

**NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

**DORMITORY AUTHORITY OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK**

**NEW YORK
BUILDING RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMUNITIES,
KIDS AND SENIORS (NY BRICKS) – ROUND 2**

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

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RFA Application Deadline: December 7, 2026, by 3:00 p.m.

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Section One: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Recognizing that Community Centers help promote physical health, mental well-being, and provide community connections for youth and older adults, Governor Hochul announced the New York Building Recreational Infrastructure for Communities, Kids, and Seniors (NY BRICKS) Initiative, a competitive grant program to facilitate the design, construction, and renovation of Community Centers in Communities across the State.

NY BRICKS is overseen by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (“NYS OPRHP”) and administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (“DASNY”).

Eligible Municipalities and Not-for-profit Entities are invited to apply for NY BRICKS Round 2 Grants for Community Center projects.

Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined are defined in Section Two: Definitions.

1.2 Purpose of the Funding

NY BRICKS Grants can be used to fund the design, construction, major renovation, and equipping of a Community Center, along with other related Capital Costs necessary to effectuate the NY BRICKS Initiative.

1.3 Funding Availability and Allocations

The 2026-2027 New York State Budget includes at least \$75 million in capital funding for Round 2 of the NY BRICKS Initiative to be awarded to Municipalities and Not-for-profit Entities through a competitive grant program.

- Eligible Applicants may be awarded grants between \$250,000 and \$15,000,000 for Eligible Project Costs.
- The NY BRICKS Initiative will provide not less than \$37.5 million in funding for Community Centers in Underserved Communities.

1.4 Timetable of Key Events

RFA Announcement Date.....	8/31/2026
Open Application Question Period Begins.....	8/31/2026
Applicant Webinar Posted by.....	9/14/2026
Deadline to Submit Questions.....	9/30/2026
Answers Posted By.....	10/26/2026
DASNY Grants Application Portal Submission Period.....	11/2/26-12/7/2026
Application Deadline.....	12/7/2026
Application Eligibility Review and Scoring.....	12/8/26-2/12/2027
Awards Announced No Earlier than.....	2/26/2027

1.5 Inquiries

In accordance with State Finance Law § 139-j and § 139-k, this RFA includes and imposes certain restrictions on communications between DASNY and NYS OPRHP personnel and an Applicant or any representative, agent, consultant or other third party representing the Applicant during the procurement process. Any questions regarding this RFA should be submitted via the NY BRICKS SurveyMonkey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYBRICKS2026>.

Contacts made to any DASNY, NYS OPRHP or other State personnel regarding this procurement between the RFA Announcement Date and Award Announcement, other than through the hyperlink above may disqualify the Applicant and affect future procurements with governmental entities in the State of New York. Please refer to DASNY's website (<https://www.dasny.org>) for policies and procedures regarding this law or the OGS website (<http://ogs.ny.gov/acpl/>) for more information about this law.

Section Two: DEFINITIONS

Applicant: A Municipality or a Not-for-profit Entity, both as hereafter defined, providing Community Centers in New York State.

Application: The documentation submitted that will be reviewed and scored for this funding opportunity, including all worksheets, attachments, and requested supplemental information. All information that the Applicant wishes to be reviewed and scored must be included as part of the Application.

Application Deadline: All Applications must be received by 3:00 p.m. on the date set forth in Section 1.4 above. Applications received after this time will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to apply promptly.

Authorized Officers: Individuals authorized to sign documents on behalf of the Applicant, including but not limited to contractual agreements. In the event there is only one Authorized Officer, a letter from the Applicant's attorney confirming that there is only one Authorized Officer must be submitted to DASNY and NYS OPRHP.

Awardee: Applicant that has been conditionally awarded a NY BRICKS Grant by NYS OPRHP and DASNY. Awardees must submit additional information to NYS OPRHP and DASNY before receiving a Grant Disbursement Agreement for execution.

Award Letter: The letter sent to Awardees as described in Section 7.4 of this RFA.

Capital Cost: For purposes of the NY BRICKS Initiative, a Capital Cost is defined as costs for a Capital Work or Purpose as defined in State Finance Law § 67-a (4).

Community: A common geographic area such as a neighborhood.

Community Center: A building or facility owned or leased by an Applicant which has, as its primary or dedicated purpose, providing scheduled programming to the Community it serves with regular published hours and offering a range of social, educational, recreational, and/or cultural activities for a variety of age groups including but not limited to after-school education, recreation, workforce training, athletics, programming for seniors, meetings by neighborhood or community organizations, and delivery of wrap around services for behavioral health. Community Centers are typically free and are open year-round to the public in the community in which they are located or serve.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, for the purposes of the NY BRICKS Initiative, a Community Center does **not** include standalone facilities that primarily function as libraries, schools, gyms, daycare facilities, houses of worship, food pantries, or health care facilities.

