

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION
FUND PROGRAM
FY 2013 Funding Cycle**

STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCY

**Alabama Department of Economic
and Community Affairs**

Jim Byard, Jr., Director
401 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Beatrice M. Forniss, Division Chief
Community & Economic Development Division

Maureen Neighbors, Unit Chief
Community Services Unit

Rob Grant, Recreation & Conservation Programs
Manager

Phone: 334-242-5483 - Fax: 334-242-4203

E-mail: rob.grant@adeca.alabama.gov

(contact by e-mail is preferred)

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
AFTER APRIL 15, 2013**

FUNDING CYCLE

All eligible project sponsors will be notified of the timing and application procedures, in writing, at the beginning of the funding cycle. Pre-applications for FY2013 funding will be accepted until noon on Friday, May 31, 2013, or post marked Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All political subdivisions of the state are eligible to participate in the LWCF program. As such, municipalities, counties, state agencies, and state authorities created by the legislature may apply for LWCF assistance. However, state or local educational institutions are prohibited from participating.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

LWCF assistance can be used to acquire land and water interests for park purposes, develop new outdoor recreation facilities, and, in certain instances, renovate existing recreational facilities. Virtually all public outdoor recreation activities are eligible for assistance under the program including playgrounds, ball fields (including lights [concrete poles only]), court sports, picnic areas, camping areas, tracks, trails, splash pads, zip lines, etc. In addition, support facilities such as concession stands, comfort stations, park access roads, parking areas, utilities, and site preparation necessary to make a recreation activity area usable may qualify for assistance. The project sponsor must either own or have a perpetual interest in land that is developed with LWCF assistance.

MATCHING SHARES

The LWCF program provides 50% matching assistance to project sponsors. The project sponsor may provide the remaining 50% of the project cost in the form of cash or in-kind/donated services. Grant funds are distributed to project sponsors on a cost-reimbursable basis.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program was created in 1965 "...to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations ...such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation..." The LWCF Program provides matching grants to states, and through the states to local governments, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Amount Available (Est):	\$570,000
Max. Grant Amount:	\$50,000
Federal Matching Percentage:	50 Percent
Beginning of Funding Cycle:	4/3/2013
Pre-applications Due:	05/31/2013
Completion Date:	TBD
Selection Method:	Competitive

GRANT LIMIT

The maximum grant size is determined by the amount of the state's apportionment. A maximum grant amount of \$50,000 is anticipated during this funding cycle. However, ADECA may award a lesser amount for a part or all of the items contained in the project scope.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

The following program criteria apply to all applicants seeking LWCF assistance:

- a. Existing outdoor recreation facilities must be owned and managed by an eligible project sponsor; be well maintained; and the need for LWCF assistance documented in Alabama's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
- b. The project sponsor must agree to manage and operate its LWCF assisted site for outdoor recreation purposes **in perpetuity**.
- c. The project sponsor must agree to comply with all other laws, rules and regulations associated with the LWCF program.

FUNDING CRITERIA

The following examples represent the type of criteria that are used to assess the relative merits of project applications submitted for LWCF assistance:

- a. Relative need for the proposed activity in the project service area
- b. Project feasibility
- c. Recreation delivery system
- d. Operation and maintenance of existing recreation facilities
- e. Site location and accessibility

- f. Amount of new acreage being added to the public outdoor recreation trust
- g. Amount of local match over and above the minimum requirement
- h. Degree to which local citizen groups are involved in the development of the project
- i. Degree to which the project furthers the goals outlined in the SCORP

Please note, applications for elaborate facilities, tournament-only facilities, or professional sports facilities are not eligible.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program or require technical assistance in determining project scope or with the application process, please contact Rob Grant whose contact information is listed above. **E-mail communication is preferred.**

Technical assistance prior to pre-application preparation is *strongly recommended*.

An entity may not apply for both RTP and LWCF assistance for the same project without prior approval from ADECA.

PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IF:

1. Entity has an open LWCF or RTP grant (unless the project will be closed out or a waiver is requested and approved prior to May 1, 2013).
2. Entity has unresolved compliance issues from a previous LWCF or RTP grant.
3. Entity did not respond in writing to a LWCF or RTP inspection report which contained deficiencies.
4. Entity has not completed a Plan of Correction for previous compliance issues.