



New York Places for Learning, Activity, and Youth Socialization (NY PLAYS)

Informational Webinar
February 13, 2026



Disclaimer

This applicant webinar is for informational purposes only. The information provided is intended to provide general guidance with respect to the application process and the NY PLAYS program and should not be construed as final approval or disapproval of any particular project or project costs.

Potential Applicants must read the Request for Applications (RFA) to determine whether a project meets the requirements set forth in the enabling NY PLAYS legislation and RFA and would therefore be eligible for a NY PLAYS grant.



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RFA Timeline

<u>Event:</u>	<u>Date:</u>
Funding Opportunity Announcement.....	1/06/2026
Open Application Question Period Begins.....	1/06/2026
 Applicant Webinar.....	2/13/2026
Deadline to Submit Questions.....	2/23/2026
Answers Posted By.....	3/03/2026
Application Submission Period.....	5/04/26 – 6/15/2026
Application Scoring	6/16/26 – 7/31/2026
Awards Announced No Earlier Than.....	8/03/2026



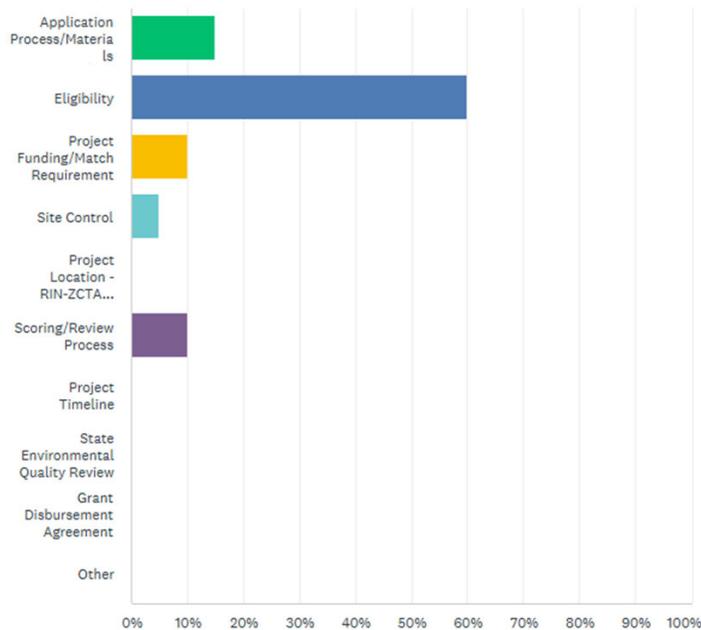
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Survey Questions to date by Category

NY PLAYS Survey Questions



The SurveyMonkey site will remain open until 2/23/2026.

Questions received after the Webinar Video has been posted and prior to 3:00 p.m. on 2/23/2026 will be addressed on the NYS OPRHP website and DASNY (Grant Administration | DASNY) websites on 3/03/2026.



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Program Overview



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New York Places for Learning, Activity, and Youth Socialization (NY PLAYS)

NY PLAYS is part of Governor Hochul's Unplug and Play Initiative, which also includes the NY BRICKS and NY SWIMS Programs.

This RFA solely focuses on the NY PLAYS Program. The NY BRICKS and NY SWIMS application windows are now closed.

NY PLAYS, overseen by NYS OPRHP and administered by DASNY, will create a competitive Grant program to facilitate the design, construction, and renovation of Playgrounds that are open to the public in communities across New York State.

NY PLAYS Grants can be used to fund the acquisition, design, construction, major renovation, and equipping of a Playground, along with other related capital costs necessary to effectuate the NY PLAYS Initiative.



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NY PLAYS Available Funding

The 2025-2026 Enacted Budget included \$67.5 million in capital funding for the NY PLAYS Initiative to be awarded to Municipalities and Not-for-profit Entities through a competitive grant program.

NY PLAYS will prioritize Playgrounds Statewide and achieve an overall allocation of at least \$35 million in NY PLAYS awards to Underserved Communities as defined in the RFA.

Eligible Applicants may apply for grants between \$100,000 and \$2,500,000 from three different funding levels based on the scope: Creation of a new playground, major expansion, or renovation of an existing playground.



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NY PLAYS Priority Levels

Priority	Application Project Purpose Priority	Targeted Funding for Grant Funding Level*
1	New Playground	\$30,000,000
2	Major Expansion of an existing Playground	\$20,000,000
3	Renovation of an existing Playground	\$15,000,000
	Sum of Priority Levels 1-3	\$65,000,000
	Base Pool amount allocable to grant applications across all levels after initial scoring	\$2,500,000
	Total	\$67,500,000

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 PLAYS grant awards. No partial Grants will be awarded.



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Review of the Request for Applications (RFA)

- RFA Information
- Eligible Organizations
- Eligible Projects
- RFA Key Points



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NY PLAYS RFA Information

The link for the RFA Information can be found here: DASNY.ORG/PLAYS and includes the following:

[NY PLAYS RFA](#)

[Appendix 1- NY PLAYS Application](#)

[Appendix 2- Certificate of Municipal Site Control](#)

[Appendix 3- NY PLAYS FAQs](#)

[Appendix 4- NY PLAYS Sample Grant Disbursement Agreement](#)

[Appendix 5- GDA Prerequisites and Instructions](#)

[Appendix 6- NY PLAYS Scoring Matrix](#)



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NY PLAYS – Eligible Organizations

NY PLAYS is open to any eligible Municipality or Not-for-profit in New York State that has a Playground project as defined in the NY PLAYS RFA.

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

Not-for profit Entity: A not-for-profit organization that is duly incorporated with New York State Department of State or chartered by the State of New York, including independent and private schools. Not-for-profit entity applicants must be prequalified at the time of application.

To be eligible to receive NY PLAYS funding, the applicant organization must be the entity that:

- has site control over the project location;
- is entering into all contracts to undertake the project;
- pays for all of the costs of the project in the first instance; and
- provides the local match and any remaining funding needed to complete the project.