DASNY: The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

Eligible Applications: Applications which meet the eligibility requirements detailed in Section Four (Step One) **and** score 31 or more points in Community Need and Project Planning as explained in Section Five (Step Two) will be deemed Eligible Applications. Only Eligible Applications will proceed to Project Impact and Project Viability Scoring as described in Section Six (Step Three).

Eligible Project Costs: Costs incurred in connection with a Project that are to be reimbursed with the proceeds of a NY BRICKS Grant. Eligible Project Costs shall be Capital Costs as defined above. Proceeds of a NY BRICKS Grant may not be used to pay for non-Capital costs including but not limited to salaries, maintenance or repair costs, lease payments, utility costs, supplies, and debt repayment.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): The FAQs document provides important information with respect to the NY BRICKS program. Applicants should read the FAQs in their entirety before applying and raise any questions regarding the information therein by the deadline to submit questions set forth on the cover page of this RFA.

Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA): The contract entered into between DASNY and the Grantee. The GDA is attached to this RFA as **Appendix 6**. Applicants are expected to review the GDA in its entirety prior to submitting an Application for the NY BRICKS Initiative. Grantees are required to comply with the terms of the GDA as set forth.

Grantee: An Applicant that has successfully passed the scoring and review phases, has been selected to receive a NY BRICKS Grant and has satisfied all conditions precedent required to enter into a Grant Disbursement Agreement.

Matching Funds: The Grant will cover no more than 80% of the Capital Costs for the proposed Project. The Grantee must provide at least 20% of the Capital Costs of the Project from other committed funding sources. The most competitive applications will clearly demonstrate committed funding in the amount necessary to fully fund the Project as described. Please be sure that all sources identified for use as Matching Funds are

eligible to be used as such. For example, State and Municipal Facilities Program Grants are ineligible to be used for the purpose of the match, although they may be used to pay for eligible project costs in excess of the Match amount.

Municipality: For the purposes of this RFA, the term Municipality shall only mean a County, City, Town, Village, or Indian Nation.

NYS OPRHP: The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

NY BRICKS Grant: Pursuant to this RFA, a capital grant awarded to a Grantee.

Not-for-profit Entity: A not-for-profit organization that is duly incorporated with the New York State Department of State or Chartered by the State of New York. Not-for-profit Entity Applicants must be Prequalified at the time of application.

Prequalification: Prequalification is a requirement of the State of New York. Not-for-profit organizations are required to provide information in the Statewide Financial System (SFS) that is used to assess organizational capacity, organizational compliance and organizational integrity. All Not-for-profit Entities must register, apply for, and obtain approved Prequalification status in SFS. Please note that the status must be showing as Prequalified. Any other status such as "In Review" will be treated as not prequalified.

Not-for-profit Entities must receive approved Prequalification status prior to submitting their Application and must remain Prequalified through the execution of the Grant Disbursement Agreement and payment of requisitions. The Prequalification process takes time, so Applicants are advised to start the process as soon as possible.

Applications from Not-for-profit Entities that are not Prequalified in SFS prior to Application submission will not be deemed to be an Eligible Application. No extensions will be provided to Applicants who are not Prequalified prior to the submission of their Application.

Project: The design, construction, major renovation, and equipping of a Community Center, along with other related Capital Costs necessary to effectuate the NY BRICKS Initiative. The NY BRICKS Initiative will fund Eligible Project Costs in furtherance of a Project.

Site Control: Evidence that the Applicant/Grantee has sufficient authorization and control to undertake the Project at the project location. See section **4.3** for more information

State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Review: The SEQR Act requires all state and local government agencies to consider environmental impacts equally with social and economic factors during discretionary decision-making. A SEQR review must be completed for each Project to be funded with the proceeds of a NY BRICKS Grant.

Statewide Financial System (SFS): New York State grants management system for all organizations doing business with New York State. All Not-for-profit Entity Applicants

must register, apply for, and obtain approved Prequalification status in SFS prior to the submission of their Application.

Underserved Communities: Applicants must complete the “**Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning for NY BRICKS**” pursuant to Section Five. For purposes of the NY BRICKS Initiative, Underserved Communities shall be those that score 20 points or more on the “Community Need” portion of the Application (**Worksheet 1**) utilizing the following three measures:

- The Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) –To determine the Percent Below Poverty Level of the project location.
- Disadvantaged Community (DAC) - To determine if a project location is designated as a DAC.
- ESD Distressed Community - To determine if a project location is designated as an ESD Distressed Community.

W-9 Form: IRS document utilized to set up the Grantee as a vendor/payee in DASNY’s financial system. The Organization’s Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) is required to make payment. Note: The Grantee’s legal name and FEIN on the W-9 should match the legal name and FEIN on file with the IRS.

