

Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant (ORMG)

Program Guide



**Outdoor
Recreation**
Grants

2026

Introduction

What is the ORMG?

The Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Program (ORMG) was created during the 2025 General Session (H.B. 456). It provides funding to help counties manage the impacts of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conventions.

The program is available to counties in Utah of the third through sixth classes. It provides funding for:

- Reimbursement of emergency services already provided
- Ongoing costs to manage and reduce visitor impacts
- Road repair and improvement projects

Outdoor recreation and tourism bring strong economic benefits to Utah's communities. However, high visitor use can also create public safety demands that exceed local tax revenue. This program helps counties where Transient Room Tax (TRT) funds are not enough to cover those costs.

In administering this grant, the Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) is guided by its mission to:

Ensure health, safety, enjoyment, and economic benefit through life-enriching, high-quality outdoor recreation for all of Utah's residents and visitors.

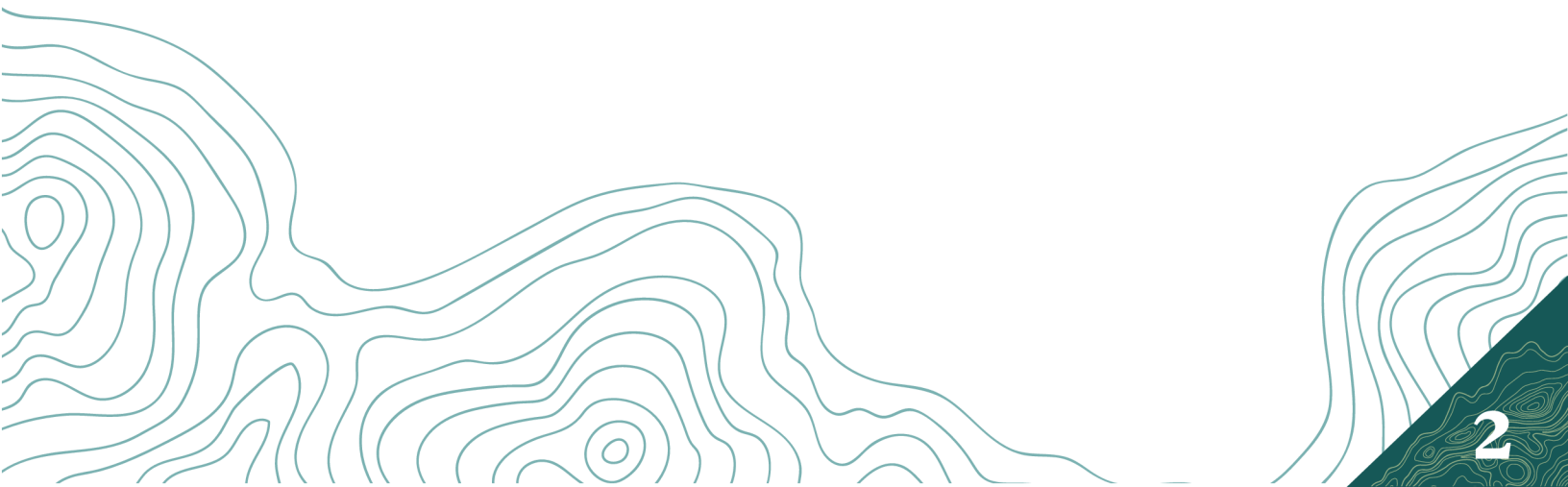
By helping counties address visitor-related emergency and safety needs, the ORMG supports safe, enjoyable, and sustainable outdoor recreation for both residents and visitors.





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Program Overview

2026 ORMG Cycle Dates: July 15th - August 31st, 2026

Eligible Counties

Eligible Counties must meet the following requirements: 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th class counties that are already imposing the maximum allowable rate of TRT, and have generated less than \$10,000,000 in revenue from the imposition of TRT revenue in the previous year.

With the assistance of the *Utah Association of Counties*, we were able to identify the following 22 counties as currently eligible for the programs eligibility requirements.