Any project that is utilizing or participating in a tax credit structure of any kind is not eligible to receive NY PLAYS funding.



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NY PLAYS– Eligible Projects

- Interested Applicants may apply for a NY PLAYS Grant to reimburse for acquisition, design, construction, major renovation, and equipping of a Playground, along with other related Capital Costs necessary to effectuate the NY PLAYS Initiative.

Ancillary Costs: Costs for improvements related to a Playground project but not included in the definition of a Playground for this RFA, and not eligible for funding under this grant.

Ancillary Cost may be counted towards the Grantee's required 20% matching contribution.

Ancillary costs may include, but are not limited to: Athletic playing fields, athletic courts, splash pads, nature trails, bike paths, or parking lots and related architectural and engineering fees.



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NY PLAYS – Eligible Projects Cont.

Proceeds of NY PLAYS Grants cannot be used to reimburse costs incurred on or before April 1, 2025. Such costs must meet all of the requirements of the NY PLAYS Program as outlined in the NY PLAYS RFA and must be documented to the satisfaction of NYS OPRHP and DASNY.



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NY PLAYS RFA Key Points

NY PLAYS is open to Municipalities and Prequalified Not-for-Profit Entities across New York State.

NY PLAYS requires Applicants to contribute 20% of the project's total capital costs in matching funds.

- Matching Funds can come from the Applicant's own funds, select other grants, or loans.
- Most NYS grants can be eligible to be used as a match for NY PLAYS. However, some funding opportunities will not permit their awardees to use those grant funds as a match to another State grant program.
 - The State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM) does not allow the use of SAM funds as a match to any other State program.
 - The Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program (NICIP) forbids combining NICIP funds with any other State funding, regardless of source.
 - Municipal Parks and Recreation grant awards (MPR) cannot be used as a match for NY PLAYS
 - PLAYS applicants should verify their funding is eligible to be used as a match to the NY PLAYS Grant.**
- NY PLAYS Grants **cannot** reimburse project costs that were paid in the first instance with long term debt.
- NY PLAYS Grants may be used to reimburse project costs that were paid in the first instance with the proceeds of short-term debt or bridge financing.



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NY PLAYS RFA Key Points Cont.

All NY PLAYS applications will be subject to a Three-Step Review and Scoring Process.

1. Applicants must meet the minimum eligibility requirements set forth in Section Four of the NY PLAYS RFA to move forward to Step Two.

2. Applicants must complete the Worksheets attached to the NY PLAYS Application. Worksheet 1 uses four criteria to measure Community Need. Any application with a score of 20 or higher on this Worksheet will be considered part of the pool of Underserved Communities.

NY PLAYS RFA Key Points, cont.

Worksheet 2 is an indicator of the total planning that has been developed to date for the proposed project. Applications with formal planning histories can receive 20 points on this Worksheet.

Worksheet 3 combines the values assigned between Worksheets 1 & 2. **Applications with a combined score on Worksheet 3 of a 20 or greater will advance to Step Three of Scoring.**

3. A Scoring team made up of members from NYS OPRHP and DASNY will evaluate the Applications for Project Impact and Project Viability. Applications will be awarded up to an additional 60 points for a maximum 100 available points.

Applications must obtain at least a score of 70 to be considered for a NY PLAYS grant.

As noted in an earlier slide, NY PLAYS grants will be awarded in three funding levels and a minimum of \$35 million will be awarded to Playground projects in Underserved Communities.



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Guidelines for Submitting a Complete Application

- Application Checklist
- Prequalification in SFS
- Site Control
- Project Budget
- Project Costs & Funding
- Application Worksheets
- Application Submission
- Questions through 2/23/2026



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NY PLAYS Application Checklist

All NY PLAYS Applications must include the following:

- ✓ Prequalification in the Statewide Financial System for all *not-for-profit applicants*.
- ✓ Detailed description of the capital project, including:
 - location, purpose and project impact.
- ✓ **All** Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning
- ✓ Deed, Lease, or Certificate of Municipal Site Control
- ✓ Completed project budget, accompanied by:
 - Project estimates from a qualified professional
 - Documentation of Committed funding for the Match AND to complete the Project

- ✓ **DOCUMENTATION WILL NOT BE REVIEWED UNLESS IT IS ATTACHED TO THE SAME EMAIL AS THE APPLICATION. FAILURE TO SUBMIT ALL REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION WILL RESULT IN A LOWER SCORE AND COULD DEEM APPLICATION INELIGIBLE TO ADVANCE TO SCORING.**



Prequalification in New York State's Grants Management System in SFS

The Statewide Financial System (SFS) is critical to a State entity's administration of a grant program and a mandatory requirement for any not-for-profit organization's receipt of New York State public funds.



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Prequalification in SFS, cont.

Registration and Prequalification has been required since 2013.

As of January 2024, all grants management functions have been incorporated into the NYS Statewide Financial System, or SFS.

SFS Prequalification is used by all State entities to verify that a potential funding recipient meets the minimum State standards for their organization's structure, operations and policies before they can be considered for receipt of public funds.

DASNY is **required** to verify prequalification a **minimum** of three times:

- Prior to completing our reviews on a grant project;
- Prior to executing our Grant Disbursement Agreement; and
- Prior to authorizing any reimbursement request(s).



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Prequalification in SFS, cont.

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 first step is to register an organization in SFS.

Send a complete Grants Management Registration Form for Statewide Financial System (SFS) Vendors and accompanying documentation where required by email to grantsmanagement@its.ny.gov.

It can take 5-10 business days from the receipt of registration materials to process an organization's registration in SFS. It is important that organizations complete this step as soon as possible so they will be able to act on future grant opportunities as soon as they are announced.

All organizations are notified by email once their registration is complete.

If you need technical assistance with registration, please email the SFS helpdesk at:
helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov



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Prequalification in SFS, cont.

