be quantifiable, with specific objectives, a detailed budget, and measures for evaluating success. Most grant requests range from \$1,000 to \$4,000. The Access Fund considers requests for over \$10,000, but these projects should have national significance and utilize a high degree of matching funds. The fund supports work that is action-oriented, builds local climber involvement and support, is strategic in its targeting and goals, accomplishes specific goals and objectives that can be effectively measured, develops knowledge about natural and cultural resource values where the information is used to open climbing areas or mitigate climbing impacts, raises awareness about climber responsibility toward conserving the climbing environment, and utilizes matching agency or local funds (ideally this will be at least 50 percent).

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The fund does not support:

- Fixed anchors, bolts, bolt installation, etc.
- Outdoor programs (e.g., taking groups climbing, at-risk programs, youth groups)
- Climbing equipment
- Marketing or membership recruitment
- Facility construction (e.g. indoor climbing walls, artificial climbing facilities, ice parks)
- Paid positions and travel stipends

American Alpine Club (AAC) Cornerstone Conservation Grant

<https://americanalpineclub.org/cornerstone-conservation-grant>

The AAC's Cornerstone Conservation grant powered by Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) creates healthy climbing landscapes, promotes respect for climbing places, and empowers local climbing communities. Past AAC projects include new trails and human-waste management policies at Utah's Castleton Tower and Indian Creek climbing areas, a new human-waste management system in Grand Teton National Park, new trails and waste-management systems in Rocky Mountain National Park's Lumpy Ridge climbing area, and the [Clean Mountain Can](#) program on Denali.

Grants range from \$1,000 to \$8,000, depending on the size and scope of project. The AAC accepts applications every year between June 15 and August 15. Note that the organization has additional small grant programs for other climbing-related activities. See the web site for more information.

Polaris Industries T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program

<http://www.polaris.com/en-us/rider-support/trails-application>

The T.R.A.I.L.S. grant program was launched in January 2006 for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) clubs, associations, and grassroots groups. The purpose of the program is to promote safe and responsible riding and preserve access for ATV vehicles. Funds can be used by organizations for trail development and maintenance projects, safety and education initiatives, lobbying, and other projects to increase and maintain land access.

Grant funding is limited to a maximum of \$10,000 per request. Organizations can apply for either monetary awards or product as long as the value does not exceed \$10,000 and may apply for two grants per year. All organizations must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit, 501(c)(7) social clubs, or government organizations. There are two deadlines per year, in March and September.

USDA Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program/ca>

The purpose of the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance program (RMAP) is to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. Direct

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loans and grants are made to selected Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs). The MDOs then provide loans (\$50,000 or less) and technical assistance to microborrowers. Technical assistance-only (TA-only) grants will competitively be made to MDOs for the purpose of providing technical assistance and training to prospective borrowers.

Eligible applicants are nonprofit entities, Native American tribes, and public institutions of higher education. Applicants must have a record of delivering training and technical assistance to rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. A microentrepreneur, or microenterprise, is defined as a business entity with not more than 10 full-time equivalent employees.

Loans can be for working capital, supplies and inventory, equipment, debt refinancing, business acquisitions, and purchase or lease of real estate.

USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grants

http://www.westernsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants?_ga=1.116475974.1149583258.1417797497

The purpose of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program is to conduct novel research and extension/outreach projects to obtain data, develop conclusions, demonstrate technologies, and lead educational programs that promote the Western SARE goals. These goals include promoting good stewardship through sustainable farming and ranching, enhancing quality of life of farmers and ranchers, ensuring the viability of rural communities, etc.

Western SARE encourages research and education that studies farms that use sustainable production practices; transfers practical information to farmers and ranchers concerning sustainable farming practices and systems; and promotes partnerships between farmers/ranchers, nonprofit organizations, agribusinesses, and public and private research and extension institutions.

Research & Education Grants are usually 1–3 years in length. Funding varies and there is no set funding limit, but awards generally do not exceed \$250,000 across three years.

SARE Professional Development Program grants have been used to promote California agritourism in the past. If you are interested in using this funding for agritourism you should definitely coordinate with the University of California Small Farm Program, which managed this program through the UC-based Agritourism and Nature Tourism Workgroup (*Capacity Building Workshops: Developing Regional Agritourism Networks for Agricultural Sustainability and Education* -EW10-004). You can learn more about this effort at <http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/events/11agritourism/>.

USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FMPP>

The goals of the Farmers' Market Promotion Program grants are to increase access to locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets. The program does this by providing

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outreach, training, and technical assistance. Assistance may be focused on farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

The maximum amount awarded for any one proposal cannot exceed \$100,000, and the minimum award is \$15,000. No match is required.

The Campbell Foundation

<http://www.campbellfoundation.org/what-we-fund-pacific>

This foundation provides moderate grants (usually \$25,000 or less) for outreach, education, and action programs related to water quality, specifically as it impacts the west coast. The Campbell Foundation's Healthy Ocean Ecosystems program strives to identify opportunities in the field that (a) are gaining political momentum, (b) present a great opportunity to leverage resources of all kinds, and (c) are innovative from a business and social perspective. Their areas of interest include land-sea connection as related to water quality (focused on Northern California), and the impact of climate change on water resources in the western United States. This foundation has a history of giving grants to environmental film festivals.

Alliance for California Traditional Arts: Living Cultures Grants Program (California)

<http://www.actaonline.org/content/living-cultures-grants-program>

The purpose of this program is to sustain and strengthen folk and traditional arts in California, with the aim of creating spaces and activities of inclusion where all people, including members of marginalized and aggrieved communities, can publicly participate as cultural citizens and experience a sense of belonging. Projects must make use of one of the following pathways to nurture, sustain, and engage participation in traditional arts practices:

- Cultural continuity of traditional arts practices: projects including workshops and gatherings; conservation, creation, and acquisition of important traditional arts items; mentorships, intergenerational classes and other educational projects within a community; endangered language conservation and revitalization within the context of traditional art forms; and other types of activities that lead to cultural continuity of traditional arts practices
- Sustaining future traditional arts practices with needed purchases, services, or acquisition of skills: purchase of equipment and materials; documentation of traditional arts, skills, ceremonies, beliefs, or performances; investments to result in future revenues; learning new skills; and other activities leading to long-term sustainability
- Engaging and strengthening our own communities as well as engaging with others: public presentations, workshops and gatherings, and other types of projects that lead to active participation in traditional arts practices within and between cultural communities

Preference will be given to projects with traditions and cultural practices that face endangerment.

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Schwemm Family Foundation

<https://schwemmfoundation.org/history/>

The foundation has three categories of interest, one of which is literature, archiving, and interpretation. These projects help instill a sense of connection and belonging to one's community through the preservation of local history and culture. They should preserve and share history and cultural heritage through literature, digital archives, and other interpretive means. Funded projects should:

- Document or interpret some portion of pre-WWII community history or culture
- Be locally relevant
- Speak to a wide audience
- Provide an enduring component accessible to the general population

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Foundation

<http://www.pge.com/en/about/community/grants/index.page?>

PG&E gives small grants in three areas, one of which is economic development. If you can tie recreation planning to economic development, you might be able to get some funding. There is a preference for low-income and underserved communities. Grants applications are invited by PG&E employees, so the best idea is to contact your local PG&E public affairs staff. Once invited to submit a grant, the application process is done online.

Grants are small, usually under \$5,000. However, the corporation gives out a lot of grants, so if you just need a few thousand dollars for events, training resources, equipment, etc., this might be worth pursuing. The funding process is open for a period of about six months every year, but this period changes year to year.