Figure 1

Utah Map by County Eligible for ORMG

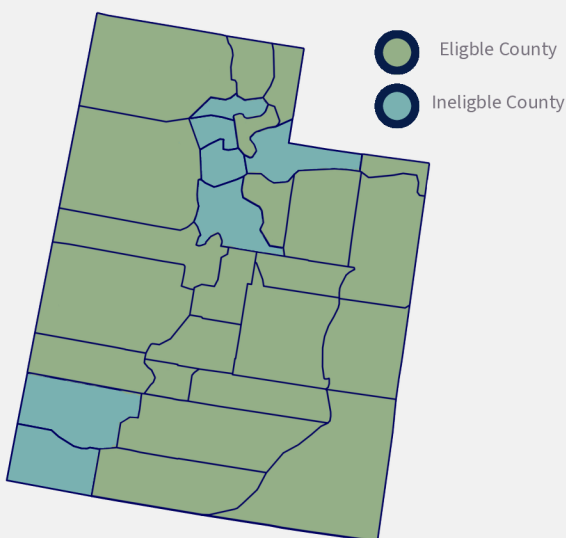


Figure 2

Eligible Counties Chart

Beaver	Millard
Box Elder	Morgan
Cache	Piute
Carbon	Rich
Daggett	San Juan
Duchesne	Sanpete
Emery	Sevier
Garfield	Toole
Grand	Uintah
Juab	Wasatch
Kane	Wayne

One Collaborative County Application

Each eligible county may submit one ORMG application. Because visitor-related costs may affect several county departments and service providers, the application is designed to be completed collaboratively.

Counties should identify a primary contact to coordinate the application and involve representatives from county administration, search and rescue, emergency medical services, law enforcement, solid waste, roads, public works, and special service districts, if applicable. Counties may also pass funding to special service districts that cover eligible mitigation costs.

IMPORTANT: To remain eligible for an ORMG award, counties must be current with all the State Auditor's Office filings and of office beginning January 1st, 2028.

Please also keep in mind that Search and Rescue (SAR), Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Roads departments, Law Enforcement (LE), special districts, etc., will need to collaborate with the county when submitting their applications, as each county can submit only one application. It is recommended that every eligible county apply for all costs listed in the application.

Definition of a Visitor

For purposes of the ORMG Program, a visitor is an individual who travels at least 50 miles one way from home for work or leisure, either for a day trip or an overnight stay.

Important Note:

- *All real, unpaid costs are eligible starting from July 1, 2025.*
- *Costs that have been reimbursed through other programs are ineligible.*
- *There is no min. or max. request within the application.*



**1 Application Per
County**

Eligible Uses of Grant Funds

Funds must be used for documented, visitor-related costs. You must be able to demonstrate a clear connection to recreation impacts rather than routine local operations.

General Eligibility Requirements

ORMG funds may be requested for documented costs that are directly connected to visitors associated with outdoor recreation, tourism, or conventions. Costs must represent visitor-related impacts rather than routine local operations.

Eligible requests may include actual, **unpaid costs incurred on or after July 1, 2025**, as well as anticipated costs, subject to program eligibility requirements and administrative review. **There is no minimum or maximum grant request.**

Applicants must explain the visitor-related impact, the need being addressed, and how each requested expense is connected to that impact.

Eligible Costs and Categories:

Visitor Related-Emergency Costs: These are costs incurred during SAR or EMS operations specifically tied to tourists or recreational visitors.

- **SAR** - Personnel time, equipment use, training, specific to recreation-related SAR needs, and operational expenses for recreation-based incidents.
- **EMS** - Ambulance services, medical supplies, personnel time, and transportation for recreation-based incidents.
- **Emergency Road Repair/Upgrades** - Repairs made to access routes that have been damaged or significantly impacted by high visitor traffic, ensuring that emergency vehicles can reach those in need and maintain public safety or ongoing response capabilities.



Visitor-Related Safety Costs (Preventative) : These costs support proactive measures that reduce visitor-related risks and help prevent emergencies before they occur.