After registering as a vendor, Not-for-profit organizations then must apply for Prequalification.

The process allows not-for-profits to address questions and concerns prior to entering a competitive bid process or requesting funding.

[Get Prequalified | Grants Management](#)

Not-for-profits are strongly encouraged to begin the Prequalification process as soon as possible. ***Prequalification includes answering basic questions regarding the organization and uploading key organizational documents.***

New York State reserves 5-10 business days from the receipt of complete Prequalification applications to conduct its review. If supplementary information or updates are required, review times will be longer. Due to the length of time this process could take to complete, it is advised that not-for-profits Prequalify as soon as possible. Failure to successfully complete the Prequalification process may result in a grant application being disqualified or delaying an existing grant's processing.

For technical assistance with Prequalification, please email the SFS helpdesk at:
helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov



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Prequalification in SFS, cont.

The required questions in the Prequalification Application are used to assess the nonprofit's organizational capacity, organizational compliance, and organizational integrity.

Documents that **must** be uploaded into SFS include:

- Certificate of Incorporation or equivalent document
- DBA Certificate (if applicable)
- IRS 501(c) determination letter
- IRS 990
- Audit/Reviews and Findings
- CHAR500 or CHAR410
- Board of Directors Profile
- Senior Leadership Resumes
- Corporate Bylaws
- Organization Chart



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Helpful Resources in SFS

A variety of resources are available to assist with Prequalification.

A complete overview of the policy, questions, and required documents can be found in the Grantee Prequalification Manual

[New York State Prequalification Manual For Grantees](#)

Applicants should visit the [Grant Management Homepage](#) and review the resources available to assist with Prequalification.

If you are registered in SFS, but do not have access to SFS, or if your Primary Contact is unable to reset your password, please contact the [SFS Help Desk](#) at Helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov



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Site Control over the Project Location

Site Control is evidence that proves an organization has sufficient authorization to undertake the proposed project and control of the proposed project location to ensure they will be able to utilize the asset developed or improved by the capital funding for the expected useful life of the project.

Site control should always be in the applicant's full legal name - the same that is on file with the IRS and their incorporation documentation filed with New York State.

A deed, with the legal name of the organization as the owner, is the perfect site control documentation. Outright ownership is the ultimate evidence of control over the project location.

Organizations that lease their project location can receive State capital funding so long as they can demonstrate sufficient site control over their project location.



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Site Control, cont.

Appendix 2

CERTIFICATE OF MUNICIPAL SITE CONTROL

We, the undersigned, an Authorized Officer of the _____ and the Municipal Attorney for _____ under the penalties of perjury, hereby certify, warrant, represent and confirm to the DORMITORY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK ("DASNY"), the following:

- 1) The _____ is a municipal corporation constituting a county, town, city or village within the meaning of §2 of Article 1 of the General Municipal Law.
- 2) The _____ has applied for a Grant and acknowledges that Grant funds may be used only for certain purposes as set forth in the Grant's enabling legislation.
- 3) The Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) to be entered into by and between the _____ and DASNY shall require the Grantee to certify that _____ has the requisite control over the Project Site.
- 4) The Grant project will be located at the following **Project Site**:

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 Town / Village: _____
 County: _____

- 5) The fee title of the Project Site is owned by the Grantee (**choose one**):
 - Pursuant to deed identifying the Grantee as the fee owner, which deed was recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of _____.
 - Pursuant to Executive or Legislative action granting title. **Provide citation:** _____
 - As referenced by a copy of the most recent tax bill provided by the tax assessor's office which indicates ownership of the Project Site is vested in the Grantee, **attached hereto**.
 - The Project Site will be located within a right of way or easement under the jurisdiction of the Grantee.
- 6) The Grant project to be constructed, built, reconstructed and/or operated and located on the Project Site is permitted by, does not and will not conflict with, or result in a breach of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under any deed restriction, encumbrance, restrictive covenant, agreement, easement and/or other lien. The Grant project shall comply in all respects with any and all applicable governmental laws, rules, regulations and ordinances.

- 7) Applicant further warrants and represents:
 - a. There are no actions pending or threatened which may affect title to the Project Site or which may affect Applicant's ability to complete the Grant project.
 - b. There are no judgments filed against the Applicant or any liens filed against the Project Site or any portion thereto; and
 - c. There are no facts or circumstances which could affect title to the Project Site that have not been set forth herein.
- 8) We understand and agree that it is the Applicant's responsibility to comply with all deed restrictions, restrictive covenants, encumbrances, easements and other liens and any applicable laws, rules, regulations or ordinances concerning the Project Site.
- 9) We understand that the State of New York, DASNY and other entities that may be involved in the Grant process are relying on the above representations in making the determination whether to award a Grant to the Grantee and as an inducement to enter into the Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA).
- 10) We have the authority to submit this certification on behalf of the Applicant.

Please sign and return this document to DASNY by either signing pen to paper and sending the pdf OR by typing your full name into signature line(s) below as indicated. Please return these documents to NYPLAYS@dasny.org from the Applicant's organizational email address and retain the original copies for production to DASNY if requested. By providing electronic signature(s), the Applicant's designee will be providing validly binding legal documents, just the same as a pen-and-paper signature.

Applicant: _____

By: Name (sign or type): _____	By: Name (sign or type): _____
Name (print or type): _____	Name (print or type): _____
Title: Authorized Officer	Title: Municipal Attorney
Dated: _____	Dated: _____

Municipalities can submit a completed **Certificate of Municipal Site Control** with their applications for any project location owned by the Municipality.

This Certificate is [Appendix 2](#) of the NY PLAYS RFA.

If a Municipality leases their playground location, then they would need to submit their lease or other site control documentation.



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Site Control, cont.

For all organizations that lease their project location, a full lease, with the organization's legal name as tenant, will be required. That includes not only the lease, but any exhibits, amendments or attachments mentioned in the main portion of the lease. ***These should always be included when providing a copy of the lease or the Application will not proceed to scoring.***

Leased project locations will be required to have a minimum term of ten (10) years remaining on the lease at the time of application.

