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## **Murphy Administration Announces \$10 Million for Local Recreation Improvement Grants Program**

*Grant Applications Are Now Being Accepted to Improve Community Parks, Recreation  
Centers, and Stadiums*

**TRENTON, NJ** – The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) today announced that its Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is now accepting applications from counties, municipalities, and school districts for Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) funding. The Murphy Administration allocated \$10 million in the fiscal year 2026 state budget to this competitive grant program, which is now in its sixth year supporting the improvement and repair of public recreation facilities including local parks, municipal recreation centers, and local stadiums.

“Public recreation spaces do so much to strengthen community vibrancy and quality of life. Whether its tennis courts, splash pads, bike trails, softball fields, or other recreational resources, these community assets provide people with places to exercise and build social connections through sports and activities,” **said DCA Commissioner Jacquelyn A. Suárez.** “We are happy to again help local governments in developing, upgrading, and maintaining these wonderful facilities that bring enjoyment to so many lives.”

LRIG funds will be awarded to successful grant applicants to help cover costs associated with updating community centers, playgrounds, pools, fields, walking or bicycle trails, rail trails, multi-sport courts, and recreational facilities; one-time external personnel costs directly related to improvements; project development professional services costs; equipment costs including playground and recreation facilities equipment; and environmental remediation costs required to prepare recreation sites for use.

New Jersey counties, municipalities, and school districts are eligible to apply.

To qualify for LRIG funding, applicants must:

- Describe the intended use of grant funding for improvement or repair of a specific local recreation site and identify any previously encountered obstacles to repair or improve the space.

- Demonstrate their capacity to complete the proposed project and provide project management and oversight for all activities and fiscal operations.
- List key personnel and/or consultants who will be managing the grant funds and proposed project.
- Provide a cost breakdown of the project.
- Submit a governing body resolution acknowledging and approving any grant application and the proposed plan or design for the recreation space or community facility for which funding is sought. A sample resolution can be found on the DLGS website at: <https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/lriggrants.shtml>.
- Certify that the property where improvements will be made is owned by the county, municipality, or school district.

Applications must be submitted through the DCA SAGE Portal at <https://dcasage.intelligrants.com/portal.asp>. They are due no later than 5 p.m. on February 13, 2026.

Program guidelines and detailed information about the FY 2026 LRIG Program are available at <https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/lriggrants.shtml> on the DCA website.

DLGS serves as an advocate for local government interests and provides technical and financial assistance in budgeting, financial reporting, joint services, purchasing, and management issues. It is responsible for the financial integrity of all local government units and reviews and approves all municipal, county, and fire district budgets. The Division also reviews many local government financial actions and governs and guides the conduct of local government officials.

DCA offers a wide range of programs and services, including local government management and finance, affordable housing production, fire safety, building safety, community planning and development, disaster recovery and mitigation, and information privacy.

For more information about DCA, visit <https://nj.gov/dca/> or follow the Department on social media:



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