- **Solid Waste Operations** - Handling trash at trailheads, waterways, and access points where unmanaged waste creates health or safety risks.
- **Law Enforcement** - Crowd management, patrol, and incident prevention at high-traffic recreation sites.
- **Safety Road Repair/Upgrades** - Safety-focused repairs or improvements to roads heavily impacted by visitor traffic, including visibility, road condition, durability, traffic flow, and safe access.

Note: Final eligibility determinations are subject to administrative and board review.

Documenting Visitor-Related Costs

The Division recognizes that counties and service providers may use different systems to track visitor-related incidents and costs. During the initial ORMG grant cycles, the Division will accept multiple forms of documentation— provided the applicant clearly explains how the information supports the requested visitor-related costs.

Applicants should use the best information reasonably available and describe how the visitor-related portion of each cost was calculated. Flexibility in documentation does not remove the requirement to demonstrate a clear connection between the requested funding and visitor-related impacts.

Examples of Supporting Documentation

- Search and rescue mission logs and call records
- EMS and emergency-response records
- Dispatch or law enforcement incident data
- Personnel or volunteer timesheets
- Mileage, fuel, and equipment-use logs
- Solid waste collection records and cost estimates
- Road-use or condition information
- Visitation estimates
- Maps and photographs
- Vendor quotes and project estimates

The Division may continue working with counties to develop more consistent reporting practices in future grant cycles. Applicants will be notified of any changes to documentation requirements.

Application Requirements

Applicants must complete all required fields in the online application and upload the required cost ledger and supporting documentation. Costs will be reviewed in two categories:

Reimbursement-Based Costs

SAR and EMS requests will be treated as reimbursement-based costs. Applicants should provide documentation showing:

- The cost being requested for reimbursement
- Who was paid
- When the cost was paid or incurred
- How the cost connects to visitor-related impacts
- Supporting documentation for the requested reimbursement

Estimated Cost Request

Roads, solid waste disposal, and LE requests will be treated as estimated cost requests. Applicants should provide a cost estimate that provides information showing:

- The cost being requested for funding
- How the estimated cost was calculated
- How the cost connects to visitor-related impacts
- Supporting documentation, quotes, estimates, or other records, if available

Figure 3

Suggested Examples Table for ORMG

Suggested Examples of Evidence that Can be Used:
Ledgers - Search & Rescue Call Data, EMS & Emergency Response Records
Cost Estimates - Solid Waste Disposal, Law Enforcement Incidents, Road Use or Condition Staff Time & Response Costs
Visitation estimates, maps, photos, and project estimates

Applications missing required cost information or supporting documentation will not be reviewed.

Figure 4
ORMG Reimbursement Ledger '26

REIMBURSEMENT LEDGER				
Please document all costs included in the SAR and EMS reimbursement requests to the Outdoor Recreation Impact Mitigation Grant Application				
Organization:				
	Detailed Expense Summary *Please give a brief title to expenses' purpose (labor, training, equipment, etc.)	What fund did this come from? **if the expense was paid to a non-applicant entity, include that entity here. (e.g. equipment purchase from dealership)	Provided Documentation *provide reference to documentation corresponding with expense (e.g. call logs, mileage tracker, etc.)	Amount
			Date	
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
			Total	\$0.00

Reimbursement Ledger

The SAR and EMS portions of the application each require a separate reimbursement ledger. The appropriate SAR or EMS representative should complete their respective ledger and identify:

- The expense being requested for reimbursement
- What fund paid for the cost and when the cost was incurred
- How the cost connects to visitor-related impacts
- Supporting records, invoices, logs, or timesheets, if available

Letter of Acknowledgment

The county must submit a letter confirming that the ORMG application was presented to and reviewed by its *Tourism Tax Advisory Board* (TTAB) as part of the county budgeting process.

- The TTAB was informed of the proposed grant request.
- The application was reviewed in the context of the county's TRT revenues, mitigation needs, and other tourism-related funding priorities.
- The county and TTAB discussed how the request fits within the county's broader financial plan.
- Tourism industry representatives were given an opportunity to review and understand the proposed use of funds.

