

Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant Program Guide



2026

Introduction

The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) is committed to ensuring every Utahn can live a healthy and active lifestyle through outdoor recreation and access to natural space. The DOR focuses on four key areas: expanding recreational access, promoting safety and education, ensuring responsible stewardship and sustainable visitation, and driving economic growth through outdoor recreation. With our grant programs, we support local communities in achieving these goals and are thrilled to offer five grants under the Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant (UORG) Program in 2026. This year’s grant program includes:

2026 UORG Grant Cycle Dates: January 12 - March 13

UORG Grant Opportunities Table

Grant	Description	2026 Funding Amounts	Match Requirement
Regional Asset Tier	Regionally significant projects. All submissions at this level require a presentation to the grant committee.	Up to \$500,001 to \$1 Million	All UORG programs use a Suggested County Based Sliding Scale (minimum 20%)
Tier 1	New outdoor recreation infrastructure projects	\$30,001 to \$500,000	
Mini Grant	Ideal for smaller projects	\$5,000-\$30,000	
Recreation Restoration Infrastructure (RRI)	Restore high-use and high-priority trails or repair and replace developed recreation infrastructure on public lands	Up to \$250,000	
Community Parks and Recreation	More traditional community park infrastructure with regional significance	\$5,000-\$200,000	



Important Information To Know

- Federal and State entities will require a 50/50 match in all programs
- **Staff Reviews:** This valuable resource is available upon request to applicants who submit their materials up to **two weeks before the deadline**. The primary purpose of this review is to help the applicant strengthen their proposal. Staff will evaluate the application to determine project eligibility and provide suggestions for revisions. Please note that staff will not make any revisions or edits to your materials directly. (Have this sentence in bold.) To request a review, leave your application in draft mode and send an email to the grant program administrator.
- Gather all required documentation **early**. This includes:
 - Location map,
 - Recreational site plan,
 - Budget spreadsheet,
 - Letters of support- must be provided by external parties, not the applicant and must include one from Local Tourism or Economic Development Office (Required for Regional Asset Tier and Tier 1 only).
 - W-9 form,
 - Statement of responsibility
- 25% of **applicant match** can go towards directly related “pre-build” costs including:
 - Design
 - Planning
 - Feasibility, EAS
 - Engineering
- The Outdoor Recreation Planning Assistance (ORPA) program provides technical assistance to strengthen local capacity through hands-on consulting services and support from DOR staff. This resource is especially valuable for applicants with projects that are not "shovel-ready" and need dedicated support to complete the planning elements required for a future Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant (UORG) application. Projects that utilize ORPA are typically preparing to apply in a subsequent grant cycle. (ORPA application cycle to be held in the summer).
- Keep in mind, all information submitted to this grant program is subject to public disclosure through the Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA).

What’s New in 2026?

- Multiple UORG grants may not be received for the same project site. For example, a CPR and Tier 1 award at the same community park site.
- Each budget spreadsheet must be accompanied by a budget narrative, providing a detailed explanation of the budget components and how the figures were calculated.
- Partial Funding Request Option - Within the application, applicants may request a lower level of funding if their primary request is not granted, and can submit a secondary budget detailing how this lower request will be used.
- It is crucial to apply to the correct grant program for your project. **Once submitted, staff will be unable to transfer applications to different programs.** Applications that do not meet program guidelines will be disqualified. Take the eligibility quiz on our website to ensure you apply to the correct program!

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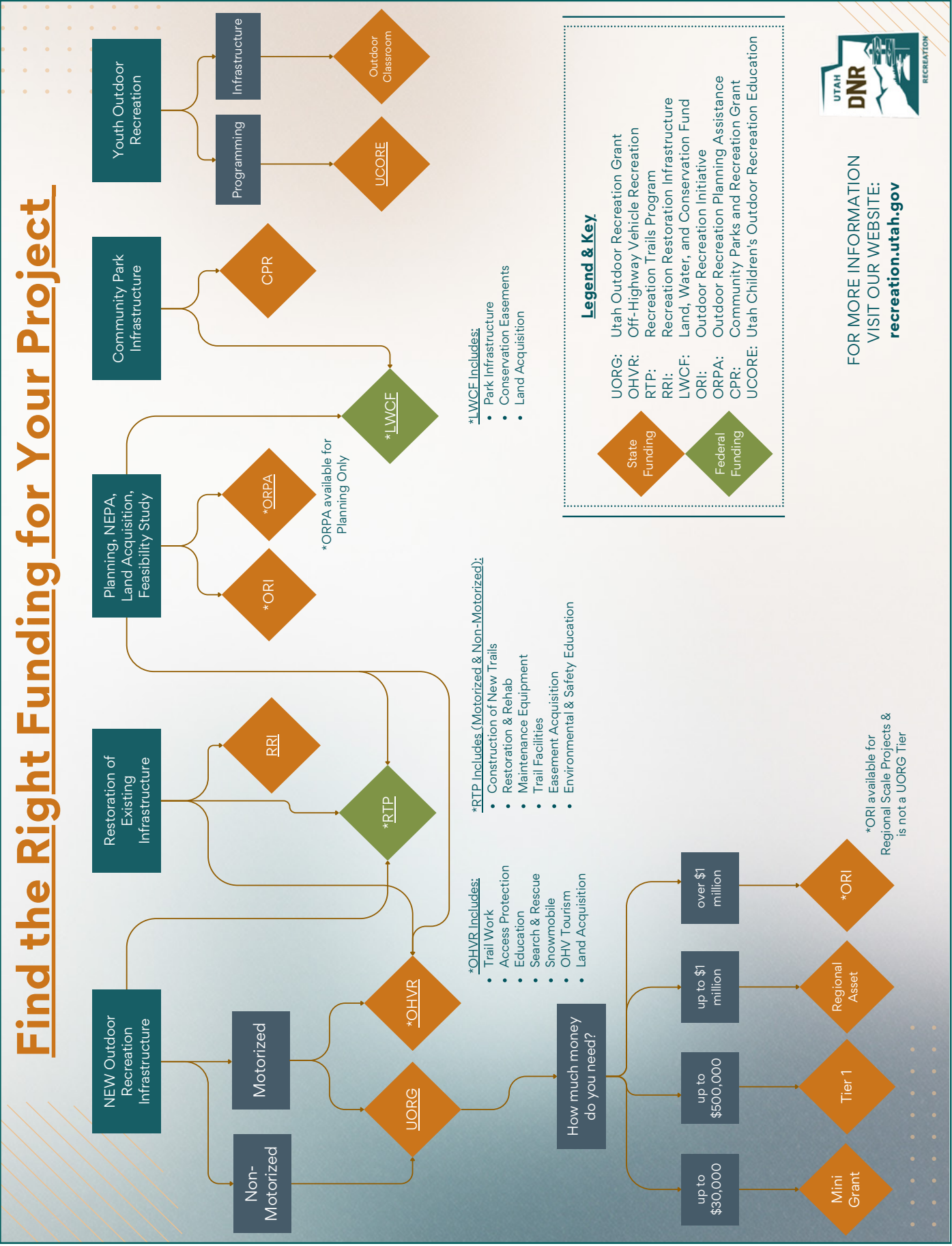
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Find the Right Funding for Your Project



Keys to a Funded UORG Application

The Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant (UORG) continues to support communities across the state to build new recreation infrastructure for locals and visitors to get outside and find their sense of adventure. Within the Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant Program, there are 5 opportunities for funding: Regional Asset Tier, Tier 1, Mini-Grant, RRI, and CPR.