Section Three: EVALUATION AND SCORING OVERVIEW

Application Project Priority and Grant Funding Levels

The State’s priority is to provide funds to create new Community Centers statewide and achieve an overall allocation of at least \$37.5 million in NY BRICKS Round 2 awards to Underserved Communities as set forth in the NY BRICKS appropriation.

The NY BRICKS Initiative is expected to be a highly competitive grant program for which three Application Project Priority and Grant Funding Levels have been established as reflected in the following table. Applicants must first select which Priority Level they are applying for based on the Application Project and amount of NY BRICKS Round 2 funding requested.

Documentation must be provided with the NY BRICKS Round 2 Application to support the total cost of the NY BRICKS Project. Please note that the total Project cost must be at least twenty percent more than the amount of the NY BRICKS Grant award requested to comply with the 20% Match Requirement.

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Grant Funding Levels

Priority	Application Project Priority	Grant Funding Level	Project Total Costs	Targeted Funding for Grant Funding Level*
1	New Community Centers-, New Construction or Expansion for additional square footage	\$5,000,001 - \$15,000,000	\$6,250,001 - \$18,750,000	\$45,000,000
2	New Community Centers-, New Construction or Expansion for additional square footage	\$1,000,000- \$5,000,000	\$1,250,000 - \$6,250,000	\$20,000,000
3	Renovation of existing Community Center Projects	\$250,000 - \$5,000,000	\$312,500 - \$6,250,000	\$5,000,000
		Total Amount of Awards by Grant Funding Level:		\$70,000,000
	Base Pool amount allocable to grant applications across all levels after initial scoring			\$5,000,000
				\$75,000,000

**** Not less than \$37,500,000 of NY BRICKS Round 2 funding shall be used for grants to municipalities or not-for-profit entities in Underserved Communities.***

Once the highest scoring Applications at each Priority Level have been determined, any residual funds remaining under those Priority Levels shall be added to the Base Pool and used to make additional NY BRICKS Round 2 grant awards. No partial Grants will be awarded.

During the review and scoring process, NYS OPRHP and DASNY will use best efforts to achieve regional diversity across the State.

Grants from the Base Pool shall be awarded to those Applications receiving the next highest scores across all Application Priority Levels, provided that sufficient funds exist to fully fund the requested grant amount. Awards will be made in this manner until all available funding has been allocated.

No partial grants will be awarded. Not all Eligible Projects will receive a NY BRICKS Grant.

In the event of equally scored applications, NYS OPRHP and DASNY reserve the right to further evaluate the applications with increased weight and scrutiny given to Project Viability and regional diversity.

NYS OPRHP and DASNY reserve the right to reject any or all Applications received in response to this RFA.

Step One: Applicant and Project Eligibility

NYS OPRHP and DASNY will determine if the Applicant and the Project meet the minimum eligibility requirements set forth in Section Four. If the Applicant or the Project does not satisfy the eligibility requirements set forth in Section Four, the Applicant shall be deemed ineligible and shall not advance for further scoring or review. If both the Applicant and the Project fully satisfy the eligibility requirements in Section Four, the Applicant and the Project shall be deemed an Eligible Applicant and an Eligible Project, and the Application shall proceed to Step Two below.

Step Two: Community Need and Project Planning

NYS OPRHP and DASNY will review the “**Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning for NY BRICKS**” (part of **Appendix 2**). All Applicants must complete all three Worksheets in their entirety. Instructions for completing the Worksheets are set forth in Section Five below.

- Applications with a total score of 30 or below in Community Need and Project Planning (**Worksheet 3**) shall be deemed ineligible and shall not be scored further.
- Applications satisfying the requirements of Step One and that earn a total score of 31 or more on Community Need and Project Planning (**Worksheet 3**) will be deemed an Eligible Application and will proceed to Project Impact and Project Viability Scoring in Step Three.
- In addition, Applicants who scored 20 or more points in Community Need (**Worksheet 1**) will be deemed “Underserved Communities.”

All Applications satisfying the requirements of Step Two shall proceed to Step Three.

Step Three: Project Impact and Project Viability

- NYS OPRHP and DASNY shall review and score all Applications that satisfied Step Two for Project Impact and Project Viability as set forth in Section Six. The State’s priority is to provide funds to create new Community Centers statewide and achieve an overall allocation of at least \$37.5 million in NY BRICKS Round 2 awards to Underserved Communities as set forth in the NY BRICKS appropriation.
- Each reviewer will assign a score of up to 60 additional points in Step Three, for a total of 100 available points.
- The minimum total score to be considered for a NY BRICKS Grant award is 85.
- The Eligible Applications with the highest scores in each Application Project Priority Level as set forth in the Grant Funding Level Chart in Section Three of this

RFA may be awarded a NY BRICKS Grant in a minimum amount of \$250,000 and up to \$15,000,000, as set forth in the Grant Funding Level Chart, provided funding is available. NY BRICKS Grants will be awarded in the manner described in Section Three until all funds have been awarded.