The term of the lease will be verified during NY PLAYS scoring and review of the application, but it will also be verified prior to an awarded grant's contract execution.

Leased project locations also require a tenant to include their landlord's approval for the proposed project with their NY PLAYS application. The approval letter must be signed, and on the landlord's or realty company's letterhead.

If the NY PLAYS Grant will be used to acquire real property to be used as a Project, the Applicant must provide an executed contract of sale and an appraisal of the property undertaken in accordance with USPAP standards.

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.



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Avoid these Site Control Mistakes!

Here are some past mistakes to avoid as they've disqualified competitive grant applications in the past:

- Stated on their application that site control didn't apply to them;
- Provided a lease amendment, but not the actual lease;
- Provided only the first page and not the entire document;
- Provided an option to have a lease if they got the grant funding;
- Provided a lease with a different address than the project location;
- Provided a lease with a different entity as tenant;
- Provided a lease with a term that doesn't meet the minimum requirements. (10 years for NY PLAYS);
- Stated they would get an actual lease, if it was 'really necessary';
- Provided a Board Resolution to take out a mortgage, but no deed;
- Provided a parcel map, but no deed;
- Provided receipt for payment of insurance, but no deed;
- Provided a contract of sale for a future date, but no deed;
- Provided a mortgage statement, but no deed;
- Provided an opportunity for tax waiver, but no deed;
- Provided a deed with a different entity as owner; and/or
- Provided a deed where the applicant organization transferred the property to another entity



NY PLAYS Project Budget

The proposed project budget is one of the most integral parts of any grant application.

When completing the Project Budget portion of the NY PLAYS Application, (Page 4 of RFA [Appendix 1](#)), Applicants will need to know what tasks are involved in their proposed NY PLAYS project and how much they will cost to complete.

- Are there any pre-construction costs like design and engineering?
- Does the budget include all phases of construction – Landscaping, drainage, solid surfacing, earthwork, etc.?
- Are there post-construction costs like fixtures and furniture?
- Will equipment be part of the overall budget?
- Does the total budget also account for non-capital or soft costs?

NY PLAYS requires a local match, so the math in the project budget matters as it will drive how much match funding a project will need. A wrong number in a project budget could make an application look like it needs a higher than required match.

The NY PLAYS Scoring Matrix, (RFA [Appendix 6](#)), shows how points will be assigned to the budget portion of an application. It will also show how the budget corresponds to the cost estimates and other funding for the project, which we will discuss in later slides. If these sections of an application don't align, the application will likely lose points.



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Verification of Project Costs

A successful NY PLAYS application will provide qualified cost estimates for all the components of the proposed project.

- Qualified estimates are those provided by a professional source, on letterhead, detailing the work to be performed and the estimated cost.
- A total project estimate can be generated by an architect, engineer or general contractor. Alternatively, each segregated task of the project can have its own estimate – Electrical, concrete, plumbing, paving, framing and the like.
- Websites can be used to quote the proposed costs for things like equipment that can often be purchased via the internet. Be certain the website page(s) submitted with the application contains the name of the site and the date the page was saved.
- All cost estimates should be as recent as possible to reflect an accurate representation of what the project will cost to complete in the current time. They should be no more than six months old at the time the application is submitted.
- If portion(s) of the project are already complete, invoices can also be used to substantiate the total cost along with estimates for work yet to be performed.



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Verification of Project Funding

Regardless of the size of the NY PLAYS grant requested, successful NY PLAYS applications will verify they have the financial resources to fully complete the proposed project.

- Any funding needed in addition to the grant amount requested should be identified in the project budget. This includes project costs that are not eligible to be reimbursed with grant funds as well as the required local or grantee match.
- Organizations can use the following to verify they have the necessary funds in its possession:
 - Bank or audited financial statements;
 - Formally adopted budgets with the funding line for the project highlighted;
 - Board Resolutions;
 - Donor pledges, agreements and receipts;
 - Paid invoices, etc. evidencing payment of costs by the applicant after 4/1/2025 for eligible project costs;
 - Other grant award letters, agreements and contracts, (public or private);
 - Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes; and/or
 - Loan agreements, commitment letters, terms and conditions



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NY PLAYS Application Worksheets for Community Need & Project Planning

There are three separate Worksheets all applicants must complete before they begin their NY PLAYS Application:

1. Calculating Community Need – Use the Grants Map for Unplug & Play Programs to help complete this Worksheet.
2. Calculating Project Planning – Use Organizational documents for this Worksheet
3. Total Rating for Community Need & Project Planning – Combine the results of Worksheets 1 & 2.

Complete all three worksheets and then transfer the results to the NY PLAYS Application.



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Using the Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2026

Use the “[Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs](#),” an online, layered map, to answer questions for the NY PLAYS application Worksheet 1.

Identify location information for your project location:

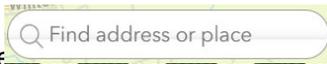
- ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) and Poverty data
- Relative Index of Needs (RIN)
- Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and census tract ID numbers, or
- Distressed Communities.

The map is made up of several layers. Layered files allow users to turn data layers on and off. It is recommended that you select only a few layers at a time to avoid a lengthy wait for data to load.

Most icons on the map allow you to hover your mouse over them to view text describing that tool.

Answer Questions for your project location using the Grants Map

1. Enter the street address, city, and state for your project location into the Find Address search box. Click the magnifying glass to search or select the appropriate address if it is in the search results drop-down box that generates results as you type.



If your project location does not have a street address, select the zoom in or zoom out tools (as needed) which will magnify or minimize portions of the map. Then, click and drag the map to enter your project location.



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Using the Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2026, cont.

