

| NY PLAYS - Public Questions & Answers  |   |   |
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| Please select the category that best describes the nature of your question (Categories are based on the sections of the RFA) | Please enter your question in the box below   | Answer  |
| Application Process/Materials  | In Section 5: Project Budget, the application form is missing fields in the total row. Can these be added? Can fill-in fields also be added to the worksheets?  | The project budget form has been updated.   |
| Application Process/Materials  | Our organization is working on a comprehensive renovation of an iconic New York City performance park. As a part of this renovation, scope may include a water feature for all to use and play in, with sprinklers, natural structures (climbing rocks, etc.) and a skim of water to splash in. There are no 'traditional' playground structures being used (i.e., monkey bars, swings, etc.) Would a splash pad of this sort be eligible under the RFA's guidelines? | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA for the definition of Ancillary Costs. Splash pads are considered an Ancillary Cost and not eligible for funding under this Grant. Ancillary Costs may be counted toward the Grantee's required 20% matching funds.   |
| Eligibility  | Are schools eligible to apply for these funds?  | Yes. The NY PLAYS RFA includes public school districts as Eligible Applicants under the definition of "Municipality" and independent and private schools as Eligible Applicants under the definition of "Not-for-profit Entity". Please refer to Section Two for definitions and Section Four for Eligible Applicants.  |
| Eligibility  | Can a fitness area for teens be considered an eligible expense?   | As long as the equipment described is part of the playground project, it would be eligible. If the proposed project is to install standalone equipment that is not part of a playground project, including if it were installed along a trail, then it would not meet the definition of a playground as presented in the RFA. For the purposes of the NY PLAYS Initiative, a playground shall mean a designated, improved outdoor space, either built or natural, that is designed, equipped, and set aside to provide opportunities for physical, social, and imaginative play for youth of all abilities. |
| Eligibility  | Can a nonprofit organization serve as the applicant while partnering with the municipality that owns the property, with the municipality retaining ownership of the property? If so, what type of agreement would need to be provided between the municipality and the nonprofit?   | Yes. An agreement would be needed to demonstrate site control. Examples of such agreements include leases, license agreements, etc.   |
| Eligibility  | Can an IDA apply on behalf of a municipality?   | No, IDAs are not eligible entities for NY PLAYS.  |
| Eligibility  | Can NY PLAYS grant funding be used in tandem with other state grant funding? For example, if a project was funded by another state program years ago, but costs have since gone up and can no longer cover the project in full.   | 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. Municipal Parks and Recreation grant awards (MPR) cannot be used as a match for NY PLAYS.  |
| Eligibility  | Can outdoor fitness equipment like parallel bars, pull-up stations, sit-up benches, etc., qualify as an eligible expenditure, or would that be considered an ancillary cost?  | As long as the equipment described is part of the playground project, it would be eligible. If the proposed project is to install standalone equipment that is not part of a playground project, including if it were installed along a trail, then it would not meet the definition of a playground as presented in the RFA. For the purposes of the NY PLAYS Initiative, a playground shall mean a designated, improved outdoor space, either built or natural, that is designed, equipped, and set aside to provide opportunities for physical, social, and imaginative play for youth of all abilities. |
| Eligibility  | Can you please confirm if work such as excavation/removals, disposal of contaminated materials, pollution remediation, and utility work that is necessary to construct the playground is considered an eligible expense?  | If the Project is to construct a new playground and the actions described in the question are required to be completed in order to construct the new playground, then the actions could be eligible. Applicants should provide a description or evidence of the steps taken 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.               |
| Eligibility  | DASNY Play NY Grants, can they be used for Swimming Pools and Spray Parks   | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA for the definition of Ancillary Costs. Swimming pools and splash pads are considered an Ancillary Cost and not eligible for funding under this Grant. Ancillary Costs may be counted toward the Grantee's required 20% matching funds.  |

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| Eligibility  | Does the capital costs tied to the development fitness park qualify as an eligible project, even if it is generally oriented towards adults? The definition of "Park" provided in the RFA aligns with our proposed fitness park -- except possibly for the "traditional play structures".  | No. Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA for the definition of a playground. "Playground shall mean a designated, improved outdoor space, either built or natural, that is designed, equipped, and set aside to provide opportunities for physical, social, and imaginative play for youth of all abilities." A fitness park does not meet the definition of a playground.  |
| Eligibility  | For NY PLAYS Priority 2 (Major Expansion), does a project count as a "major expansion" if it significantly improves and adds new playground equipment within the existing playground area, even if the overall footprint does not increase, particularly in urban settings where space is limited?   | Based on the description of the Project in the question, the Project would be considered a renovation to an existing playground.   |