- Notwithstanding the above, no partial NY BRICKS Grants will be awarded.
- Regional diversity shall also be a goal in the award of NY BRICKS Grants across the State. NYS OPRHP and DASNY will use best efforts to achieve this goal as part of the review and scoring process.

Section Four: APPLICANT AND PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

All of the provisions of this Section Four must be satisfied for an application to continue to Steps Two and Three. An Applicant that fails to satisfy all of the provisions of Section Four will be disqualified from further review and scoring.

4.1 Eligible Applicants

This RFA is limited to Municipalities and Prequalified Not-for-profit Entities providing Community Centers. At least \$ 37.5 million shall be awarded to Eligible Applicants in Underserved Communities.

- If an organization applied previously for a grant under a prior BRICKS round and received an award, they can only apply for an award under this RFA if:
 - The Awardee has received an executed Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) and has drawn down 100% of the award or has notified DASNY, in writing, that the project has been completed and no further requisitions will be submitted; or
 - The Awardee has formally withdrawn from the previous BRICKS award in writing prior to the application deadline under this RFA.

4.2 Eligible Projects

To be eligible to receive a NY BRICKS Grant, the Project must be for the design, construction, major renovation, and/or equipping of a Community Center, along with other related Capital Costs necessary to effectuate the NY BRICKS Initiative. The NY BRICKS Initiative will fund Eligible Project Costs in furtherance of a Project.

Applicants may only submit ONE application for ONE Community Center at ONE Project Location. If multiple Applications are received from the same Applicant, only the first Application will be reviewed and scored.

For purposes of the NY BRICKS Initiative, the Applicant must attest that the facility identified in the application meets the following eligibility criteria. For facilities not yet built, Applicants will answer according to the planned use of the facility.

- The Applicant has adequate Site Control of the property to be utilized as a Community Center and has the authority to operate the facility as a Community Center.
- The Applicant is the primary operator of the facility and is responsible for its management, administration, and day-to-day operations.
- The Applicant schedules, coordinates, and convenes programming at the facility and is the entity ultimately responsible for the activities conducted there.
- The primary or dedicated purpose of the facility is to provide scheduled programming and services to the community it serves.
- The facility maintains regular published hours of operation and scheduled programming accessible to the community.
- The facility is open to the public and serves the community in which it is located.
- The facility typically operates year-round, except for reasonable closures.
- The Applicant offers a range of social activities for the community at the facility.
- The Applicant offers a range of educational activities for the community at the facility, such as after-school education or workforce training.
- The Applicant offers a range of recreational activities for the community at the facility, such as athletics.
- The Applicant offers a range of cultural activities for the community at the facility.
- Programming at the facility serves youth.
- Programming at the facility serves adults.
- Programming at the facility serves seniors.
- Programming offered includes activities such as meetings by neighborhood or community organizations.
- Programming offered includes activities such as the delivery of wraparound services, including behavioral health supports.
- The primary function of the facility is **not** as a commercial enterprise, library, school, gym, daycare facility, house of worship, food pantry, or health care facility.

In order to be eligible to receive proceeds of a NY BRICKS Grant, the following also apply:

- The provisions of the GDA as set forth in **Appendix 6** must be complied with. Please review the GDA and FAQs before applying.
- All contracts for the work to be performed in connection with the Project are required to be entered into by the Grantee and signed by an Authorized Officer of the Grantee.
- Eligible Project Costs are required to be paid directly by the Grantee.
- Eligible Projects must comply with all State and local laws and regulations at all times.

The NY BRICKS Initiative is expected to be competitive and therefore, not all Eligible Projects will receive a NY BRICKS Grant. The most competitive Projects will achieve the State's priority to create new Community Centers statewide, demonstrate a public

purpose and offer a variety of programs that promote physical health, mental well-being, and community connections for youth and older adults, have all or most of the committed funding necessary to complete the Project secured by the application due date, and have taken significant steps towards the planning and/or design of the Project.

PLEASE NOTE: The NY BRICKS Grant may not be used to acquire real property.

4.3 Eligible Project Locations

Site Control is required to prove that the Applicant has sufficient authorization and control to undertake the Project at the project location.

