Just the Facts:

Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program

June 2026

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 • a county or city governing body; • 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 • a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization engaged in public benefits improvements.
Eligible Project	Meets requirements for a federal grant offered or administered by a qualifying federal entity that: • Requires a local match; or • Is a Delta Regional Authority project that includes language explicitly stating that a local match will make an application more competitive.

	A project that benefits the public or substantially benefits the public and is initiated on:
	• Publicly owned property;
	• Property to be acquired which comes with either of the following:
	  ○ Legally binding letter of intent or option for the sale to an Eligible Grant Applicant; OR
	  ○ Legally binding sale agreement for the sale to an Eligible Grant Applicant; OR
	• Private property on which a project is located that is in the public interest, for a public purpose and benefits an eligible community.
	
	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.

Eligible Federal Entity	The federal grant funding must be sponsored/administered by one of the following entities: • United Stats Department of Housing and Urban Development; • Delta Regional Authority; • Domestic Policy Council; • Office of Management and Budget; • United States Department of Energy; • United States Department of the Treasury; • United States Department of the Interior; • United States Department of Agriculture; • United States Department of Commerce; • United States Department of Labor; • United States Department of Health and Human Services; • United States Department of Transportation; • United States Department of Education; • United States Department of Homeland Security; • United States Environmental Protection Agency; • United States Department of Defense; • United States Department of Justice; • Appalachian Regional Commission; • National Science Foundation; • Any federal agency, department, or entity that is the successor of an entity listed above.
Eligible Use	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: • Enhance economic vitality, including revitalization of structures with a public purpose or benefit • Promote or develop an artistic or philanthropic purpose • Improve traditional infrastructure, such as water and wastewater treatment facilities, transmission lines, transportation facilities and flood and wastewater management • Create or enhance telecommunications infrastructure, including cellular towers, fiber optic expansion, and technology infrastructure

	• Promote agricultural activities and development • 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 • 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 • Acquire private property that promotes local economic vitality and housing development and enhancements • Preserve or enhance buildings that are of local historic or economic interest • Restore or create retail facilities, including related service, parking, and transportation facilities, to revitalize decaying downtown areas • Construct or expand other facilities that promote or enhance economic development or tourism opportunities, thereby promoting the general welfare of local residents • Provide facilities and activities for local residents that enhance quality of life, including but not limited to childcare access and public transportation
Impact Counties (KRS 154.32-050(2)(b))	Adair, Barren, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Boyle, Breathitt Breckinridge, 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
Regional Project	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. Applicants participating in a multistate project may submit a regional application.

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 2% Required	Ranking 192-145 Local Match of 4% Required		Ranking 144-97 Local Match of 6% Required		Ranking 96-49 Local Match of 8% Required	Ranking < 49 Local Match of 10% Required
Ballard	Bell	Robertson	Adair	Morgan	Allen	Anderson
Breathitt	Bracken	Rockcastle	Bourbon	Muhlenberg	Barren	Boone
Butler	Caldwell	Todd	Breckinridge	Nicholas	Bath	Boyle
Carlisle	Carter	Trigg	Carroll	Owen	Boyd	Bullitt
Crittenden	Casey	Trimble	Christian	Pendleton	Calloway	Daviess
Cumberland	Clay	Union	Edmonson	Perry	Campbell	Fayette
Elliott	Clinton	Wayne	Fleming	Russell	Clark	Franklin
Hickman	Estill	Webster	Floyd	Washington	Gallatin	Jefferson
Knott	Fulton		Graves		Garrard	Jessamine
Leslie	Green		Grayson		Grant	Kenton
Lewis	Harlan		Greenup		Hardin	Laurel
Livingston	Jackson		Hancock		Hart	Madison
Magoffin	Knox		Harrison		LaRue	Nelson
Owsley	Lawrence		Henderson		Marshall	Oldham
Wolfe	Lee		Henry		McCracken	Scott
	Letcher		Hopkins		Meade	Shelby
	Martin		Johnson		Mercer	Spencer
	McCreary		Lincoln		Montgomery	Warren
	McLean		Logan		Powell	Woodford
	Menifee		Lyon		Pulaski	
	Monroe		Marion		Rowan	
	Ohio		Mason		Simpson	
	Pike		Metcalfe		Taylor	
					Whitley	

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 in 2024 to fund the GRANT Program is $200,000,000. In 2026 the General Assembly authorized an additional $100,000,000 to the GRANT Program made available in $50,000,000 increments and is broken down as follows:

Applicant	Maximum % Available	Maximum Match Awards Available (July 2027)
501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization	20%	$60,000,000
County or City governing bodies	80%	$240,000,000

The GRANT Program will sunset on December 31, 2028, thus, applications will no longer be accepted after this date.

The Process – Application, Approval/Obligated Funds, Agreement

Pre-Application	Eligible Grant Applicants identify federal grant opportunities to submit an application.
Application Submission Due by the 1st of each month	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 CED.GRANT2024@ky.gov along with supporting documentation providing details of the proposed project and federal grant opportunity. ○ 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. ○ 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. 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. 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.
Review, Score, Rank Finalized by the end of each month if completed application was received without any errors or omissions	Upon receipt of a completed application with required supporting documentation, Cabinet staff will complete the following process for each application: ○ Review to determine if the request meets the Evaluation Criteria ○ Score based on the Scoring Criteria

	○ 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 GRANT Program awards will be identified by the Cabinet based on the evaluation, score, ranking and available funds.
Notification, Agreement and Decision Month following completion of Review, Score, Rank	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.
Monitoring / Compliance	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. 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. 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.

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