- **Regional Asset Tier:** Large projects that have a regional draw, bringing economic and tourism benefits through increased visitation and resident retention. Applicants will be required to give a 10 minute in-person or virtual presentation to the scoring committee. The required match for Urban communities is 1:1, while Rural is county-based (see table on page 4 for more information). Attribution signage is mandatory for all completed projects.
- **Tier 1:** The most popular tier, designed for new outdoor recreation infrastructure projects with funding levels that cover the scope of most new community-level investments. Attribution signage is mandatory for all completed projects.
- **Mini:** Ideal for smaller projects with a shorter and more straightforward application
- **RRI:** For restoration of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure
- **CPR:** To support community parks serving regional needs

The following section applies to all UORG grants and will inform you on how to be successful when applying for UORG.



Keys to a Funded UORG Application

Analyze the Community Needs

Consider the unique aspects of your community, its people, topography, and recreational needs. Committee members love to see that you have community support. If you haven't already, include the community in the planning process and find opportunities for community engagement. A strong application will include letters of support from your local elected officials, Offices of Tourism, or partnerships with nonprofits and Federal Land Managers.

Consider the Economic Benefits

Outdoor recreation amenities increase community value by attracting residents, businesses, and investment. To demonstrate your project's economic impact, consider its effect on property values, business attraction, and visitor/resident spending. Reach out to your local tourism or economic development office and/or use the following resources to help quantify the economic benefit:

- **Headwaters Economics**
- **Kem C Gardner Policy Institute**
- **American Census**

A project that supports a high level of community and visitor engagement—such as adding key trails or developed recreational facilities—will significantly increase resident and visitor spending at local businesses. This investment fosters growth in local recreation-based enterprises, including gear sales, rentals, outfitting, and guide services.

Increased Tourism

A community may enhance year-round tourism by implementing outdoor recreation projects that diversify seasonal offerings—for instance, introducing winter amenities in areas that currently attract visitors during warmer months, or developing summer activities in destinations traditionally known for winter recreation. Highly competitive applications consider opportunities to coordinate efforts and interconnect their project into already existing or future recreation systems. Interconnecting trail systems to local parks and providing safe and easy access for youth score high. Consider your existing transportation corridors and how both a visitor or a resident would be able to access your project.

Large Events

Well-planned infrastructure projects can be used to host large events such as races, competitions, recreation-based community gatherings and more. These events bring a crowd of visitors to the community who spend money on lodging and local restaurants. Consider if there is potential

for increasing capacity or access to a nearby amenity to accommodate large groups or events that could serve for multiple purposes.

Shovel Ready

Projects should be fully prepared to begin construction within 12 months after grant funding is awarded. All grant recipients have 28 months to complete their projects before being open for public use. Include detailed plans and a timeline to show that work is mapped out in a reasonable and timely manner for the project to be completed on time.

Planning

A full planning process should occur before you write the grant application. The UORG application requires a conceptual design of the project. Seek advice from appropriate experts including consultants, landscape architects, architects (if applicable), engineers, attorneys, and most importantly your community. Develop a project scope and work plan. This can help your organization accurately estimate the total project cost and ensure adequate funds can be allocated to complete the project.

Historic Site Considerations

Applicants must consider and review the project's impact on any historic or cultural resource. If the project is ground-disturbing in an area that has not been previously disturbed in the last 50 years, a cultural resource survey, archaeological permit, and/or investigation will likely be required. Visit the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) website at ushpo.utah.gov/ to determine if this applies to your project. **NOTE:** These necessary costs are eligible expenses in the project budget.

Universal Design

Consider incorporating small changes and additions to make your project as **inclusive** and accessible for all **visitors**. We encourage the application of Universal Design principles to eliminate barriers for all ages and abilities. Examples include **ADA** amenities, multi-language signage, and tactile/Braille **signage**. Be creative and find innovative ways to ensure all users can enjoy the outdoor recreation opportunities your project provides.



Volunteers

Community volunteers can make a massive difference in extending limited budgets and increasing the project capacity. If you have the support to recruit, organize, train, and manage the volunteers, they can be a tremendous asset. Projects that engage volunteers are encouraged but not required.

Regional Asset Tier, Tier 1 and Mini Grant

Eligible & Ineligible

The UORG funds **permanent and public outdoor infrastructure projects** that engage the community in outdoor recreation activities. UORG support infrastructure projects related to the following outdoor recreation activities:

 Adaptive outdoor recreation of all types	 Off-road motorized activities: UTV, ATV and off-road motorcycles	 Snow activities: snowboarding, all skiing types, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and ice-skating in outdoor rinks
 Camping: tent, RV, yurts and hammocking	 Outdoor adventure course activities: outdoor challenge course, disc golf or ropes course	 Trail activities (natural surface): hiking backpacking, trail running, mountain biking and horseback riding
 Fishing: all recreational types	 Rock and mountain activities: canyoneering, rappelling and all types of outdoor climbing	 Water activities: canoeing, kayaking, rafting, stand-up paddling, sailing, motorized boating swimming in lakes or rivers and snorkeling
 Nature enjoyment: wildlife viewing, wildlife photography, birdwatching, nature walks and stargazing/dark sky	 Shooting activities: archery, target shooting and biathlon	 Wheel sports (paved surface): recreational bicycling, skateboarding, scootering and rollerblading

Eligible Costs

Category	Examples
Materials	Any material necessary to complete your infrastructure project are eligible expenses. This will vary depending on the activity type. Examples include materials needed for bridges, tunnels, ramps/launch sites, climbing hardware, piers, platforms, any surfacing materials, etc.
Facilities	Development and rehabilitation of recreation amenities that support or enhance recreation infrastructure are eligible costs which may include trail or wayfinding signage, kiosks, interpretive signage, parking, restrooms, drinking fountains, educational signage, benches, irrigation, landscaping, etc. Facilities should be paired with recreation infrastructure to score high in the review process.
Equipment	Renting heavy machinery and purchasing needed hand tools or equipment for your infrastructure project are allowed expenses. UORG will not purchase large-scale equipment to be used on projects, but does allow for a few scenarios where equipment purchases are a critical component of continued recreational access, ie: snow grooming equipment.
Historical/Cultural Surveys	Surveys completed by and for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are considered eligible expenses and can be paid for by the grant. Other surveys in coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), are not eligible for the UORG.
Mobilization	Moving large equipment or machinery to and from the project site.
Professional Services	Contractors, Design, Engineering