2. If your project location has a street address, view the marked location on the map. If it is incorrect, try zooming in or out to find your project location on the map.
3. To identify any of the features listed above (Poverty by ZCTA, DAC, Distressed Communities, etc.), use the layers tool. Click on the list of Layers tool . Select the layer that you wish to view for your project location such as Poverty by ZCTA, 2023 ACS (ACS=American Community Survey). The boundaries for the Zip Code Tabulation Areas will then appear on the map. If you do not see anything added, try zooming out to see the boundaries. The map legend tool will show you which layer you are viewing based on the color of the boundaries or shading. See table right. Close the List of Layers box by clicking the x in the upper right-hand corner of that box.
4. Once the boundaries appear, click on the point marking your project location. Note the ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) and the Percent Below Poverty Level (%) for your project location and enter that information into the related Applicant Worksheet of the application.

Open and close the map legend
⌵ ✕

Poverty by ZCTA 2023



Census Tracts - Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)

 Not Designated as DAC

 Designated as DAC

ESD Distressed Communities (2025)

 Severely Distressed

 Moderately Distressed

 Slightly Distressed

 Not Distressed

Poverty by ZCTA 2023 ACS: 12207

  Zoom to

ZCTA	12207
Population	2,073
Population Below Poverty Level	901
Percent Below Poverty Level	44



Using the Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2026, cont.

5. **Census Tract 11-digit ID# and Designation as a Disadvantaged Community (DAC)**

Census Tract # 36001001100 is Designated as DAC

Census Tract **36001001100** is **Designated as DAC**

This Tract covering **Albany city** has a population of **1,573.00**

Environmental Burden is higher than **97%** of Census Tracts statewide
Population Vulnerability is higher

- Stress Description from ESD Distressed Communities data**

ESD Distressed Communities - ESD DistressedCommunities 2025: 11

Shape__Area	2,003,595.70
Shape__Length	8,130.90
StressDescription	Moderately Distressed
StressLevel	2.00
TRACTCE	001100

6. To view other features, go back to the List of Layers tool. Uncheck the box for the layer(s) you already viewed. Select another layer that you wish to identify for your project location. The boundaries of that feature will then be added to the map. Once the boundaries appear, click on the point marking your project location to view the data associated with that layer. Record the requested information on the Applicant Worksheet.



Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need & Project Planning for NY PLAYS

Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning for NY PLAYS

All worksheets must be entirely completed.

Applicant Name

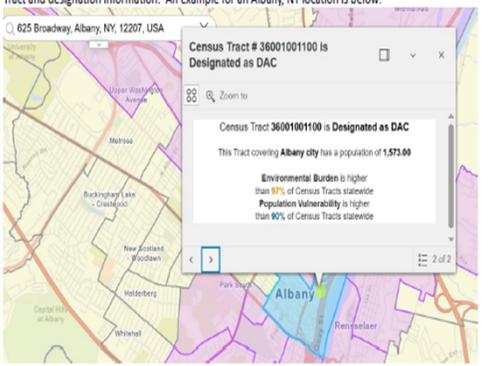
WORKSHEET 1: CALCULATING COMMUNITY NEED

To complete Worksheet 1, follow instructions found in "Using the Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs" for FY 2026". The map can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/3t6htnd5>

RATING CATEGORY: COMMUNITY NEED																											
Sub-category: Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) Points from "Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2026" (Max. 10 pts.)																											
Percent Below Poverty Level From "Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2026"	A.																										
Points for Poverty Level from Point Breakdown Chart	B.																										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">POINT BREAKDOWN FOR POVERTY LEVEL</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Percent Poverty</th> <th>Points</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>0 - 3.2</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>3.3 - 4.7</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>4.8 - 6.5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>6.6 - 8.4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>8.5 - 10.0</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>10.1 - 11.7</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>11.8 - 13.7</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>13.8 - 17.4</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>17.5 - 18.7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>18.8 - 19.9</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>20+</td><td>10</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	POINT BREAKDOWN FOR POVERTY LEVEL		Percent Poverty	Points	0 - 3.2	0	3.3 - 4.7	1	4.8 - 6.5	2	6.6 - 8.4	3	8.5 - 10.0	4	10.1 - 11.7	5	11.8 - 13.7	6	13.8 - 17.4	7	17.5 - 18.7	8	18.8 - 19.9	9	20+	10	
POINT BREAKDOWN FOR POVERTY LEVEL																											
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11.8 - 13.7	6																										
13.8 - 17.4	7																										
17.5 - 18.7	8																										
18.8 - 19.9	9																										
20+	10																										
Sub-category: Relative Index of Need (RIN) Points (Max. 10 pts.)																											
County of Project Location	C.																										
Using the Relative Index of Need (RIN) Table, list the Need Level for "Park."	D.																										
Subtotal Community Need Score= Box B + Box D	E.																										

Page 1 of 5

Once the project location is identified on the interactive map, capture a screen view image that includes Census Tract and designation information. An example for an Albany, NY location is below:



Enter the 11-digit Census Tract identification code found on the interactive map on the line:

If the project location is designated as a DAC enter "5" in Box D. All others enter "0".

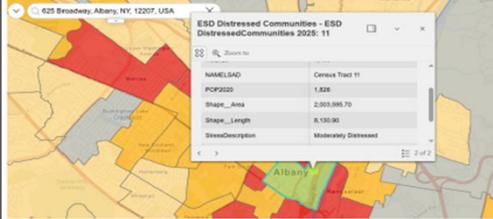
Additional information concerning NYS Disadvantaged Communities ("DACs") is available on the Climate Act website (<https://climate.ny.gov/Resources/Disadvantaged-Communities-Criteria>).

Sub-category: ESD Distressed Community Designation from "Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2026"

Use the "Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2026" to identify the project location to determine a designation. Use the search icon within the map to enter a specific project location address.

Once the project location is identified on the interactive map, capture a screen view image that includes Census Tract and Stress Description designation information. An example for 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207 is below:

Page 2 of 5



Considering the project location, enter the score value associated with the designation.