How to Apply

Apply online at recreation.utah.gov/outdoor-recreation-mitigation-grant/.

Step 1 – Identify the County Application Team

The county must identify one primary contact who will coordinate the application. The county should also identify the staff or representatives who will contribute to the different application sections.

Step 2 – Request Grant Portal Access

DOR Staff is required to establish the applicant organization in *Salesforce* to connect all collaborators. Contact DOR staff and provide:

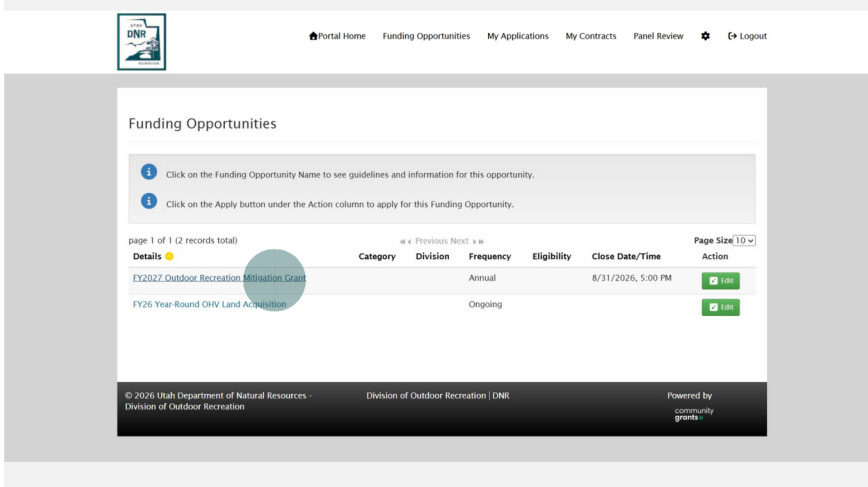
- County name
- Primary contact's name, title, email, and telephone number
- Names, titles, and email addresses of known collaborators
- The application sections each collaborator is expected to complete

Not all collaborators must be identified at the beginning. Additional collaborators may be added during the application period by contacting DOR staff.

Step 3 – DOR Establishes Access

DOR staff will establish or confirm portal access for the primary contact and authorized collaborators. Each approved collaborator will be able to contribute to the county's shared application.

Figure 5
ORMG Salesforce Webpage



Step 4 – Start the County Application

Once access has been granted, select the “Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant + *Your County Name*,” start a new application, and confirm that only one application is being created for the county.

Step 5 – Complete the Application Sections

The primary contact may assign sections to the appropriate county departments or service providers. For example, the sheriff's office may complete the SAR section, while the roads (or public works department) completes the road-related sections.

