



State of New Jersey

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council
100 North Road (Route 513)
Chester, New Jersey 07930-2322
(908) 879-6737
(908) 879-4205 (fax)
www.nj.gov/njhighlands



NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL Municipal and County Grant Funding

The Highlands Council offers grant funding and assistance to support the development and implementation of a wide range of planning initiatives. Following are some examples of the types of efforts that can be funded for municipalities and counties interested in working with the Council to bring local planning program documents into alignment with the Highlands Act and Regional Master Plan (RMP). An *Initial Assessment Grant* is also available to review local planning program documents and assess existing alignment with the Highlands RMP. Please note that all Highlands Council grant programs are reimbursement-based, and contingent upon available funding and approved Scopes of Work.

Land Use and Development

- **Sustainable Economic Development Planning:** Identify and promote economic initiatives that are in keeping with community character, environmental protection needs and market conditions (including market feasibility analyses, tourism, downtown revitalization planning).
- **Highlands Redevelopment Area Planning:** Identify potential areas appropriate for redevelopment. The designation of a Highlands Redevelopment Area allows certain waivers from the requirements of the RMP and the NJDEP Highlands Rules.
- **Highlands Center Planning:** Identify and provide planning for a Highlands Center Designation plan. A Highlands Center is an area that is recognized as appropriate for growth to support economic balance in the Highlands Region, while protecting critical natural and cultural resources.
- **Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Planning:** Municipal master plan element that provides for, encourages, and promotes the efficient use of natural resources including low impact development, green infrastructure and green building standards.
- **TDR Feasibility Analysis and Implementation:** Demographic/market/financial analyses to determine the feasibility of establishing a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program within a municipality and/or establishing a Highlands TDR Receiving Zone in a municipality. (Available for any municipality in the state)
- **Housing Element and Fair Share Plan:** Prepare and update a municipal Housing Element and Fair Share Plan (not including related legal costs).
- **Municipal Master Plan Reexamination and Updates:** Complete a comprehensive review of municipal master plan and update elements as needed.

Highlands Council Municipal and County Grant Funding

Infrastructure

- **Stormwater Management Planning:** Develop a municipal wide plan incorporating Highlands specific standards, including mapping through the use of an NJDEP app, mitigation and stormwater ordinance provisions.
- **Water Use and Conservation Management Planning:** Identify water usage in the community and offer strategies to reduce consumption and conserve water.
- **Alternative Wastewater Planning:** Develop a wastewater alternative treatment plan, particularly for municipalities currently not served by adequate wastewater treatment facilities or with significant public health and safety issues related to failing individual subsurface disposal systems (septic systems).
- **Wastewater Management Plans:** Develop a Wastewater Management Plan that meets all NJDEP requirements and address all Plan Conformance requirements. In addition, the Highlands Council will interact with NJDEP to expedite their approval of the WMP.
- **Septic System Management/Maintenance Planning:** Address specific water quality issues related to septic density and maintenance, as may be identified in a municipal wastewater management plan.

Resource Management

- **Lake Management Planning:** Identify water quality/quantity issues affecting lakes and develop long- and short-term strategies to protect, restore, and enhance lake aquatic resources to support lake ecosystems, wildlife and human recreational use.
- **Stream Corridor Protection/Restoration Planning:** Identify specific streams and other water bodies that need protection and restoration and provide a plan to implement those initiatives.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** Provides planning and implementation of water quality monitoring for streams, lakes, rivers or groundwater.
- **Habitat Conservation & Management Planning:** Develop municipal- or county-specific guidance on the protection of endangered and threatened species.
- **Forest Stewardship Planning:** Develop municipal- or county-specific plan for the stewardship and management of forests, both public and privately owned. Can include model ordinances for local adoption.
- **Scenic Resource Management Planning:** Identify and develop protections for scenic resources within the municipality.

Highlands Council Municipal and County Grant Funding

Recreation and Preservation

- **Land Preservation & Stewardship Plan:** Identify lands prioritized for preservation and outline strategies for acquisition and stewardship.
- **Farmland Preservation & Agriculture Retention Plan:** Develop a plan for farmland preservation and for improving the viability of the agriculture industry, including but not limited to integrated pest management, value added facilities, agritourism and marketing.
- **Historic Preservation Planning and Cultural Resource Inventory:** Develop municipal, county, or specific historic district preservation plan, archaeological identification and protection plan or cultural resource inventory.
- **Trails and Recreation Planning:** Planning for trails networks and other recreational facilities that further the goals of the RMP and the Highlands Act.
- **Open Space and Highlands Development Credit Purchase Programs:** Matching grants for land preservation projects and a Highlands Development Credit purchase program for the purchase of property development rights.

For additional information, please contact the Highlands Council at (908) 879-6737.