

Funding Status for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is funded through the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. The apportionment for the 2011 RTP was recently extended through September 30, 2011, the end of the fiscal year. A program summary and pre-application forms and instructions are currently provided on this website at the Recreational Trails Program page.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program funded through the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior is pending funding, passed by Congress, for states to continue the LWCF projects.

When funding for LWCF has been secured, a notice will be posted on this ADECA (Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs) website with instructions for the grant application process. Please check the site periodically to receive updated funding and application information.

In the interim, there are some pre-planning activities that can be conducted prior to making application for RTP and/or LWCF. Below is a list of suggested pre-application activities to strengthen your project before you submit an application for either the RTP or LWCF grant.

- Develop a workable project
 - Identify your recreational needs
 - Identify what you can realistically do
- Obtain public support for you project
 - Identify how your project benefits your community
 - Contact other potential project sponsors
- Develop a plan to involve youth conservation or service corps into your project
 - Applicants are encouraged to use qualified youth conservation or service corps for construction and maintenance of recreational facilities under these programs
- Develop a good project design
 - Consider the project's natural environment. Consider user needs, including use of people with disabilities
- Consider potential problems, such as
 - Environmental impacts – they must be documented and minimized
 - Permits – you may need to obtain various permits prior to submitting your grant proposal
 - Possible public opposition – some people may oppose your project for various reasons, including concerns about property rights, liability, safety, or historical or environmental impact

Use references for pre-planning such as the **Recreational Trails Program, *Program Manual*** and the **SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Program)** available on the ADECA website.