Ineligible Activities

Trail Maintenance/ Repair: (i.e resurfacing with gravel or erosion control)
Community Park Projects: All park-related projects must be submitted to the Community Parks and Recreation grant. (Refer to page X as specific outdoor activities will still be considered as UORG projects)
Non-Trail Signage & Roadway Improvements: Must be directly tied to a recreation trail project to qualify. Road improvements to or from trailheads or campsites
Indoor Recreation: (i.e. recreation centers, indoor rock climbing wall etc.)
Private or Restricted-use Facilities: Projects must be for public use, no structures for private businesses. (i.e. outdoor service concessions, amusement parks, golf courses etc.)
Standalone Amenities: Restroom facilities or landscaping not tied to an existing recreation project
Police/Military Shooting Range

Outstanding Project Examples

The following are examples of high scoring projects within each UORG tier from the 2025 grant cycle. Each project included a brief description, the organization, and the committee members comments provided during the review process. This gives an insight into what committee members are looking for and why the project was funded. To see the full list of funded projects, visit our website at recreation.utah.gov/grants/utah-outdoor-recreation-grant/.

Regional Asset Tier

Highest Scoring Project: Millcreek Common Phase II Open Space

Organization: Millcreek City

Millcreek Common Phase II is a public open space project directly north of Millcreek City Hall, featuring native aspens and low-water-use plants. The project includes ADA-accessible amenities including: a Splash Creek, Milo's Mini-Golf, the Treehouse Amenity Deck, Milo the Moose Play Structure, and the Skate Canyon.

Committee Members Comments:

- This project builds on a successful previously-UORG-funded amenity aimed specifically at creating a regional draw in Millcreek. The project serves both the local community and visitors from around the region and beyond. Planning has been thoughtfully done and it's shovel ready. Significant investment from Millcreek, the County, NPS LWCF. Great support letters.
- Multiple activity types, ADA, great support, etc
- Great value prospect for Millcreek residents and visitors. Certain to draw more people to outdoor recreation amenities in an urban area.
- Something to note is there is still some permitting to be completed.



UORG Tier 1

Highest Scoring Project: PVRD Cliffrose Trail System Phase 3

Organization: Washington County

Phase 3 of the Cliffrose Trail System (formerly called Spring Hollow) on the Pine Valley Ranger District will include approximately 12 miles of new trail adding additional loops, approximately 9 miles of downhill trail and a connection to the Blake Gubler trailhead. This will round out and complete the Cliffrose Trail System and brings the total number of trail miles to approximately 34.

Committee Members Comments:

- Great project and the collaboration with the USFS and that NEPA is complete is a big win to start. I like the size and scope of this project and all of the local support and the work that has been accomplished up front in the planning and collaboration.
- Well over 100,000 visitors each year approximately twelve additional miles to the trail system for a total of 34 miles of trail. Phase 3 will include intermediate and advanced level trails. With the completion of phase 3 there will be about 20 miles of adaptive minded trail available.
- I hope that the cultural clearance happens timely.
- Great outdoor recreation that continues to grow.



Outstanding Project Examples

Mini Grant

Highest Scoring Project: Hobble Creek WMA Extension

Organization: Hobble Creek Bicycle Association

The Hobble Creek Bicycle Association is requesting a UORG mini-grant to extend our existing trail system at the base of Hobble Creek Canyon in Springville, Utah. Thanks to a previous UORG grant, we built a well-used trail that provides local residents and the high school mountain bike team with much-needed riding space. This grant would nearly triple the available trail mileage, enhancing community access to outdoor recreation and supporting youth cycling development.

Committee Members Comments:

- Strong track record (prior UORG-funded build) - Deep community engagement, especially youth - Detailed scope of work and timeline with professional + volunteer labor mix - Ongoing support from DWR with existing permissions and resources - Clear focus on sustainability and long-term stewardship.
- Seems pretty cost effective to triple the amount of miles of trails
- I think this is a high-impact, well-organized project with a proven team, strong volunteer base, government partnerships, and a clear maintenance plan. It helps that they've done this before and are just expanding on it. It will benefit the local community and lay the foundation for even broader regional access. The phased approach and use of professional rough-in builders is a smart strategy to balance cost and quality.
- Acknowledged possibility that full expansion may not be completed by Fall 2025; mitigated by clear Spring 2026 continuation plan.



Recreation Restoration Infrastructure (RRI)

The Utah Legislature created the Recreation Restoration Infrastructure (RRI) grant program to address the need to restore, repair, and/or replace aging or degraded outdoor recreation infrastructure located on public lands.

RRI Project Requirements





Public Lands: The infrastructure must be on publicly owned lands, which can be city, county, state or federally owned and managed. If on federal or state-managed lands, coordination with the appropriate land management is essential.

Partnership: For work on federal or state-managed lands, the applicant should have a sponsored volunteer or other agreement with their local Forest Service office, BLM field office, National Park unit, or with the appropriate unit within the Utah Department of Natural Resources.

Letter of Support: A letter of support from the appropriate land manager is required. The letter should come from the local Forest Supervisor or District Ranger, the local BLM Field Manager, or the National Park Unit for federal lands. For state lands, the letter should come from the local State Park Manager. For municipal public lands (county, city, tribal, etc.), a letter from the appropriate leadership branch stating their support, including financial support, will suffice for the project.

Project Types

Eligible RRI projects must restore or rehabilitate recreation infrastructure, going beyond basic or recurring maintenance. Projects must address critical issues related to safety, user experience, and the prevention of damage to natural and cultural resources.

Eligible	Ineligible
 <p>Trails: Repair, realignment, reconstruction or other major maintenance projects for both non-motorized and motorized trails that help protect natural and/or cultural resources, promote user safety or enhance the user experience. Needed repairs or replacements of trail infrastructure such as bridges, culverts, trail signage, interpretation signage, trailhead kiosks, trailhead restroom, overlook structures, etc.</p>	<p>Funding is not available for projects not located on public land (local, State, or Federal), annual maintenance and upkeep, or standalone invasive species removal. (Invasive species removal can be included in a restoration plan as an eligible cost.)</p>
 <p>Campground/Picnic sites: Repair, replacement or reconstruction of campsite parking areas, potable water sources, tables, fire rings, restrooms, kiosks, rustic shelters for shade or rustic structures for visitor lodging, signage, etc.</p>	
 <p>Water recreation infrastructure: Repair, replacement or reconstruction of boat docks, fishing piers, shoreline boardwalks, boat launches, bank or shoreline repair for recreation areas, etc. Or removal of water recreation hazards.</p>	
 <p>Accessible outdoor recreation facilities: Repair, replacement or reconstruction of recreation amenities that would be accessible to visitors with disabilities within the above categories.</p>	

Competitive RRI applications include: eligible projects, **fully** planned and ready for **implementation**, specific plans and/or locations for work to be completed, an estimated timeline, established partnerships, and letters of support from associated land managers.