- If Severely Distressed enter "5" in Box E.
- If Moderately Distressed enter "3" in Box E.
- If Slightly Distressed enter "1" in Box E.
- If Not Distressed enter "0" in Box E.

Additional information concerning the ESD Distressed Communities is available at the NYS GIS Clearinghouse Data website (<https://data.gis.ny.gov/datasets/sharegismy/esd-distressed-communities/about>).

COMMUNITY NEED SCORE SUBTOTAL= Box C + Box D + Box E

If an applicant's "Community Need" score is 20 or higher, the project will be considered part of the pool of underserved communities.

Page 3 of 5



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Historic Preservation



36

Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need & Project Planning for NY PLAYS

WORKSHEET 2: CALCULATING PROJECT PLANNING

Applicant Name

SECTION: PROJECT PLANNING (Max. 20 pts.)

Can you provide evidence of the Project being planned? If Yes, attach evidence of planning efforts for the Project which may include, but are not limited to, explicit reference to a NY PLAYS-eligible project in a Master Plan, a Strategic Plan, a Needs Assessment, a Facilities Assessment/Condition Report, a Space Utilization Study, a Feasibility Study, a Capital Campaign Plan, a report of Community Engagement Findings, a Business or Operations Plan, Board Resolution, etc.

I.

If Yes, enter "20" in Box I. If No, enter "0" in Box I.

PROJECT PLANNING SCORE SUBTOTAL= Box J

J.

WORKSHEET 3: TOTAL SCORE FOR COMMUNITY NEED AND PROJECT PLANNING

Applicant Name

TOTAL COMMUNITY NEED AND PROJECT PLANNING SCORE= Box H on page 3 + Box J on page 4

If the value of the total score is greater than 40, enter "40" in Box K.

K.



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Relative Index of Needs (RIN)

OPRHP maintains a computerized database, the Recreation Facilities Inventory System (RFIS), in principle lists all known outdoor recreation sites in the state. This information can be transformed into a numerical value, which equals the optimal number of people who can participate in each activity at a given site, also known as the recreation capacity. When aggregated, the capacity across sites for a given geographic area is the recreation supply.

Recreation demand is measured in terms of recreation activity days, equal to the number of participants for an activity, multiplied by the number of days per year each participant does the activity. Demand is also aggregated by county for each of the various measured outdoor activities.

Once all the supply and demand calculations for each county are completed, a single number is calculated for each activity, which indicates the ratio of demand to supply. This number, known as the relative index of need (RIN), is calculated by taking the projected ratio of recreation demand to supply, expressing it as a ratio of the statewide average, and translating it to a value on a scale of 1 to 10. Note that:

- The higher the value, the greater the need. A figure of three or less indicates that the county-wide recreation needs for a given activity are generally being met—but even in these cases there may exist pockets of recreation deficiency. This number provides information on where recreationists live and how often they participate.
- A value of four or greater indicates a need for additional recreation sites within a county. Need may reflect the lack of facilities, or that new facilities need to be constructed to take the place of older ones, which deteriorate or close.

- Much recreation involves travel, including travel across county lines. The RIN therefore also considers the fact that people travel for recreation, by using information on the location of parks and other recreation facilities. Using data on the quantity of recreation amenities at various destinations, with an estimate of an individual's resistance to traveling for a particular activity, it is possible to calculate how much activity takes place at various destinations. Comparing the number of future visitors at the destination counties with the availability of present facilities helps to project the present and future needs for both new and rehabilitated facilities.
- While RIN figures are valuable in looking at the big picture, often the number presented for the county represents an average for the county and the actual need is not homogeneous within a county. For example, a county may have a river or other natural resource with limited facilities, that attracts greater numbers of visitors, while having largely undeveloped areas elsewhere in the county (that satisfy the recreational needs in those locations). The county-wide figure would consider both areas. It would over-estimate the needs in certain areas of the county and underestimate it in others. Nonetheless, an index of need is relevant in comparing one county to another.

Due to the limitations of the 2018 PORS, an alternate means is utilized for grant rating purposes to provide a RIN at the county level. In these cases, an estimated RIN can be calculated on an ad hoc basis using information from the available RIN table. For instance, if a RIN figure was needed for ATV activity, its value might be estimated by averaging the values of snowmobiling with hiking. While ATV use is distinct from both activities, there are certain commonalities. ATV use appeals to participants who enjoy using vehicles to explore the outdoors and, at the same time, often requires the availability of trails such as those that are enjoyed when hiking.

This approach, while not optimal, provides an approximation of real-world needs. If this methodology is applied, the inputs will be determined by OPRHP and maintained for future use so that figures are applied consistently through time.

The RIN is a valuable tool to determine need for facilities at geographic areas over the next five to ten years, but other factors can and should be considered for any final decisions.



Relative Index of Needs (RIN)

Table 3.10 – Relative Index of Needs (RIN)