| Eligibility  | For school-based playgrounds, does "open to the public" allow access during evenings, weekends, and non-school days, while excluding hours when students are using the playground during the school day?   | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA. "Playgrounds must be open to the public 7 days a week, year-round. Playgrounds must also be free of charge, accessible without additional assistance, and cannot be locked up behind a fence/gate." The playground can be locked overnight (i.e., from dusk until dawn), but otherwise needs to be open to the public.  |
| Eligibility  | For school-based playgrounds, does meeting the "open to the public" requirement depend on having a formal written policy or posted signage, or is it sufficient that the playground is made available to the public outside of school hours as an operational practice?  | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA. "Playgrounds must be open to the public 7 days a week, year-round. Playgrounds must also be free of charge, accessible without additional assistance, and cannot be locked up behind a fence/gate." The playground can be locked overnight (i.e., from dusk until dawn), but otherwise needs to be open to the public.  |
| Eligibility  | Good Afternoon, a County is considering applying for NY PLAYS to acquire and install a playground at a Lake. The Lake is owned by the Park Commission but is operated and managed by the County Parks and Rec via a longstanding cooperative agreement (in effect since 1968). Our question is: does the cooperative agreement meet the site control requirements? It's not a lease or deed but does give the County site control with the County performing all operations and managing the property.   | Specific review of the agreement you described would be required.  |
| Eligibility  | I am writing to confirm eligibility for a potential applicant under the NY PLAYS program. The organization is a 501(c)(3) synagogue in New York State that operates a licensed daycare/nursery school within its facility. The synagogue owns the property where the playground is located. They are considering relocating and replacing an aging playground to a different area of their campus for safety reasons. Before moving forward, I would appreciate your confirmation on the following: Is a privately owned 501(c)(3) synagogue eligible to apply for NY PLAYS funding for a playground located on its property? Does eligibility change if the playground primarily serves children enrolled in the synagogue's daycare/nursery school rather than the general public? | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA. "Playgrounds must be open to the public 7 days a week, year-round. Playgrounds must also be free of charge, accessible without additional assistance, and cannot be locked up behind a fence/gate." The playground can be locked overnight (i.e., from dusk until dawn), but otherwise needs to be open to the public.  |
| Eligibility  | If we propose to use the funding for an acquisition: 1) do we need to include the executed purchase and sale agreement in the application package, or can we apply for the grant with the intent of entering into contract, as long as we have a valid appraisal? 2) Can the application/budget only be for real property acquisition, or does it need to include a construction component? (The scoring matrix seems like it would penalize a project that only includes acquisition and not construction, so it's unclear if this is allowed or encouraged.)   | If the NY PLAYS Grant will be used to acquire real property for use as a playground, the Applicant must provide an executed contract of sale and an appraisal of the property undertaken in accordance with Uniform Standards for Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) standards. 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.   |
| Eligibility  | In the definition of Playground, it says "Playgrounds may be in urban, suburban, or rural settings and can incorporate natural elements like trees, rocks, water, and open grassy areas to enhance exploration and engagement with the environment." In our experience, DASNY doesn't typically reimburse landscape/softscape costs. Does this mean that these kinds of costs are going to be reimbursable under this grant if the playground includes a nature exploration area? Or would these costs need to be covered by the applicant? Would they be eligible as matching costs?  | NY PLAYS will not reimburse costs for landscaping along a nature trail, however if the landscaping is a design element of a playground project, including to provide shade over play areas, as an incorporated feature of the playground, or to restore areas that were disturbed by the construction of the playground project, then it can be an Eligible Cost. Additionally, costs for natural materials, such as boulders and rocks, can be eligible as long as it is described how those materials are implemented into the design of the playground. |
| Eligibility  | Is an IDA an eligible applicant as a public authority and is tax exempt?   | No, IDAs are not eligible entities for NY PLAYS.   |
| Eligibility  | Our project entails full replacement of an antiquated playground at a school district. Is this an eligible project? In the RFA it states that the project "must be for the acquisition, design, construction, major renovation, and equipping of a playground". I just want to make sure that a replacement playground is eligible. Thank you.   | The full replacement of playground equipment for new playground equipment would be considered eligible.  |

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| Eligibility  | Projects that are already in construction; nearing completion but having cost incurred after April 1, 2025 be eligible for this grant?  | For playground projects that are already in construction and would be otherwise eligible, the proceeds of NY PLAYS Grants cannot be used to reimburse costs incurred on or before April 1, 2025.   |
| Eligibility  | The RFA is clear that mulch surfacing is not an eligible expense. Is this also applicable to engineered wood fiber (EWF)? If so would a playground with EWF surfacing still be eligible for funding if the cost of the EWF surfacing were excluded from the budget and covered by the local entity outside of any match requirements.   | Yes, this would be applicable to the engineered wood fiber (EWF). A playground with the EWF would still be eligible for funding however, the EWF material would not be an eligible costs. If the EWF is being paid for with funds that are not the grant funds then this would be acceptable.  |