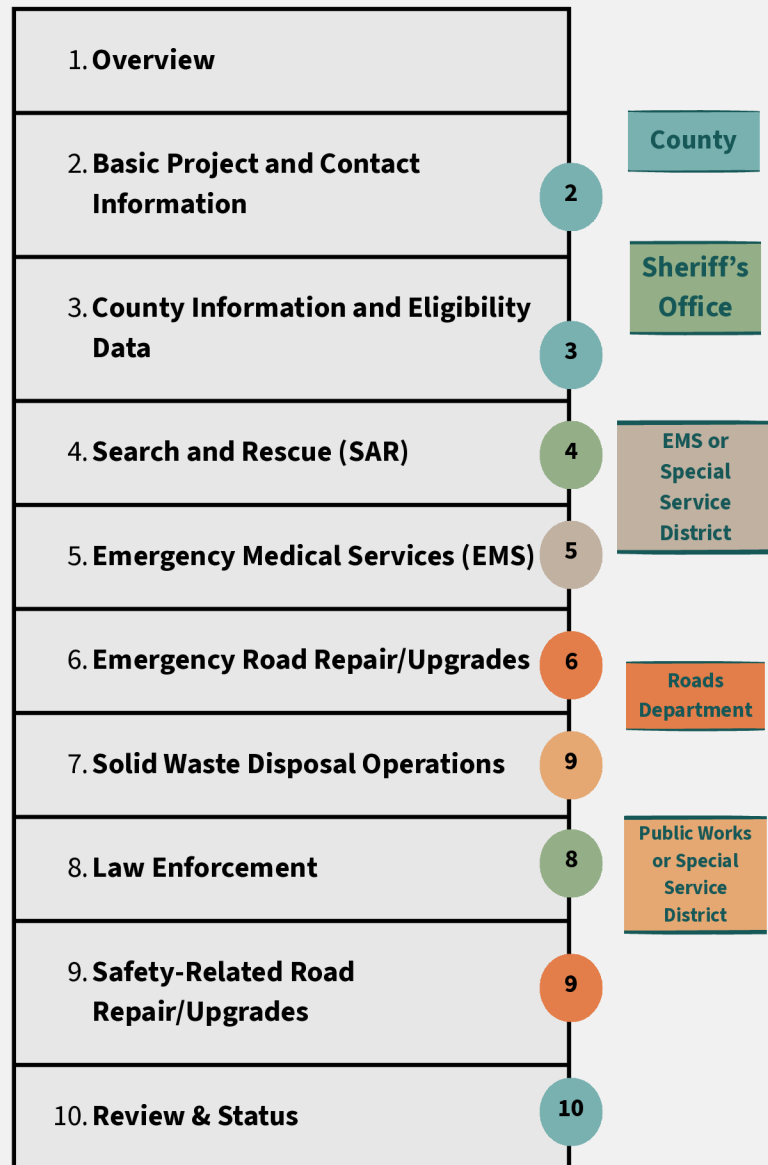
Step 6 – Complete the Application Sections

Include:

- Detailed ledgers or cost estimates
- Incident reports, logs, ledgers, or other supporting records
- Quotes (when applicable)
- Maps or photographs, when applicable
- Letters of Acknowledgement