County	Park	Swim	Bike	Golf	Court	Field	Walk	Camp	Fish	Boat	LocW	DnSki	SnM	Hunt	Equine
Albany	4	9	6	7	8	5	5	4	7	7	7	10	6	5	4
Allegany	9	5	3	3	4	4	4	10	5	3	6	3	4	4	4
Bronx	10	5	10	4	5	6	8	4	6	10	3	9	10	7	8
Broome	4	4	5	5	6	4	5	4	4	3	4	5	5	5	4
Cattaraugus	3	5	3	7	5	4	2	4	4	2	10	4	4	4	3
Cayuga	5	4	3	4	6	4	4	5	4	4	10	4	4	4	3
Chautauqua	4	5	3	9	8	6	5	5	4	4	6	4	4	4	4
Chemung	5	8	4	4	6	5	6	4	7	2	7	3	4	4	3
Chenango	4	5	3	3	5	3	3	4	4	3	7	5	4	4	3
Clinton	3	3	3	4	6	4	3	4	4	4	6	2	4	4	2
Columbia	3	3	4	2	9	3	3	5	4	3	4	4	5	5	3
Cortland	4	6	3	3	3	6	4	4	4	3	10	6	4	4	3
Delaware	6	4	4	5	3	3	2	7	4	3	4	6	5	4	3
Dutchess	5	6	5	9	5	4	5	6	5	6	10	6	5	4	4
Erie	3	6	7	7	9	5	8	5	6	6	8	6	5	5	4
Essex	3	3	3	4	7	4	2	3	4	3	3	2	4	4	2
Franklin	4	4	3	3	9	6	3	3	3	3	2	4	4	4	4
Fulton	3	5	4	4	5	3	10	4	5	4	9	9	5	4	3
Genesee	4	6	4	4	6	4	3	10	5	4	4	3	4	4	3
Greene	4	7	4	6	4	5	4	6	7	5	10	5	5	5	3
Hamilton	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	2	4	3	2	3	4	4	2
Herkimer	4	4	3	3	7	6	4	5	4	3	10	5	4	4	3
Jefferson	4	3	3	6	4	3	3	4	3	3	5	4	4	4	3
Kings	10	6	10	5	5	7	10	4	6	10	3	10	10	7	8
Lewis	4	2	3	3	3	2	3	5	4	3	9	3	4	4	3
Livingston	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	3
Madison	6	3	3	3	4	7	2	3	5	4	7	5	4	4	3
Monroe	4	6	7	5	10	5	8	3	5	5	3	5	5	5	5
Montgomery	6	3	4	3	4	3	4	6	4	3	4	3	5	4	3
Nassau	6	6	9	6	5	4	8	4	7	8	3	8	10	7	5
New York	10	6	10	5	5	7	9	4	6	5	3	8	10	7	8
Niagara	3	4	5	5	6	3	5	3	4	5	6	5	4	4	4
Oneida	4	5	4	6	7	5	6	6	5	4	10	6	4	4	3
Onondaga	4	5	5	7	6	4	4	3	5	5	8	8	5	5	3
Ontario	6	5	4	4	10	6	6	6	5	3	10	5	4	4	3
Orange	6	8	6	6	8	7	4	6	6	4	9	8	7	5	5
Orleans	4	7	3	4	5	6	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	3
Oswego	5	4	4	5	9	6	4	7	4	5	8	4	4	4	3
Otsego	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	5	4	3	4	5	5	4	3
Putnam	6	6	6	3	5	6	3	4	6	5	6	5	7	5	4
Queens	10	6	10	5	5	6	9	5	6	8	2	9	10	7	8

(cont.)

Table 3.10 – Relative Index of Needs (RIN) (cont.)

County	Park	Swim	Bike	Golf	Court	Field	Walk	Camp	Fish	Boat	LocW	DnSki	SnM	Hunt	Equine
Rensselaer	5	5	5	9	6	7	4	9	5	4	8	3	5	5	3
Richmond	9	5	10	4	4	5	8	4	5	6	3	8	10	7	8
Rockland	5	5	8	5	7	5	4	3	5	8	3	5	8	6	4
St. Lawrence	4	4	3	5	4	5	3	3	4	3	6	9	4	4	4
Saratoga	4	5	5	5	7	4	5	7	5	4	7	2	5	4	4
Schenectady	10	4	5	5	8	4	8	4	5	4	9	4	5	5	4
Schoharie	4	3	3	2	3	3	5	7	4	4	9	3	5	4	3
Schuyler	3	4	3	2	3	3	4	4	5	7	3	4	4	4	3
Seneca	2	3	3	3	4	2	3	3	4	3	3	2	4	4	3
Steuben	4	6	3	4	7	3	4	4	5	4	10	4	4	4	4
Suffolk	5	6	8	6	7	5	5	4	6	8	5	9	10	6	4
Sullivan	4	6	4	6	6	5	2	7	6	4	10	8	5	4	2
Tioga	9	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	9	4	4	4	4
Tompkins	4	5	4	4	8	3	3	4	4	3	7	5	4	4	4
Ulster	7	5	5	4	10	6	3	6	6	6	10	5	6	5	5
Warren	3	4	4	5	5	3	5	4	5	4	4	3	4	4	3
Washington	4	3	3	4	5	3	3	2	4	4	6	2	4	4	3
Wayne	5	3	4	4	5	4	8	3	4	4	6	4	4	4	4
Westchester	6	5	8	7	6	5	3	4	5	7	2	7	8	6	4
Wyoming	3	8	3	4	7	7	5	4	6	4	10	3	4	4	4
Yates	4	6	3	2	8	4	6	4	5	3	10	4	4	4	5



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Relative Index of Needs (RIN) Continued.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE RELATIVE INDEX OF NEED (RIN) TABLE

Park Relaxing in the park, picnicking, playground use, visiting nature areas and gardens, croquet, dog parks, etc.

Swim Outdoor swimming, either in a pool (public or private), lake, ocean or river

Bike Bicycling/mountain bikes whether on trails, established paths, off-road or on highways

Golf Golfing on either regulation 18 or 9-hole including miniature golf, driving ranges, pitch and putt

Court Court games, includes basketball, handball, tennis, racquetball, pickleball

Field Field sports, includes baseball, football, soccer and disc golf

Walk Walking for enjoyment/jogging/running on paths and trails, and day hiking

Camp Camping includes tenting, primitive, RV, cabins, backpacking/long distance hiking

Fish Fishing from land, by boat, or ice fishing

Boat Boating includes canoeing, kayaking, sailing, motorboating, row boating, paddle boarding, jet skiing, etc.

LocW Local winter activities include ice skating, cross country skiing and snowshoeing

DnSki Downhill winter sports includes skiing, snowboarding, ski boarding, telemark, etc.

