

Adirondack Community Recreation Alliance Innovation Fund

The Alliance is an ad hoc group dedicated to enhancing and developing new community-based recreation assets, increasing a regionally-embraced stewardship ethic, and advancing policies that help secure long-lasting community and economic benefits for Adirondack towns and villages.

We have an integrative vision of recreation-fueled community development and community-enriched recreational development. Persistent challenges require new approaches. We want to support new efforts to drive positive change.

Through the generous support of individual donors, the Alliance has established an Innovation Fund designed to help communities, businesses and non-profits to create or enhance local efforts to increase the community benefit of outdoor recreation.

January, 2022 Call for proposals

The Innovation Fund will fund a small number of grants to advance goals outlined below. Alliance members will also provide additional technical assistance to awardees as necessary. Applicants must complete the application in full to be considered; the application is short and simple.

Guidelines

- Grant request can be up to \$5,000. In unusual circumstances, higher amounts may be funded.
- Those requesting grants may be approached for additional information to make grant review and decisions possible.
- Applicants are encouraged to bring at least 1:1 match to their projects (this can be both cash and in-kind match).
- Award decisions are made at the discretion of the Adirondack Community Recreation Alliance.

Funding criteria

ACRA seeks projects to support that will:

- Have an impact: make measurable/tangible progress towards [multiple ACRA principles](#)
- Be right-sized: With a relatively small amount of funding to distribute, we seek projects where our funding can make a meaningful difference
- Leverage networks and funding: We seek projects that have financial match (either cash or in-kind) and that can support and build networks or institutions that can fuel positive change

Additional considerations include:

- Geographic distribution: we seek projects in diverse communities in the park
- Integration: we seek projects that are components of broader efforts (rather than isolated ones) to leverage maximum return
- Access to Funding: we seek projects whose sponsors may not have access to typical grant funds (including businesses and individuals)

Submission guidelines

Complete applications must consist – at minimum – of a completed proposal and budget. (See proposal template for additional attachment options.)

Applications must be emailed to Leslie Karasin at lkarasin@northernforest.org.

To be considered for a grant award, submissions must be received by 5 PM on Friday, February 25.

Inquiries

Please direct any inquiries to Leslie Karasin at lkarasin@northernforest.org.