RRI Outstanding Project Example

Highest Scoring Project: West Side Behind the Butte Campsite Improvements
Organization: Goblin Valley State Park, Utah State Parks

This project improves recreational access, natural resource protection and visitor experience at Goblin Valley State Park through improvements to the West Behind the Buttes dispersed camping area, continued work from 2024. The grant area is part of a new land acquisition (2022) by state parks and has previously seen little maintenance, was poorly designed, lacks amenities, and has been significantly damaged by the visitor’s expansion of camping sites and user created trails.

Committee Members Comments:

- Great partnerships. Significant improvement to surrounding assets. Helps with heavy visitor usage
- Project ready. Good timeline. Demonstrated need. Good ADA effort. Third phase to expand Goblin Valley camping opportunities on this 6000 acre site in need of updates.
- Low cost, high value restoration and improvements in Goblin Valley.



Community Parks and Recreation (CPR)

Now in its second year, the Community Parks and Recreation (CPR) Grant will continue to address gaps in outdoor recreation funding identified by its partners. Historically park infrastructure was not eligible for UORG funding, even though they are vital spaces that help families stay active, healthy, and connected close to home.

The CPR Grant supports the construction and rehabilitation of city parks, fields, pools, playgrounds, and sport courts. These assets often create recreational hubs that strengthen community connectivity and expand recreational opportunities. All park projects must be submitted through the CPR grant, and highest priority will be given to regionally significant parks that are factored into community and housing plans.

The CPR Grant follows the same timeline and county-based matching requirements as the UORG Tier 1, RRI, and Mini Grants. To ensure equitable access, qualifying communities may apply with reduced match requirements, determined through applicant budgets and application materials.

WHO: Cities, counties, state agencies, federal agencies, public educational institutions*, tribal governments

*Schools can apply for CPR if reasonable public access will be allowed, this means that outside school hours, the facilities will be open to the public for use and appropriate signage is posted when closures are necessary. Sport fields and courts at parks should be open to the public when not reserved for competition or events.

PRIORITY: As with all DOR grants, projects will be ranked and scored based on the quality of the application, need for the project, community engagement, municipal budget and planning. In addition to normal scoring criteria, the CPR Grant will give additional consideration to projects in areas with higher than average growth rates and areas that can't keep up with the growth on their own. Projects planned as part of designated centers are also encouraged. This funding source is aimed to serve areas where recreation access may be limited and will serve as a gateway to recreational opportunities now and in the future. **Finally, priority will be given to parks serving a regional need, to those responding to high growth rates with clear planning, park projects that connect into additional recreation resources, and park projects involving numerous elements to serve their community.**

Please review the following lists to confirm which program you should apply to. Our goal is to accept traditional outdoor recreation infrastruture through the UORG and RRI programs, and traditional community park infrastructure through the CPR program. **Contact DOR staff if you need help to determine the correct program to apply to.**

Eligible	Ineligible for CPR funding
Parks: Amphitheater, parking lots, bathrooms, sport courts/ fields, court surfaces, permanent goal posts, bleachers, walking paths, lighting, sprinkler systems, picnic tables, benches, water fountains, pavilions, skate parks, permanent fitness equipment	Indoor Recreation Facilities
Pools: outdoor pools, splash pads, and water features	Removeable Structures: i.e. nts, pop-up tents, umbrellas, Equipment for Outdoor Recreation Activities: i.e. balls, bats, rackets, swim toys etc.
Playgrounds: traditional playground equipment: swings, slides, monkey bars, playground surface, sensory play: sandboxes, musical play	Maintenance Equipment: i.e. lawn mowers, garbage cans, equipment sheds, fencing, etc.
	Land Acquisition
	Apply for these activities through Tier 1, Regional Asset Tier, or Mini Grant: Pump track, skills park, climbing amenities, disc golf, fishing amenities, archery, ropes course, and equestrian amenities.

CPR Outstanding Project Example

Highest Scoring Project: Springdale George A Barker River Park Expansion
Organization: Town of Springdale

This project expanded and enhanced the existing George A Barker River Park in Springdale, Utah. The George A. Barker River Park sits adjacent to the Virgin River and is beloved by local Zion Canyon residents and visitors to the area. In 2021, an adjacent parcel was purchased by the Town of Springdale with the intention to expand and improve the existing park. After a robust community engagement process, plans for the development of the park expansion were created.

Committee Members Comments:

- Project ready and significant local support
- This project will expand and enhance the existing George A Barker River Park in Springdale, Utah, which is used by many residents and Zion National Park visitors.
- Big asset, lots of community buy in, and a tourism component



Technical FAQs



County- Based Matching

The county-based matching scale was created to assist rural communities and is determined based on the county’s population and average household income. The matching scale is based on where the project takes place.

○ **Defining “Suggested Match”** - When applying for a UORG award, the expectation is that the county-based matching scale will be utilized. However, applicants can apply for a reduced matching rate if there is clear justification that the rate assigned to their county presents an insurmountable barrier to pursuing project funding. Applicants will be asked to provide this justification within the application. The minimum match rate for all applicants is 20%.

Suggested Sliding Scale Match

50/50	40/60	30/70	20/80
SL Co	Tooele	Sanpete	San Juan
Utah	Iron	Sevier	Emery
Davis	Box Elder	Duchesne	Beaver
Weber	Uintah	Millard	Garfield
Washington	Carbon	Juab	Rich
Cache	Morgan	Kane	Wayne
Summit	Grand		Piute
Wasatch			Daggett
Federal/ State Gov't			Tribal Govts

Qualified Funds

Allowable costs or matches include necessary and reasonable costs that contribute directly to the completion of work on the outdoor recreation infrastructure project. This may include:

Allowed Costs or Matches	Not Allowed
Purchase of non-fixed assets: Costs must be pro-rated for the amount used on a project for items such as trail building machinery, hand tools for trail work, or land clearing, etc.	Purchase of Land: Purchase or donations of real estate for the project.
Services provided: Such as skilled or unskilled labor can be included as an eligible cost, or if donated, as an in-kind match.	Planning: Significant planning work should be completed prior to applying. If you need assistance, please refer to Appendix D.
Construction costs: Including equipment, supplies, and more can be included as either an eligible cost or if donated, as an in-kind match.	Prior Work: Work completed before the grant award can occur, but it will not be eligible as a match.
Pre-Build Costs: Up to 25% of the applicant’s match can include planning, design, and engineering. Allowable match to be covered by the applicant but may not be paid for with grant funding.	Permitting Costs (such as NEPA): Environmental assessments, feasibility studies, NEPA, or EIS are not an allowed match.
Gifts and donations: Acceptable if they are used during the contract period.	Annual maintenance: Applicants are responsible for covering the costs of ongoing maintenance.