Figure 6

ORMG Collaborators Chart



Step 7 – County Review and Submission

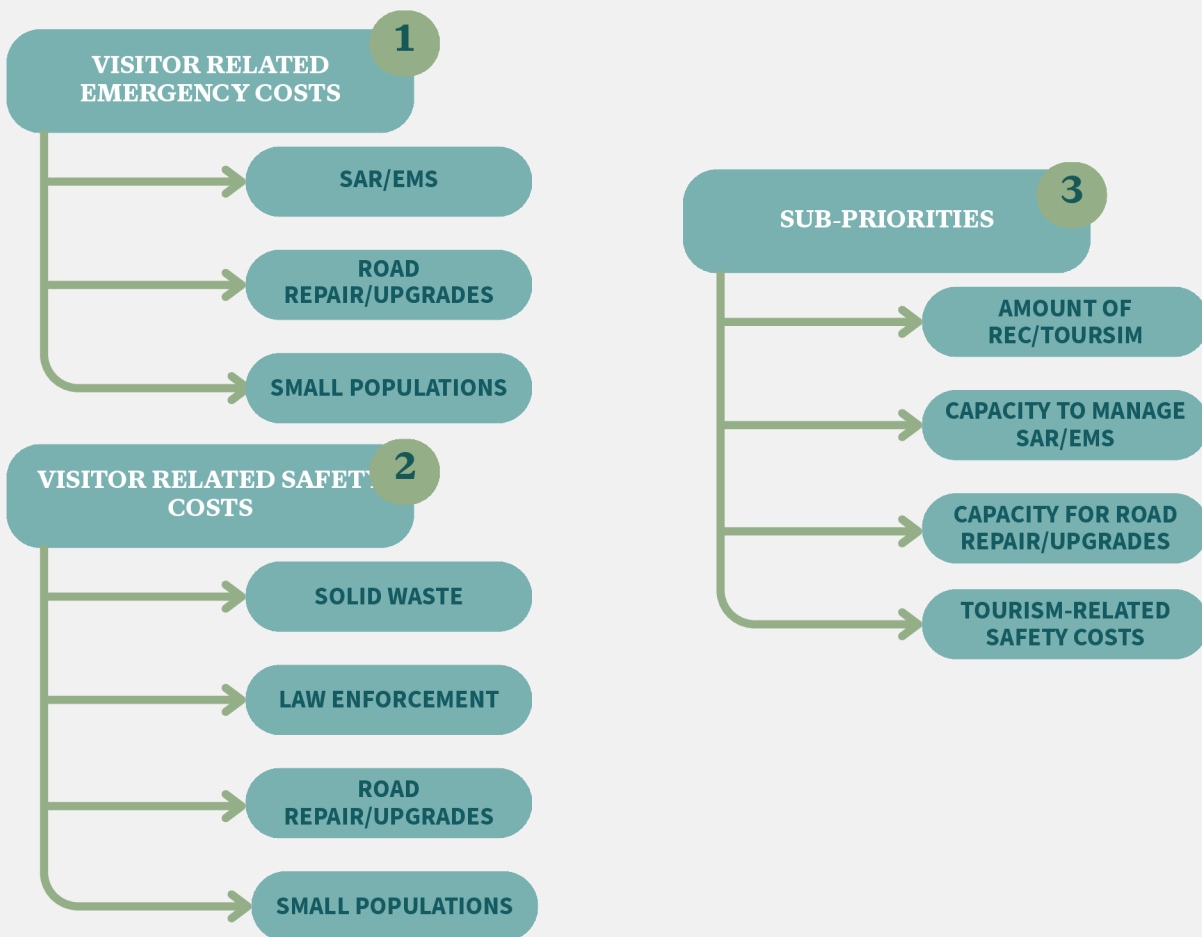
The primary contact should review the complete application with participating departments and county leadership before submission. After submission, the application cannot be edited unless DOR staff returns it for correction. A confirmation email will be sent following successful submission.

ORMG Priorities & Board

The Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Board (ORMB) will score applications based on program priorities that reflect the immediacy and severity of visitor-related impacts in rural communities. The highest priority is being given to actual emergency costs, followed by mitigation sub-priorities. Please review the ORMG Prioritization Flowchart for the complete order of consideration.

Figure 7

ORMG Prioritization Flowchart



The Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Board

The ORMB is a five-member board that reviews eligible applications and supports funding recommendations for the ORMG Program.

The Board includes:

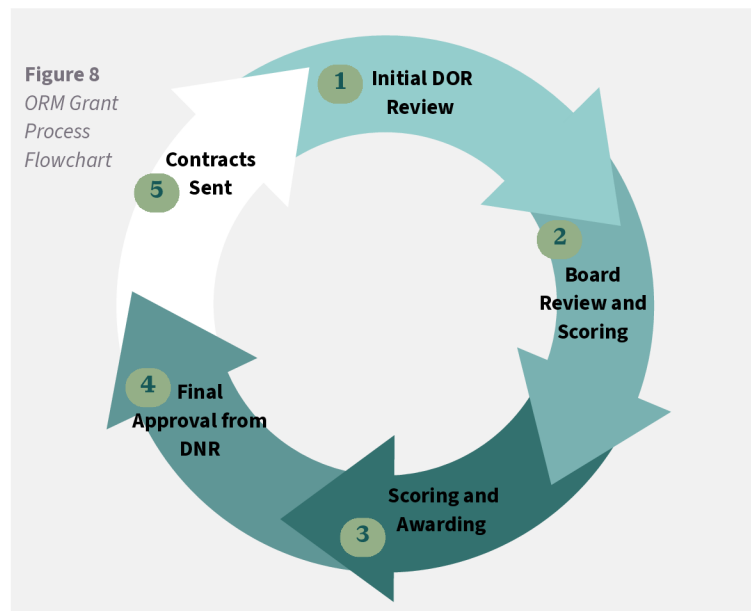
- Two representatives appointed by the *Utah Association of Counties*
- One representative appointed by the *Utah Sheriffs' Association*
- One representative of rural emergency medical services
- One representative of Utah's tourism industry

Together, these members provide a balanced mix of county, public safety, emergency response, and tourism expertise during the application review and funding recommendation process.