- Municipalities may submit a Certificate of Municipal Site Control, provided as **Appendix 4** to this RFA, to demonstrate ownership or authority that allows the Municipality to construct and maintain the Project on the project location.
- Not-for-profit Entities that own their project location must provide either:
 - a deed, in the name of the Applicant organization, for the proposed project location. If the name of the property owner reflected in the deed differs from the Applicant (if the Applicant's name or d/b/a changed, for example), a satisfactory explanation is required. **If the name is different and no satisfactory explanation is provided, the Application will not be deemed an Eligible Application.**
 - For all leased project locations, the term of the lease must be in the name of the Applicant and it must meet the requirements set forth below:
 - The full lease or rental agreement must be provided, including any exhibits, amendments or riders. **If not provided, the Application will not be deemed an Eligible Application.**
 - The lease or rental agreement **must show** that it is in effect for at least ten (10) years from the date the Application is submitted. The lease term will be verified at the time of the execution of the Grant Disbursement Agreement to ensure that a significant period of time remains on the lease term. **If the term of the lease or rental agreement does not meet this requirement, the Application will not be deemed an Eligible Application.**
 - Documentation of the property owner's support for the Project must be submitted with the Application, **or the Application will not be deemed an Eligible Application.**
 - Include a letter on the landlord or lease agency's letterhead granting permission to complete the Project at the project location.
 - The letter must be dated and signed by an Authorized Officer of the landlord or leasing agency.
 - If the property where the grant-funded project will be located has not yet been acquired by the Applicant, the Applicant must provide:
 - an executed contract of sale; and
 - The closing date must occur within 6 months of the Application Date.

- Indian Nations should submit documentation to demonstrate Site Control over the project location and authorization to construct and maintain the Project at the project location.
- For all Project locations where Tax Credits may be utilized:
 - Projects located in facilities to be funded by any tax credit structure (New Market Tax Credits, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, Brownfield Tax Credits, etc.) should review the criteria set forth below. In addition, Applicants should refer to the FAQs included with this RFA for additional information and requirements regarding tax credit structures.
 - Applicants involved in a tax credit structure should verify that their Project will be segregated from the overall development or redevelopment of the facility to be funded with tax credits and demonstrate that all of the requirements set forth below are satisfied:
 - Site Control must be in the legal name of the Applicant (not an affiliated entity).
 - All requirements applicable to owned, leased or to-be-acquired properties as set forth above must be satisfied.
 - The Applicant must be the entity entering into contracts with contractors for capital costs incurred in furtherance of the Project.
 - The Applicant must be the entity incurring and paying for the capital costs in the first instance.
 - The Grant funds may not be deposited into the tax credit corpus or used to finance, refinance, or otherwise pay costs that will also be funded with the proceeds of a tax credit structure.

4.4 Eligible Uses of Funds

- Only Eligible Project Costs will be authorized for reimbursement with the proceeds of a NY BRICKS Grant.
- Eligible Project Costs include, but are not limited to:
 - Capital Costs for the design, construction, major renovation, and equipping of a Community Center, along with other related Capital Costs necessary to effectuate the NY BRICKS Initiative.
- Ineligible uses of NY BRICKS funds include, but are not limited to:
 - Working capital, including funds required to operate a facility, such as staff, rent, utilities, internal labor, and supplies.
 - Preliminary planning, market studies, and similar activities.
 - Grant writing, administration, legal, insurance and other fees.
 - Minor repairs or routine maintenance projects.
 - Long term debt, including financing of machinery or equipment.
 - Support of any Project that is part of an existing or proposed tax credit structure or other similarly structured financing arrangement.
 - Acquisition of real property.

- Proceeds of NY BRICKS Grants cannot be used to reimburse costs incurred on or before April 1, 2026.

4.5 Prequalification Requirement:

- Not-for-profit Entities must receive approved Prequalification status prior to the submission of their Application and remain Prequalified through the execution of the Grant Disbursement Agreement and payment of all requisitions. Any other status will be treated as not Prequalified.
- Not-for-profit entities must first register as a “vendor” in SFS prior to applying for prequalification.
- Not-for-profit Entities that are not in Prequalified status will be ineligible for a NY BRICKS grant and will not be reviewed or scored.
- Please note that once any Prequalification Application is opened, it should be completed and submitted as quickly as possible. Otherwise, the status may be reflected as “In Review” or “Application in Progress” and will not be considered Prequalified for purposes of this Funding Opportunity, EVEN IF the organization had previously been in Prequalified status.
- Prequalification in the Statewide Financial System (SFS) may take several weeks to complete. Applicants are advised to start the process as soon as possible to allow ample time to complete the Prequalification process prior to submitting the NY BRICKS Application, including all follow-up inquiries from the prequalifying State Agency.
- Required documentation to be filed with SFS to obtain Prequalification status includes:
 - the organization’s IRS Determination Letter,
 - Incorporation or Charter Documentation,
 - IRS 990,
 - NYS CHAR 500,
 - Organization Bylaws,
 - Organization Board of Directors Profile,
 - Organization Executive leadership Resumes,
 - Organization Financial Statements, and
 - Organization Chart.
- Applicants with questions regarding the SFS Prequalification or registration should review the recorded prequalification webinar linked here: [Live Webinars | Grants Management](#).
- Applicants should also review the following:
 - If the Applicant is already set-up as a vendor in SFS but is having trouble logging in because they cannot find their Vendor ID, or they cannot find their

enrollment email, questions should be directed to the SFS Desk at Helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov

- If the Applicant is already a vendor in SFS but is not Prequalified currently, this video can be viewed for additional instructions on how to navigate and prequalify in SFS: [Prequalification](#)
- If the Applicant requires an SFS vendor ID to prequalify, additional information can be found at: <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/register-your-organization-sfs>. The Applicant will need to complete a Substitute W-9 and Grants Management Registration Form and submit it to grantsmanagement@its.ny.gov. Questions regarding the registration form can be directed to grantsmanagement@its.ny.gov.
- For other resources, follow this link to Grants Management in SFS: [NYS Grants Management: Resources for Grant Applicants/Help Using SFS \(non-profits\)](#).