Technical FAQs

Contingency Costs

A contingency to finance the unexpected expenses of the project is allowed. Including this in the budget sheet is optional. However, if included this should not exceed 10% of the total budget of the project and the applicant should increase their match proportionally so that the applicant’s share of the project costs is never less than- the required match if not used. When applying with unsecured funds as a match, applicants must provide detailed contingencies on how the project can still be completed if the unsecured funding sources don’t come through.

Applicant and Partner Labor as a Cash Match

Staff time spent working directly on the project for both the applicant and partners can be counted toward your cash match. This can be calculated and documented by providing timesheets with descriptions of what was accomplished during those working hours. Applicants must provide documentation with payroll or timesheets to count as an eligible cash expense towards the project.

Matching Requirements

The applicant’s match can be a combination of cash and allowable in-kind donations. For all five UORG opportunities the minimum percentage of cash match should be at least 50% of the applicant’s match. We recommend budgeting for more than the required match, as this may resolve issues resulting from ineligible costs for the project. Partnerships that include meaningful private contributions as part of the local match are encouraged. Applicants with generous financial partners must make some type of cash contribution of their own to demonstrate commitment.

In-Kind Match

In-kind matches may include donated services, equipment, supplies, or other commodities. All matching resources must be eligible costs. Please document the value of donated materials with a receipt or quotation written on the contributor company’s or organization’s stationery. To qualify as a matching cost, partner contributions should be necessary and reasonable items or services at fair market value and be directly connected to the completion of the project.

Donations

Non-cash donations in the form of equipment, supplies, services, and other expendable property may be used as a portion of your match if identified in the project application.

However, the use of the project applicant’s equipment, materials, or real property does not constitute a donation. The use of all donations to the project must be outlined in the project proposal and must occur during the contract period to count as an eligible match. All donations must be documented. When requesting reimbursements for project costs, the value of eligible donations cannot exceed the project’s cash expenditures. Since donations can be complicated to document and account for, we allow a switch in offering. For example, if a hardware business is willing to offer a 40% discount on the lumber for the project, ask if the business could instead donate four units of the needed lumber to purchase six units

Labor

The value of labor donations is generally the wage rate of unskilled labor in the immediate area (usually minimum wage). For skilled workers working in their trade, the rate is the actual wage these workers are typically paid. Applicants should count work completed by a trail group’s experienced volunteers as skilled labor. In both cases, only base wage rates are allowable, exclusive of any fringe benefits. Accurate time records must be regularly maintained. Please use the timesheet included in the reimbursement packet and ensure it lists the date, hours worked, occupation, type of work, and both the worker’s and supervisor’s signatures. Visit independentsector.org/ to check for the most updated volunteer rate, the 2025 volunteer rate is \$34.45.

Equipment

Rates for donated equipment used on the project may not exceed its fair rental rate.


Materials

The amounts charged for donations of materials may not exceed market value. Documentation should include a signed statement from each donor describing the donation and its market value.

Budget

The Budget Spreadsheet shows that the applicant understands the DOR match requirements, has set up in-kinds correctly and is planning to spend the money appropriately and within the bounds of the grant’s allowable costs. This sheet is meant to correspond with the grant request and the project’s total value. It also provides documentation of the construction being done, as described in the project description and abstract. Please review this step-by-step breakdown of how to properly fill out your budget sheet. **It is a requirement of the grant to use the budget sheet provided in the application.**

Step 1: Cash Overview



Project Name:	Project Applicant:	Qualified for UORG Match
Utah City Multi-Use Trail	Utah City	

Step 1: list all sources of Cash Funding by type for the entire project. These can include other donations, grants received, etc. UORG requested funds go in the first row (orange). Applicant Cash Funds go in the next row. Other Cash Partners (if applicable) go in the following

OVERVIEW OF FUND SOURCES					
1. CASH OVERVIEW	Type of Funds	Source of Funds (Organization)	Date Secured	Cash Amount	Total Cash Funding (\$)
	Utah Outdoor Rec. Grant	Office of Outdoor Recreation	9/1/23	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Can be other donations, grants received, etc.	Applicant Cash Match	Utah City	2/28/23	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Insert more rows as needed below	Partner 1 Cash Match	Foundation Grant	1/15/23	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
	[Partner 2 Cash Match]				\$0.00
				TOTAL CASH FUNDING	\$175,000.00

This box will turn green if you provided sufficient match.

Other grants you receive can be used as applicant cash match.

- List the total of all of the funding, including the grant request and the date secured. If you are budgeting for funds that have not been secured yet (like another grant), you can put “pending”
- 50% of your match must be cash.** In this example, a grant request of \$50,000 would require a cash match of at least \$25,000. This cash match can be a combination of applicant and partner, but the applicant must put in at least 20% of this cash, so \$10,000.

Step 2: In-Kind Match Overview

Step 2: list all sources of In-Kind (non-cash) Match for the entire project. In-Kind is defined as donated products, labor or services.

2. IN-KIND MATCH OVERVIEW	Type of Funds	Source of Funds (Organization)	Date Secured	In-Kind Value	Total In-Kind Funding (\$)
Value of materials, equipment or services from applicant or partners.	Applicant In-Kind Match	Wile E. Coyote Equipment	1/15/23	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
	[Partner In-Kind Match]	Community Volunteers	6/20/23	\$1,812.50	\$1,812.50
	[Partner In-Kind Match]				\$0.00
	[Partner In-Kind Match]				\$0.00
				TOTAL IN-KIND FUNDING	\$6,812.50
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE				TOTAL PROJECT COST (UORG+ CASH+IN-KIND)	\$181,812.50

\$175,000 in total in cash from the first section added to the \$6,812.50 of total in-kind.

- List the total of all in-kind matches that will be used for your match.
- Each partner’s in-kind should be listed individually.
- Group ALL of your in-kind into one row.