SnM Snowmobiling

Hunt Hunting big and small game

Equine Equestrian activities, dressage, show jumping, polo, trail riding



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NY PLAYS Application – Fillable PDF

**APPLICATION
NEW YORK PLACES FOR LEARNING, ACTIVITY, and
YOUTH SOCIALIZATION
(NY PLAYS)**

PLEASE REFER TO THE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS AND INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY TO FULLY RESPOND TO EACH QUESTION IN THIS APPLICATION

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Applicant Organization

Type of Applicant: Municipality Not-for-profit Entity

Legal Name (and d/b/a if applicable): _____

Mailing Address (not P.O. Box): _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip Code: _____

Federal Taxpayer ID: _____

NYS Charities Registration # (if applicable): _____

Statewide Financial System (SFS) Vendor ID # _____

Not-for-profit Entities must be prequalified in SFS in the name of the Applicant at the time the Application is submitted; otherwise, the Application will be deemed ineligible and will not be scored further.

B. Primary Contact(s):

Name(s): _____

Title(s): _____

Phone #(s): _____ Alt Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

SECTION 2: PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Purpose Priority (select one)

New Playground including acquisition of property and plans for a new playground

Major Expansion of an Existing Playground

Renovation of an Existing Playground

2. Project Location including Project Address, Zip Code, and County

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

3. Community Need and Project Planning:

Use the included Applicant Worksheets to complete this section. If answering 'Yes' on Worksheet 2, attach evidence of planning for the Project. Refer to Sections Four and Five of the RFA for details.

Worksheet 1 Score + Worksheet 2 Score = Worksheet 3 Score

Applicants with a Worksheet 3 score (total of Worksheet 1 and Worksheet 2) of 19 or below will be deemed ineligible and will not be scored further.

4. Site Control to demonstrate that Applicant has sufficient authorization and control to undertake the Project at the Project location. Refer to Sections Four and Five of the RFA for details.

Does the Applicant: Own Lease Pending Acquisition

Attach site control documentation in the form of a Certificate of Municipal Site Control, deed, full lease/rental agreement and formal landlord approval, or for acquisitions, executed contract of sale and appraisal. All leases must be in the name of the Applicant, for the Project Location described in Question 2, and have at least ten years remaining from date the Application is submitted.

If appropriate site control is not provided, the Application will not be Eligible for a Grant and will not be scored further.

5. Project Start Date: _____ Anticipated Date of Project Completion: _____

6. Description - Please attach a detailed narrative of the specific capital project that will be undertaken and funded pursuant to this Application. Please check the box to confirm narrative has been provided.

7. Total PLAYS funding requested: _____

Please refer to Section Three of the RFA and verify that you are applying for the correct Application Project Purpose Priority and Grant Funding Level. Please note the following consistent with #1 of this Section:

Priority 1 – New Playgrounds

Priority 2 – Major Expansions of an existing Playground

Priority 3 – Renovation of an existing Playground.

8. Please provide the Total Project Cost for this project. The NY PLAYS Program will require a 20% match. (PLAYS Grant Requested + Required Match Amount + Other Funding = Total Project Cost)

\$ _____ + \$ _____ + \$ _____ = \$ _____ Total

9. Will the Applicant be the entity entering into contracts and paying project related costs? If no, please describe on a separate sheet what other entity is entering into contracts and paying costs of the Project and explain the relationship between the Applicant and the other entity.

No Yes

10. Please specify the environmental or regulatory permits required for this project. If none, reply NA:

Have they been secured? If no, please specify why: No Yes NA



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NY PLAYS Application – Scoring Matrix – Appendix 6

Read and review the NY PLAYS Scoring Matrix, (RFA [Appendix 6](#)), before and after you complete a NY PLAYS Application.

The Scoring Matrix outlines what the NY PLAYS Scoring and Review team will be looking for in a NY PLAYS Application.

This ‘answer sheet’ clearly outlines what will pass or fail an Application in the eligibility review. It will also outline the points value of every Application category and what will garner the most points for a submitted Application.

Incomplete applications may be automatically failed and not advanced to scoring.



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NY PLAYS Application Submission

1. **Start now.** Don't wait until the last minute to prepare & submit your application.
2. **Not-for profit entities must receive approved prequalification status prior to submitting their application.**
3. **Gather the information you will need for your application:**
 - Site Control;
 - Cost Estimates;
 - Match and additional funding sources; and
 - Evidence of formal project planning
4. **Double Check your application before you submit it:**
 - Did you complete every section?
 - Did you sign the application?
 - Did you use any additional sheets for any portion of your application? Are they clearly labeled?
 - Are your attachments ready to be attached to your Application - i.e. saved as PDFs?
5. **Have you named each and every document you will submit w/ your Application? For example:**
 - Town of Anytown – PLAYS Application
 - Town of Anytown – PLAYS Site Control
 - Town of Anytown – Cost Estimates
 - Town of Anytown – Committed Funding



NY PLAYS App. Submission, cont.

NY PLAYS Applications must be submitted by email to: NYPLAYS@DASNY.ORG

Include “**PLAYS Application**” in the email subject line.

File size limit should not exceed 112 MB for messages outside Microsoft datacenters, and 150 MB between Microsoft users.

If your email system secures your attachments, please be sure to grant access to NYPLAYS@DASNY.ORG

Anything received via another email, postal delivery, or facsimile **will not be accepted**, and no notification will be provided to the Applicant.

The Application Submission Period for NY PLAYS is from **5/4/2026 through 6/15/2026**.

All NY PLAYS Applications must be received **no later than 3:00 pm on 6/15/2026**.

NY PLAYS Applications received after the due date will not be considered.



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Still have NY PLAYS– Questions?

Please send all questions no later than 3:00 pm on 2/23/2026 to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYPLAYS>

Responses to all survey questions received by 2/23/2026 will be posted on the DASNY website by 3/3/2026.

Technical issues with sending an Application may be reported to NYPLAYS@DASNY.org, but there is no guarantee that an issue can be resolved in the final hours of the submission window.



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**Thank you for
your interest in NY
PLAYS.**

**Good Luck to all
Applicants!**



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