Section Five: COMMUNITY NEED AND PROJECT PLANNING

NYS OPRHP will then review the “**Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning for NY BRICKS**.”

All Applicants must complete the “**Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning for NY BRICKS**,” (part of **Appendix 2**). Only a maximum of 40 points may be awarded based upon the responses to these Worksheets.

Community Need Category – Worksheet 1

- A minimum of 20 points in this category is needed to be considered an Underserved Community. **Up to 30 points are available in the Community Need category as described below.**
- Follow the instructions labeled “Using the ‘Grants Map for Unplug & Play FY27” to identify the project location and assign points for Community Need.
- NYS OPRHP will score based on the following:
 - 0-20 to assess the poverty level associated with the project location.
 - The Poverty by ZCTA 2024 layer on the map will identify the Percent Below Poverty Level for your project location. Enter that information into the “**Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning for NY BRICKS**,” then use the Point Breakdown for Poverty Level Table to assign points associated with the designated Percent Poverty and multiply by 2 to determine the “Total Score for ZCTA”.
 - Up to 5 additional points may be added if the project location is designated as a Disadvantaged Community (DAC).

Using the Census Tracts–Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) layer on the map, identify the 11-digit Census Tract code and

enter on the Worksheet. If the project location is designated as a DAC, enter “5” on the Worksheet.

- Up to 5 additional points may be added if the project location is designated as an ESD Distressed Community.
 - The ESD Distressed Communities (2026) layer on the map, will identify the location’s “Distress level description”, enter the value associated with the designation on the Worksheet.

Project Planning Category – Worksheet 2

NYS OPRHP will evaluate applications based on the extent to which it demonstrates evidence of planning for the proposed Project. For purposes of this RFA, “evidence of planning” shall mean design documents related to the proposed Project.

Acceptable evidence of planning includes the cover page and table of contents of:

- Construction Documents, and/or
- Design Development Documents, and/or
- Schematic Design Documents.

Any design document submitted must be accompanied by a signed and dated letter from the designer of record on business letterhead that indicates the most advanced stage of design.

Scoring Tiers:

- 20 Points:
 - Applicant submits Construction Documents that are directly relevant to the proposed Project and a signed letter from the designer of record
- 10 Points:
 - Applicant submits Design Development Documents that are directly relevant to the proposed Project and a signed letter from the designer of record
- 5 Points:
 - Applicant submits Schematic Design Documents that are directly relevant to the proposed Project and a signed letter from the designer of record
- 0 points:
 - Applicant fails to submit meaningful evidence of planning; or
 - Submitted materials are general in nature, unrelated to the proposed Project, or are incomplete.

Total Score of Community Need and Project Planning – Worksheet 3

- Applications satisfying the requirements of Step One and with a combined total score of 31 or more for Community Need and Project Planning (**Worksheet 3**) will proceed to Project Impact and Project Viability Scoring in Step Three.

- In addition, Applicants who scored 20 or more points on Community Need (**Worksheet 1**) will be deemed “Underserved Communities.”
- Only a maximum of 40 points may be awarded based upon the total Score found in **Worksheet 3**. Eligible Applications with a total score of Community Need and Project Planning of more than 40 points will be capped at the maximum score of 40 points.

Section Six: PROJECT IMPACT AND PROJECT VIABILITY

6.1 Project Impact - maximum score up to 20 points

NYS OPRHP will review and score all Eligible Applications based upon the qualitative aspects of the Project.

- Reviewers will review the Applications and award 0-20 points based upon Applicant-submitted responses and supporting documentation describing the impact for the community to be served by the proposed Project.
- A score of 0 or 1 shall be awarded based upon the response to each project impact question set forth in the Application attached to this RFA as **Appendix 2**. There are 20 questions.

6.2 Project Viability - maximum score up to 40 points

DASNY will review and score all Eligible Applications based upon evidence of construction readiness and the evidence of committed funding sources in an amount sufficient to complete the Project as described.

Construction Readiness (0-8 points)

- Reviewers will review the Eligible Applications and award 0-8 points based upon the level of preparation and planning that has taken place to create the Project.
- Applicants should provide a description or evidence of steps taken to in furtherance of the Project, including obtaining permits, undertaking the State Environmental Quality Review process, retaining a design professional, obtaining zoning or planning board approval, or possessing architectural/engineering plans, construction documents or other indicia of shovel-readiness.