Step 3: Cash Detailed Description

DETAILED LIST OF ANTICIPATED USE OF FUNDS							
Step 3: list all the uses of cash for the project by Type of Service. Note: The total cash listed here in Step 3 should match the total listed in the cash overview from Step 1. please fill the amount being used from UORG (orange), applicant funds, or partner funds below. Add rows as needed.							
3. CASH DETAILED DESCRIPTION						Difference between Step 1 and Step 3: \$0.00	Cash Amounts Agree
Type of Service: Please select or change type from dropdown menu by clicking cell.	Source of Funds (Organization)	Anticipated Use of Cash Funds: Briefly describe	Number of Units	Cost Per Unit	Extended Cost	Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant Funds	Applicant Funds
Professional Services	ACME Engineering	Engineering Costs	1	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00		\$ 19,000.00
Equipment	Awarded Bidder	Mobilization	1	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 6,700.00	
Equipment	Awarded Bidder	Clearing	60000	\$ 0.08	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	
Equipment	Awarded Bidder	Grading	6000	\$ 2.85	\$ 17,100.00	\$ 17,100.00	
Equipment	Awarded Bidder	Finish Grading	44000	\$ 0.20	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 8,800.00	
Materials	Awarded Bidder	HMA 3"	43000	\$ 1.90	\$ 81700.00		\$ 81,000.00
Materials	Awarded Bidder	Roadbase	53000	\$ 0.60	\$ 31,800.00	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 19,200.00
Materials	Awarded Bidder	Pavement Markings	4400	\$ 0.25	\$ 31,100.00		\$ 1,100.00
Materials	Awarded Bidder	Signs	10	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
Materials	Awarded Bidder	Drainage Pipe	40	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
ANTICIPATED USE OF CASH FUNDS				CASH SUB TOTAL	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
							\$ 25,000.00

- Use your best estimate to detail how all the funds are spent.
- If you don't know what Vendor will perform the work, you can put "Awarded Bidder".
- Use drop down choices on the first column to help group expenses.

This total should match "Total Cash Funding" from the cash overview section.

Make sure all funds in the UORG column are eligible cost.

These 3 totals (UORG, Applicant, Partner) should match their totals from the Cash Overview Section.

Step 4: In-Kind Detailed Description

4. IN-KIND DETAILED DESCRIPTION						Difference between Step 2 and Step 4: \$0.00	In-kind Amounts Agree
Type of Service: Please select or change type from dropdown menu by clicking cell.	Source of Funds (Organization)	Anticipated Use of Cash Funds: Briefly describe	Number of Units	Cost Per Unit	Extended Cost	Applicant Funds	Partner Funds
Professional Services	Community Volunteers	Flagging & Clearing Land	250.00	27.82	\$ 6,955.00		6,955.00
Equipment	Wile E. Coyote Equipment	Equipment rental	2.00	2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
ANTICIPATED USE OF IN-KIND FUNDS				IN-KIND SUB TOTAL	\$ 11,955.00	\$ 5,000.00	6,955.00
TOTAL Eligible Project Costs					TOTAL PROJECT COST (UOR-Cash+In-Kind)	\$ 186,955.00	

- If you are organizing volunteer days for your project, that is considered an applicant in-kind match.
- Donations from business or individuals is either labor or materials are partner in-kind.
- If you receive a discount on materials, in most cases it is easier to consider a "buy one get one free" model for reporting cases. For example, if you receive a 50% discount on 50 pieces of lumber for your project, report that you bought 25 in your cash detailed description, and them include 25 in the in-kind donation section.

2023 Utah Volunteer hourly rate is \$33.46.

This box will turn green when the total of this section matches the in-kind overview section.

"Applicant" and "Partner" In-Kind totals should add up to the "Extended Cost" total.

Step 5: Additional Ineligible Costs (Optional)

5. ADDITIONAL INELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS			\$ 100,000.00
Description	Source of Funds	Cost	
Land Purchase— 2 Acres	Applicant	\$ 100,000.00	
TOTAL		\$ 100,000.00	
TOTAL PROJECT COST (projected)			\$ 286,955.00

- Use this section to show additional commitments you've made to your Project. These can be:
 - Work already completed
 - Land donations
 - Environmental Clearances

Total Eligible Project Cost (\$186,955.00).

Budget Guidance

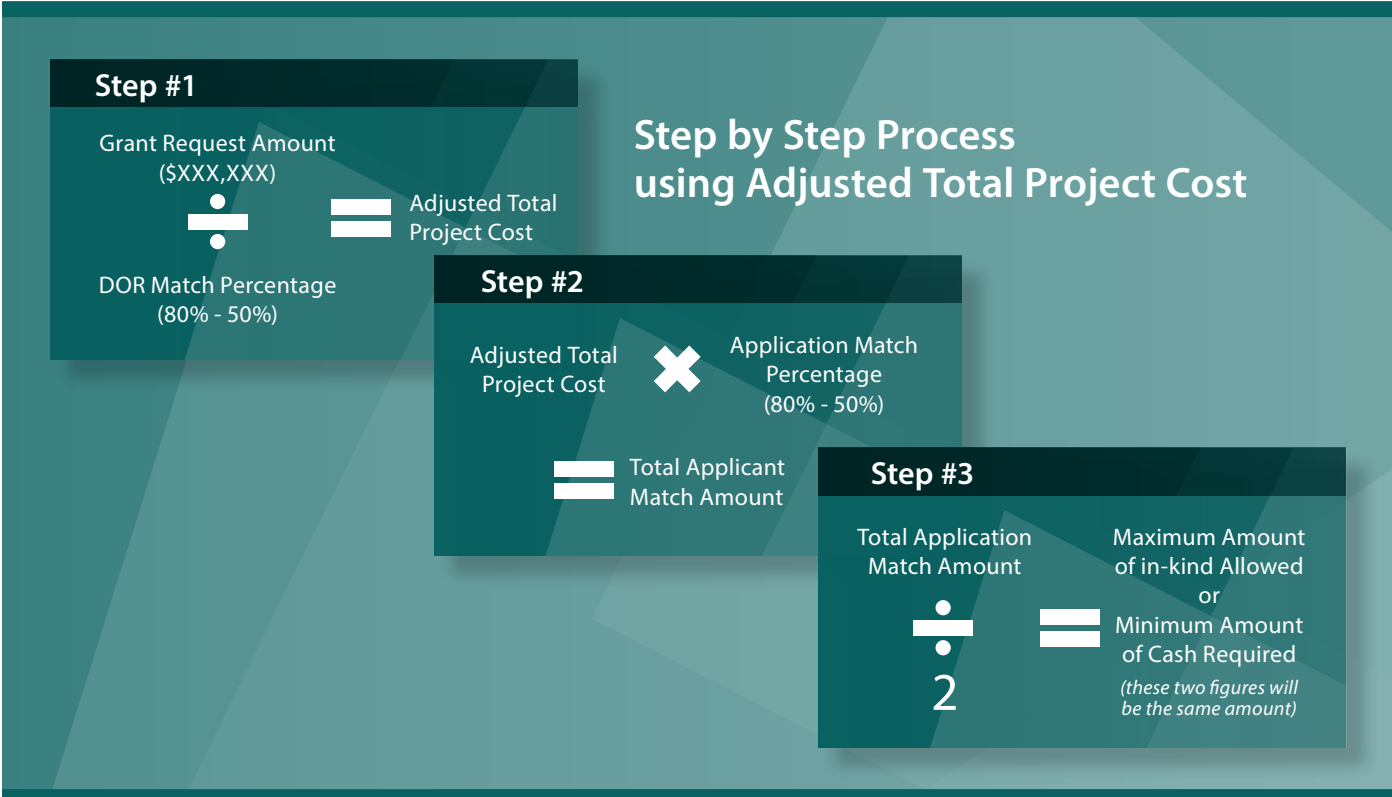
Keep the following key points in mind to ensure your budget meets all program requirements:

Key Points	
Be Detailed	Provide clear, itemized information—staff should be able to understand your project simply by reviewing the budget.
Meet the Match Requirement	Confirm your match percentage and verify that both applicant and partner contributions meet it.
Confirm Eligibility	Review each line item to ensure costs are eligible. Eligibility varies by grant program—if you're unsure, contact DOR grant staff.
Be Accurate	The approved budget will be used during the reimbursement process, so accurate and consistent numbers are essential.
Spend Within Contract	All expenses must take place within the contract period to be eligible.



Finding Your Required Match

The DOR has continued to make our grants accessible to all Utah communities, most directly with the county-based matching scale (see pg. 12). Recognizing that our applicants may need help understanding what matching funds are required under the varying matching rates, we have provided the formula below. This formula will help you answer “If I request \$XXX,XXX, I will need to provide \$XX,XXX in matching funds.” Additionally, it will show the adjusted total project cost, the minimum cash match requirement, and the maximum in-kind match allowance.



Defining Terms

Adjusted Total Project Cost: The minimum required match plus the grant award. For example, an applicant request of \$100,000 at a 50% match would have a minimum match of \$100,000, making the adjusted total project cost \$200,000. Match rates are based off of the adjusted total project cost.

Total Project Cost: All eligible project expenses including grant award and all applicant/partner matching contributions (Cash and in-kind). Building off the example above, if the applicant was over-matching with \$250,000, the total project cost would be \$350,000.

Total Ineligible Project Cost: All eligible and ineligible project expenses including grant award and all matching contributions. (Ineligibles include: Land acquisition, pre-build overages, work done before contract is signed, or indirect or adjacent project costs).

Online Application Process

Links to all the DOR's grants will be available on our official website at recreation.utah.gov/grants when the application period is open **Jan. 12, 9 a.m. - March 13, 5 p.m.** Confirm the application you start is the correct one. After clicking the link, there will be several things to keep in mind.

Username and Password: The application portal will prompt you to create a username and password, allowing you to work on, save, and update your application at any time before submitting it. You can use this same username and password if you apply for multiple grants or future program grants.

Draft application in a word processor: This will allow you to easily edit and review all answers before copying them into the application. Be aware of the character limit noted on each question.

Save your work in the application frequently: Connection errors may result in loss of answers that are not recoverable.



Troubleshooting Tips while Using the Grant Portal:

File Not Attaching:

- Make sure the file name isn't too long. Shorten file name to resolve this issue.
- Make sure the file isn't too big. The file cannot exceed 20 MB. Reduce the file size by compressing the file to resolve this issue.

Why can't I edit the budget template?

- The budget template is hosted on Google Drive and is uneditable. To edit it, you will need to download the budget from Google Drive, and then edit either with your own Google Drive budget file or through Microsoft Excel. Please rename your budget sheet with a title that includes the name of your project. I.e. Moab_Boulder Park Budget Sheet.

Other troubleshooting tips:

- Latitude/Longitude: When entering your values for the lat/long question, the values must be exactly as the example template shows - "40.00 / -105.26" Please use a decimal degrees format for your coordinates (NOT Degrees, Minutes, Seconds format). These can easily be found by clicking on your project area in Google maps, then copy and pasting the coordinates that appear in the dialogue box.



Scoring & Awarding Process

Scoring Criteria

The DOR conducts an initial review of all grant applications to determine project eligibility and ensure all required documentation and attachments are provided. DOR staff then forward all eligible applications to the UORG Advisory Committee for reviewing and scoring.

The scoring committee will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Community need, buy-in and economic impact
- Recreational value
- Project readiness
- Improved physical and recreational access
- Budget clarity and project costs
- Special consideration for areas with clear needs

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Advisory Committee (ORIAC)

The ORIAC is composed of experts from the outdoor recreation and economic development industries in Utah. The ORIAC is chaired by the Director of DOR. Members of the committee serve up to a four-year term along with an elected vice-chair. The 17 member committee is composed of representatives from the following organizations:

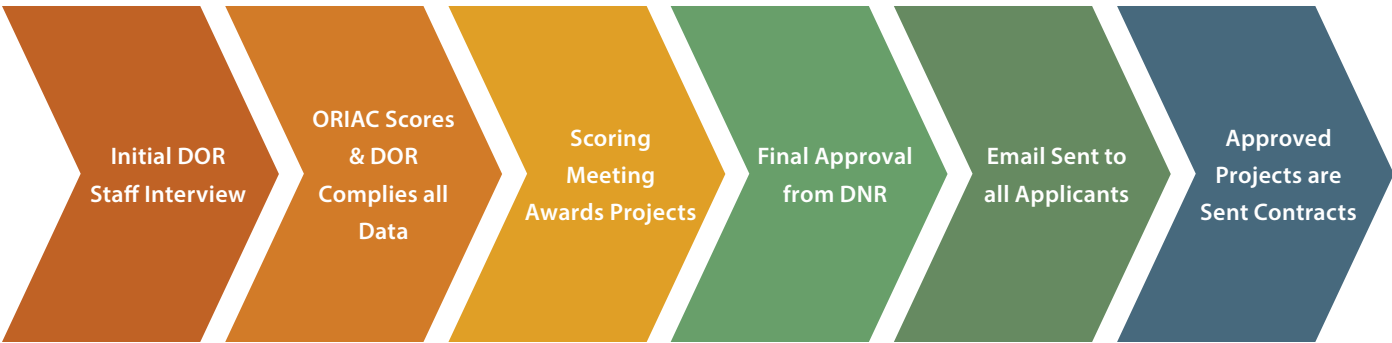
- Division of Outdoor Recreation
- Division of State Parks
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- National Parks Service- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation
- Assistance Program
- Utah League of Cities and Towns

- Association of Counties
- The remaining members are drawn from: the outdoor industry, the lodging industry, the healthcare industry, outdoor recreation education programming, nonmotorized interests, motorized interests, and youth conservation or service corps organizations.