How to Contact Board/ Find Meetings: The ORMB meeting notices, agendas, participation information, minutes, and recordings are posted on the *Utah Public Notice Website*. Members of the public may attend meetings and submit questions or written comments through DOR staff, who can also provide assistance locating meeting information or forwarding correspondence to the Board.

The Grant Process

1. DOR staff reviews applications for eligibility, completeness, and required information.
2. The ORMB independently reviews and scores eligible applications.



3. DOR compiles scores and program data, and the Board makes funding recommendations during a public meeting.
4. DOR completes the final administrative review, approves award amounts, and notifies counties.
5. Approved awards are prepared for contracting and become active once the grant contract is fully executed.

Early Review & Award Process

Early Review - Submit 15 days before the grant deadline for an early check of your application. To qualify, applications must be complete or nearly complete.

Internal Review - After the cycle closes, the DOR Staff has 3 business days to verify that all documents are present.

Review and Board Scoring Process: Eligible applications are assigned to the ORMB. The Board is given approximately 15 days to review and score applications. Funding decisions are made based on the average of these scores.

Post Award

You must maintain meticulous records of all expenditures, timesheets, and logs. Accurate record keeping ensures you stay in compliance with state audit requirements.

Grant Contract Rules

- **Contracts:** No work can begin until a contract is signed by both the State and the Awardee.
- **Timeline:** You have 18 months to spend or encumber the funds.
- **Modifications:** If you need to change your deadline, you must submit a request on a county letterhead at least 60 days before the grant expires.
- **Reporting:** Progress reports are due every six months. Additionally, you must report all expenditures by December 31st of each year until the funds are fully spent.

Modifications

To request a change to your grant, follow the steps below:

- Submit a formal request on your organization's letterhead at least 60 days before the grant expires.
- Clearly describe the changes. Include what work is complete and what still needs to be done.
- If you are requesting more time, include your new completion deadline.
- If you are requesting a ledger or cost estimate change, include an updated ledger or cost estimate and a short explanation.

Progress Reports

You must submit a progress report every six months for ongoing and project specific funding. These reports help track your project and confirm you are following the approved ledger and cost estimate.

All reports must be submitted through the grant portal.



ORMG Application Checklist

Use this checklist before submitting the county's application.

APPLICATION SET UP

- ☐ Confirm the county is eligible.
- ☐ Identify the county's primary application contact.
- ☐ Confirm that only one application will be submitted for the county.
- ☐ Request portal access for all application collaborators.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

- ☐ Describe the county's visitor-related impacts.
- ☐ Explain how each request is connected to visitor use.
- ☐ Provide the amount requested and explain how it was calculated.
- ☐ Identify any funding that will be used by a special service district.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