Financial Review (0-32 points):

Reviewers will review the Eligible Applications and award 0-32 points based upon the degree to which the Applicant has prepared a Project budget and secured the funds necessary to complete the Eligible Project. The most competitive Eligible Applications will demonstrate committed funding in the amount necessary to fully fund the Project.

- **Project Budget (0-10 points)**

- Provide construction documents from a qualified professional, quotes, proposals, estimates, and/or budget for the Project setting forth the Project components, cost information, and other pertinent details.
- The most competitive applications will provide a budget prepared by a design professional within the past six months. Reminder: Project Costs cannot be financed through long-term debt, bonds, or other long-term financial instruments, or from a tax credit structure or other similarly structured financing arrangement. Please review Section 4.3 above, and the FAQs included with this RFA, for important information regarding tax credit structures.
- **Committed Funding Sources (0-22 points)**
 - Applicants must demonstrate the availability of funds necessary to complete the Project beyond the requested grant amount, including Matching Funds where applicable.
 - Up to an additional 2 points will be awarded to Applications demonstrating other committed sources of funding awarded by New York State.
 - The financial review will evaluate all committed funds considering the requirements set forth below.
 - Documentation for committed funding sources may include, but is not limited to:
 - Bank or investment account statements
 - Recently audited financial statements
 - Donor pledges, agreements, or receipts
 - Grant award letters, agreements, or contracts
 - Loan agreements or commitment letters, including terms and conditions
 - Bond documentation
 - Personal service contracts
 - Bills of sale or paid invoices demonstrating payment by the Applicant after April 1, 2026 for an Eligible Project Cost
 - Pledges or award letters with unsatisfied contingencies, pending loan applications, and other non-final commitments **will not** be considered secured funding for evaluation purposes.
 - If all funds necessary to complete the Project have not been secured at the time of application, Applicants must provide documentation of the committed funding to date and description of how the remaining funds will be obtained.

Section Seven: APPLICATION TIMELINE

7.1 Informational Webinar and Question Period

- A Webinar video will be posted on the NYS OPRHP and DASNY Grant Administration Websites by 9/14/2026. This video will address questions and clarify specific elements of the RFA announcement.
- Prior to the Webinar date, ensure thorough review of this RFA and all Appendices for all requirements.
- To maintain a fair and open process, NYS OPRHP and DASNY will only accept questions regarding this RFA received via SurveyMonkey. The SurveyMonkey form can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYBRICKS2026>. Please send all questions no later than 3:00 p.m. 9/30/2026.
- Questions of a substantive nature submitted prior to 9/7/2026 will be addressed on the Applicant Webinar Video, where applicable.
- Questions received after the Webinar Video has been posted and prior to 3:00 p.m. on 9/30/2026 will be addressed on the [NYS OPRHP website](#) and DASNY ([Grant Administration](#) | [DASNY](#)) websites on 10/26/2026.

7.2 Application Submission

All Applications must be submitted through the [DASNY Grants Application Portal](#) (“the Portal”) before 3:00 PM EST on the Application Deadline listed in Section 1.4.

The DASNY Grants Application Portal Webinar can be viewed [here](#).

Applicants should follow the steps below to submit an Application:

1. Read this RFA before beginning.
 - Applicants should review the full RFA, including all Appendices, before starting an Application.
 - **Appendix 1** describes the information and documents that will be needed to complete the Application; **it is not an application**.
 - Applicants do not need all materials before starting the Application; and can gather materials and return to the Portal to resume working on the Application at any time during the DASNY Grants Application Portal Submission Period (“submission period”).
2. Access the Application in the [DASNY Grants Application Portal](#)
 - Create a DASNY Power Apps Portal Account
 - Applicants should go to the Portal and create an account. Applicants are encouraged to create an account well in advance of the application deadline. Applicants will enter First (Given) Name, Last (Surname) Name, email, organization, title, and a password.
 - DASNY uses Multifactor Authentication (MFA) to protect Portal accounts and data. When creating an account, Applicants will be asked to enter a phone number. Applicants should enter a phone number that will always be reliably accessible, as MFA will be required each time an Applicant attempts login.