| Eligibility  | The RFA says "Standalone restroom or pavilion facilities at the Project location may be included as part of the Playground project but must be open to the public." Does this mean that a restroom or pavilion included as part of the project would NOT be considered an ancillary cost?   | This is correct. If the bathroom or pavilion is at the project location it can be included as part of the main project and would not be an ancillary cost.   |
| Eligibility  | The RFA says, "Playgrounds must be open to the public 7 days a week, year-round. Playgrounds must also be free of charge, accessible without additional assistance, and cannot be locked up behind a fence/gate." Our playgrounds and parks are considered closed during late night hours, and some are gated/locked during that time due to illicit activity concerns. Is it an issue for this program if playgrounds are regularly and freely available during morning, afternoon, and evening hours but locked overnight? Must playgrounds funded through this program be unlocked 24/7/365? | The playground can be locked overnight (i.e., from dusk until dawn), but otherwise needs to be open to the public.   |
| Eligibility  | We currently have a playground that is mostly unusable for safety concerns. We would be removing the playground and constructing a new one. Would this fall under a new playground or a renovation of an existing one?  | In this scenario, the project would be considered creating a new playground, as the old playground is being demolished and a new playground is being built.  |
| Eligibility  | Would a picnic area be considered an ancillary cost or eligible cost? Would a plaza or sitting area be considered an ancillary cost or eligible cost?   | If the picnic area is part of the playground project then it would be eligible. The picnic area needs to be proximately located and adjacent to the playground.  |
| Eligibility  | Would stormwater capture or green infrastructure elements (like underground detention tanks, as required by DEC) be considered an eligible cost?  | If the infrastructure are necessary design elements to complete the construction of a playground, then the infrastructure would be eligible.   |
| Grant Disbursement Agreement   | Can this grant be stacked with another NYS grant (OPRHP Parks grant)? A municipality has been awarded a OPRHP Parks grant from the 2025 CFA round, but cannot afford the local match at this time. They are interested in NYPLAYS funds to help lessen their spending.  | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA, where matching funds is defined as "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. Municipal Parks and Recreation grant awards (MPR) cannot be used as a match for NY PLAYS." |
| Other  | According to Project Budget description, it states that project costs cannot be financed through long-term debt, bond or other long-term financial instruments. As a municipality, we were planning on using a bond to finance this project. Does this disqualify us from applying?   | A Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) would be considered short term debt. 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 of the NY PLAYS RFA for more information.  |
| Other  | Are purchase and installation of security cameras also considered capital eligible expenses?  | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA for the definition of Ancillary Costs. Ancillary Costs may be counted toward the Grantee's required 20% matching funds.  |
| Other  | Can matching funds be in the form of in-kind contributions? Can matching funds be in the form of other grant funds?   | Please review section 6.2 of the RFA. Matching Funds must satisfy the requirements set forth below for Additional Committed Funding Sources.   |
| Other  | Can the funding apply to replacement of a concession stand and reconstruction of the bathrooms on the park premises?  | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA for the definition of Ancillary Costs. Ancillary Costs may be counted toward the Grantee's required 20% matching funds.  |
| Other  | How can I receive contact regarding a previous question when there's no contact field included in this survey?  | Questions received prior to 3:00 p.m. on 2/23/2026 will be addressed on the NYS OPRHP and DASNY websites on 3/03/2026.   |
| Other  | This is in regard to the match. Can a municipality pass a Town Board Resolution as evidence of the match? For instance - "RESOLVED, that all encumbrances, appropriations, matching requirements, and expenditures of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of the grant are authorized". Thank you.  | Yes, a resolution like the one described in the question that is passed by the Town Board could be provided as evidence of additional funding for the match.   |

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| Other  | We are considering submitting an application for a playground located at a Child Care Center and seek clarification regarding the definition of a "public playground" under NY PLAYS. For school- or child care-based playgrounds, may public access be limited during weekday hours when children are in session? Is 24-hour access required, or may access be limited to designated hours such as evenings, weekends, and non-session days? Additionally, are there circumstances under which the playground may be secured outside of those designated public access hours? | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA. "Playgrounds must be open to the public 7 days a week, year-round. Playgrounds must also be free of charge, accessible without additional assistance, and cannot be locked up behind a fence/gate." The playground can be locked overnight (i.e., from dusk until dawn), but otherwise needs to be open to the public. |
| Other  | What is my organization's liability should someone get hurt on my property?  | Please discuss this with your insurance agent.  |
| Project Location   | If a private school is awarded NY PLAYS, can the playground be closed to the public during school hours?   | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA. "Playgrounds must be open to the public 7 days a week, year-round. Playgrounds must also be free of charge, accessible without additional assistance, and cannot be locked up behind a fence/gate." The playground can be locked overnight (i.e., from dusk until dawn), but otherwise needs to be open to the public. |