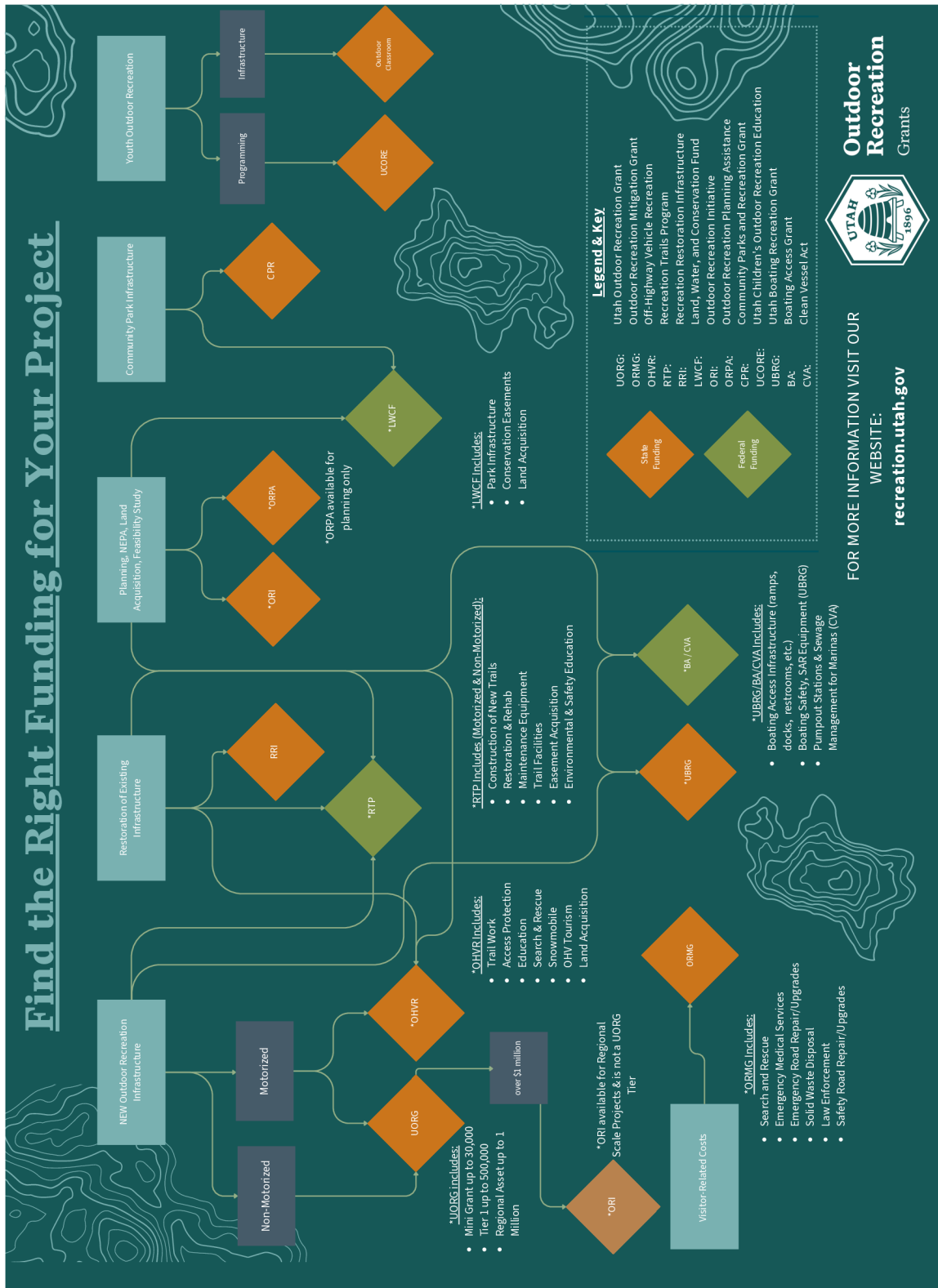
- ☐ Upload the SAR reimbursement ledger, if applicable.
- ☐ Upload the EMS reimbursement ledger, if applicable.
- ☐ Provide cost estimates for roads, solid waste, and law enforcement requests, if applicable.
- ☐ Upload the Tourism Tax Advisory Board Letter of Acknowledgment.
- ☐ Confirm that requested costs have not been reimbursed by another program.

FINAL REVIEW

- ☐ Complete all required application fields.
- ☐ Confirm that requested amounts match the ledgers and cost estimates.
- ☐ Review the application with participating departments and districts.
- ☐ Submit the application by the deadline.

Grants Flow Chart

Refer to the chart below if you are interested in our additional funding opportunities.



Notes





Outdoor Recreation

In administering this grant, the Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) is guided by its mission to:

Ensure health, safety, enjoyment, and economic benefit through life-enriching, high-quality outdoor recreation for all of Utah's residents and visitors.

By helping counties address visitor-related emergency and safety needs, the ORMG supports safe, enjoyable, and sustainable outdoor recreation for both residents and visitors.

Collaborate with our grant experts!



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