- Creating a Portal Account does not mean that an application has been created or submitted.
- Create an Organizational Profile
 - Applicants will enter all information and documents as set forth in **Appendix 1**, Section 1.
- Start and Save the Application
 - Applicants will enter all information and documents as set forth in **Appendix 1**, Sections 2-7, **Appendix 2**, and **Appendix 3**.
 - Applicants should “save” work often. Applicants can exit the Portal and later resume the Application, with progress retained, at any time during the submission period.
 - Applicants are expected to return to the Portal multiple times as information and supporting documents are gathered and available. Where supporting documentation is required, the Portal will prompt the Applicant to upload the appropriate files as PDFs. NOTE: Individual files are limited to 32Mb.
- Review and Submit
 - Before submitting, Applicants should review the Application to confirm all sections are completed and all required documents have been uploaded.
 - When ready, the Applicant should open the saved Application, confirm submission in the dropdown, and select “Submit Final Application” at the bottom of the form.
 - Once submitted, no changes or additions can be made. Applicants should not submit until the Application is complete.
 - After submission, Applicants will receive an email confirming the application has been submitted.

Applicants experiencing **technical problems** accessing or using the Portal should contact portalhelp@dasny.org (DASNY Portal Help). All other RFA requirements and restrictions remain in effect.

7.3 Important Notices for Application Submission

- It is the Applicant’s responsibility to submit a complete Application with all supporting documentation to be considered during the evaluation process. **Only the materials submitted with the Application will be evaluated and there will not be an opportunity to amend the submitted Application after submission.**
- Neither DASNY nor NYS OPRHP will contact the Applicant for any reason during the review process, including but not limited to:
 - requesting additional or explanatory information;
 - informing an Applicant that the application is incomplete; nor
 - informing an Applicant that incorrect documentation has been provided.

- Only Applications meeting the Eligible Application requirements will proceed to be scored further. Therefore, if one or more of the requested eligibility items is not included, there will be no opportunity to provide the items at a later time, and the Application will not be deemed Eligible.
- Applications will be scored solely based upon information submitted. If documentation required for a scoring category is not provided, the Application will receive no points in that category.
- Neither DASNY nor NYS OPRHP assumes responsibility for technical or submission issues on the part of the Applicant, incompatibility between the Applicant's and DASNY's operating systems, or otherwise late applications.

Other Resources:

- "Using the 'Grants Map for Unplug & Play FY27' for FY2027" Instructions, included with Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning for NY BRICKS" (part of **Appendix 2**).
- "Grants Map for Unplug & Play FY27" for FY 2027
- NYS Disadvantaged Communities – Climate Act Website
- NYS GIS Clearinghouse Data Website

7.4 Issuance of Award Letters

- NY BRICKS Awards will be announced after all Eligible Applications have been scored by NYS OPRHP and DASNY
- Awards will be announced no earlier than February 26, 2027.
- After the announcement, DASNY will issue an Award Letter to the Awardees and manage the award process.
- The Award Letter is not a commitment to provide funds but shall constitute a commitment on the part of DASNY to enter into a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) in the form attached hereto, subject to compliance with the conditions precedent set forth in this RFA, the Award Letter and the GDA.

7.5 Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA)

- A sample GDA is set forth as **Appendix 6** to this RFA. Note that the following apply:
 - All contracts for the work to be performed in connection with the Project are required to be entered into by the Grantee and signed by an Authorized Officer of the Grantee.
 - Eligible Projects must comply with all State and local laws and regulations at all times.
 - Eligible Project Costs are required to be paid directly by the Grantee.
- All conditions precedent must be satisfied before DASNY will enter into a GDA with the Grantee.
- The GDA is not effective until fully executed by the Grantee and DASNY.

- No NY BRICKS Grant funds will be disbursed until the GDA is fully executed.
 - Applicants should review **Appendix 7**: “GDA Prerequisites and Instructions” to confirm they will be able to meet these requirements should they be awarded a NY BRICKS Grant.
 - GDA terms and conditions are non-negotiable.

Section Eight: RIGHTS RESERVED

NYS OPRHP and DASNY reserve the right to:

- Amend this RFA if necessary and post updated information to the NYS OPRHP and DASNY websites;
- Reject any or all Applications received in response to this RFA;
- Disqualify any Applicant or Awardee at any time for not meeting all eligibility requirements;
- Withdraw the RFA at any time in the sole discretion of NYS OPRHP and DASNY;
- Withdraw the award if: (i) the grant administration process is delayed in excess of six (6) months due to non-responsiveness; (ii) inability of the Awardee to provide the documentation required for the successful administration of the NY BRICKS Grant award (e.g., site control documentation, financial documentation); and/or (iii) Awardee fails to provide documentation required to prepare a Grant Disbursement Agreement or fails to execute a Grant Disbursement Agreement within six (6) months from date of award. No Applicant will have any rights against NYS OPRHP or DASNY arising from such actions;
- Exclude ineligible expenses from the NY BRICKS Grant amount requested and adjust the grant award as necessary;
- Consider Applications submitted in response to this RFA that were not initially funded in the event of NY BRICKS award forfeiture(s). Updated information may be requested as deemed necessary by NYS OPRHP or DASNY;
- Request additional information from the Applicants as required prior to entering into a GDA; and
- Solicit and accept new Applications if additional NY BRICKS funding becomes available.