| Project Location   | Are there any stipulations about the playground perimeter (i.e., natural barriers vs fencing)? Could this grant be used for a school-based playground in which hours of play may be restricted to school population only?  | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA. "Playgrounds must be open to the public 7 days a week, year-round. Playgrounds must also be free of charge, accessible without additional assistance, and cannot be locked up behind a fence/gate." The playground can be locked overnight (i.e., from dusk until dawn), but otherwise needs to be open to the public. |
| Project Location   | Can this grant be used in a BOCES location that is not designated as a disadvantaged area even though our student population commute in from disadvantaged areas?  | The project location not being in a disadvantaged area does not disqualify the location from applying for a NY PLAYS grant, but may result in the application being rated lower during scoring.   |
| Project Location   | For purposes of the NY PLAYS application, if a school campus includes multiple playground areas (e.g., separate play spaces for different age groups) located on the same parcel and under the same site control, can these be considered a single "project location" and included within one application, provided they are part of a unified project scope?  | Please refer to the NY PLAYS RFA, section 4.2 that states "Applicants may submit multiple applications; however, each application must be for a single project location. Applications will be reviewed and scored individually."  |
| Project Location   | If a municipality has two different sites, located within the same municipality, may both sites be combined into one application. If not, may the municipality submit two applications, each for a different site?   | Applicants may submit multiple applications, but each application must be for a single project location.  |
| Project Location   | If the project location is on a site belonging to a school, can there be a fence that closes the area during school hours?   | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA. "Playgrounds must be open to the public 7 days a week, year-round. Playgrounds must also be free of charge, accessible without additional assistance, and cannot be locked up behind a fence/gate." The playground can be locked overnight (i.e., from dusk until dawn), but otherwise needs to be open to the public. |
| Project Location   | Our potential project is to build a splash park at our municipally-owned beach. The beach is only open to residents of our municipality (parking sticker permit required). The beach sticker/permit is free for residents. Would this site be eligible for NY Plays funding, given the location is only open to residents and not the broader population?  | Please refer to Section Two of the NY PLAYS RFA. "Playgrounds must be open to the public 7 days a week, year-round. Playgrounds must also be free of charge, accessible without additional assistance, and cannot be locked up behind a fence/gate." The playground can be locked overnight (i.e., from dusk until dawn), but otherwise needs to be open to the public. |
| Project Location   | We'd like to put the playground in an area that is currently wooded and away from the public road. Can we include removing trees and building walking paths and driving roads as ancillary costs and therefore part of the 20% match?  | Yes, removing trees and building walking paths and driving roads could be considered ancillary costs to the construction of a new playground. Ancillary costs count towards part of the 20% match. Evidence that the Applicant/Grantee has sufficient authorization and control to undertake the Project at the project location is required.                           |
| Project Timeline   | Is a State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) required for a new playground project at a school district? If so, does that SEQR take place AFTER grant funds are awarded, or is a requirement of the grant application process?   | The State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) is required for a new playground project at a school district. This review takes place prior to the grant funds being awarded and is a requirement of NY PLAYS.   |
| Project Timeline   | Is there a sample application available now so we can determine if we will score enough points for Worksheets 1 and 3?   | Please refer to <a href="https://www.dasny.org/PLAYS">https://www.dasny.org/PLAYS</a> for the documentation for NY PLAYS.   |

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| Scoring/Review Process   | Can you please offer some guidance or criteria on what would qualify as a "major" expansion vs. a reconstruction of a playground? We often expand the footprint of our playgrounds in reconstruction projects, but it's unclear from the materials if there's a certain percentage, square footage, and/or qualitative programming threshold that would tip a project from reconstruction into major expansion. For example, we often have play equipment/swings areas next to open asphalt/blacktop areas and expand the play equipment into those asphalt areas, or upgrade the asphalt into synthetic turf, skate parks, which doesn't change the footprint of the site, but changes it to other, more engaging uses. Or does an expansion have to be into an area that's currently unbuilt or unprogrammed/not parkland? In the absence of clear criteria for how projects are defined within those two priority levels, if DASNY/OPRHP disagree with an applicant's classification of a project as expansion vs. reconstruction, would that disqualify the application, or would the application be reconsidered under the priority level that DASNY/OPRHP deem more appropriate, assuming the application is otherwise viable? | A major expansion of an existing playground would add more capacity to the existing playground (e.g., as a result of the project, the number of children who can use the facility increases significantly). Renovation of an existing playground would maintain the capacity of the playground and new equipment would be installed to replace existing equipment. |
| State Environmental Quality Review   | Is a SEQR required for a replacement playground at a school district? If so, when in the project timeline does that occur?   | 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 PLAYS Grant.  |