

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.

The Northern Forest Center facilitates the Alliance and makes the innovation fund possible through the generous support of individual donors. The Innovation Fund is designed to help communities, businesses and non-profits to create or enhance local efforts to increase the community benefit of outdoor recreation.

January, 2024 Call for proposals

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

This call for proposals is focused on the theme of connectivity and will prioritize projects that specifically advance [ACRA principle #5](#): Recreational Connectivity Rules.

Guidelines

- Grant request can be up to \$3,000. 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 cash and/or in-kind match).
- Award decisions are made at the discretion of the Adirondack Community Recreation Alliance and the Northern Forest Center.

Funding criteria

ACRA seeks projects to support that will:

- Have an impact: make measurable/tangible progress towards at least one, and preferably 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 (cash and/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 and will weigh existing relationships with efforts by the Northern Forest Center and the Alliance.

- Integration: we seek projects that are components of broader efforts (rather than isolated ones) to leverage maximum return.
- Project Readiness: we seek projects that are well-defined and positioned to move forward.

Submission guidelines

Complete applications **must** consist of a completed proposal and budget, at minimum. (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 noon on Friday, January 26.

Considerations for grant awardees

No grant funds will be dispersed without awardees completing certain administrative steps, including submitting a W9 form and having an authorized representative sign a grant award letter. All applicants should be prepared to promptly complete such steps or risk loss of a grant award. All grant funds should be utilized within a year of the grant announcement.

Applicants should be aware that a basic grant report, including photographs or images documenting the project, are required of all awardees. *No grant submissions will be considered from applicants who are not up to date on previous grant reporting.*

Inquiries

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