Selection Process

After the DOR staff review, applications are then divided evenly among ORIAC committee members for review. Each application is reviewed by three committee members and given an individual score. After individual scores are submitted, the DOR staff averages each project's score and organizes the applications from highest to lowest score within each grant category. A final scoring meeting is held in April when the committee reviews project scores and has discussions about potential projects. Regional Asset Tier proposals are presented to the committee during the scoring meeting to allow applicants to explain their project in-depth. The committee awards grant funding to the most qualified and impactful infrastructure projects with guidance from the chair. The scoring meeting is a public meeting that can be attended in person or virtually. This meeting is recorded and can be reviewed by applicants afterwards. If you're interested in learning more please contact Noemi Molina at nmolina@utah.gov.

Grant awards receive final approval from the Utah Department of Natural Resources's (DNR) Executive Director. All applicants will receive an official notification of the denial or approval of their application in May. Those awarded will receive contracts to be signed shortly afterward.



Post-Award Process: Next Steps

Once a grant has been awarded, there are a few things each applicant needs to be aware of.

- 1 Do not spend any of the money for your project BEFORE a contract is signed and in place.** It can take a couple of weeks after a grant is awarded for a contract to be sent out. Please be patient during this process and wait to start your project until the contract is in place. Any costs incurred before the contract is in place will not be eligible for reimbursement. Contracts go into effect on the date of the last signature, and the DOR Recreation cannot backdate contracts to before the contract is fully executed.
- 2 Begin collecting proof of payment once you begin your project.** You will need to collect proof of payment for ALL project expenses during your contract timeline, not just the reimbursable items, as DOR needs documentation that you have also met your match requirement. Documentation will include:
 - Receipts
 - Checks
 - Payroll documentation
 - Screenshot/Scanned bank statements

INVOICES with a "PAID" stamp ALONE WILL NOT COUNT AS PROOF OF PAYMENT. When submitting for reimbursement, you will need to compile all documents and send them over with a detailed ledger describing what each payment was for. Please use the ledger provided to you in the reimbursement packet.

- 3 Up front funding is available for those who need help making payments.** If you're a small organization, city or county that needs help covering your invoices, we provide up-front-funding options. Applicants can request up to 75% of their grant award amount prior to project completion. Please contact the UORG administrator Noemi Molina nmolina@utah.gov to help with this process.

- 4 Partial reimbursements are available any time throughout the contract timeline.** If you need an influx of cash before your contract ends, you can ask for partial reimbursements. There is no limit on how many reimbursements an applicant can request. Just remember that all reimbursements, partial or full, need to have the required match. Applicants can receive up to 75% of their total grant award in partial reimbursements. The final 25% can only be reimbursed upon project completion. Reach out to the UORG administrator Noemi Molina at nmolina@utah.gov to receive the reimbursement packet for both full and partial reimbursement requests.
- 5 Checks will be mailed to recipients after full or partial reimbursement requests are processed.** Please provide us with an accurate address for where your check should be mailed, and allow up to 2 weeks for checks to be mailed.
- 6 Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation attribution signage.** Signage **must be erected** at the project site for **Regional Asset Tier, Tier 1, and CPR**. For all other grant programs it is optional but greatly appreciated. When finished with your project, consult the reimbursement packet, which will have guidance on how to erect proper signage to recognize the contribution of the grant money to the project.
- 7 Schedule a Site Visit are required for Regional Asset, UORG Tier 1, and CPR projects.** If you are awarded a Regional Asset Tier, Tier 1, or CPR grant, you are required to schedule a site visit once your project is completed. Please contact Noemi Molina (nmolina@utah.gov) to schedule a site visit with our team. The DOR manages hundreds of grant applications so please invite us to any ribbon cuttings or grand openings of your project, and we will do our best to make it there. DOR staff does travel the state frequently, and we'll be happy to try and arrange a time to see your finished projects when we're on the road! We are also happy to give assistance in drafting press releases or providing quotes on our partnership.

For a more detailed look into the reimbursement process, please view our [Post Award Process Guide](#).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Application Attachments Checklist

Required

- Location Map
- Recreational Site plan, Engineering Plan, or Conceptual Drawing
- Budget Spreadsheet
- Budget Narrative
- Letters of Support
 - Local Tourism or Economic Development Office
(Required for Regional Asset Tier and Tier 1 only)
 - Community (Recommended)
 - Project Partners (if Applicable)
- W-9 Form
- Statement of Responsibility
- Conflict of Interest Form

If Applicable

- Written confirmation of donations from financial partners
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or landowner agreement
- Federal permits or a letter stating their status

APPENDIX B

Additional Funding Resources

Federal Funding

Recreation Trails Program (RTP)- RTP assists with non-motorized and motorized trail development and maintenance, trail education programs, and trail-related environmental protection projects. Applications due annually on May 1.

Program Contact: Evan Beitsch, Federal Grants Coordinator: ebeitsch@utah.gov

Land Water and Conservation Fund (LWCF)- LWCF assists government agencies with the creation of high-quality, public outdoor recreation facilities. LWCF grants have been used to construct golf courses, swimming pools, and parks. Application due annually on May 1.

Program Contact: Evan Beitsch, Federal Grants Coordinator: ebeitsch@utah.gov

Boating Access Grant (BAG)- BAG funds go towards launching and docking, facilities, navigation aids, engineering, outreach, operation and maintenance, and AIS-related projects. Applications are due annually on Oct 1.

Program Contact: Ty Hunter, Boating Program Manager: tyhunter@utah.gov

Clean Vessel Act Grant Program (CVA)- CVA provides funds to the State of Utah for the construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of pump-out stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters. Funds also support educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage. Applications due annually on Oct 1.

Program Contact: Ty Hunter, Boating Program Manager: tyhunter@utah.gov

State Funding

Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Program (OHVR)- OHVR provides assistance to sustain, enhance, and improve motorized recreation within Utah. This grant is open to city, county, federal, and non-profit organizations. This grant is available bi-annually.

Program Contact: Rachel Toker, OHVR Grant Administrator: racheltokert@utah.gov

Utah Children’s Outdoor Recreation Education (UCORE)- Provides program support to schools, community groups, tribal organizations, and non-profit organizations offering **outdoor recreation** and **education opportunities** for Utah youth ages 6-18. Programs are strongly encouraged to incorporate the challenges outlined in the [Utah Every Kid Outdoors \(EKO\)](#) initiative. Application cycle is annually open from early September to mid-October.

Program Contact: Caroline Weiler, Youth Engagement Program Manager: cweiler@utah.gov

Outdoor Classroom- Funds permanent, built infrastructure that supports outdoor student learning, such as school gardens with dedicated learning spaces, covered teaching areas, and amphitheaters. The grant is open to public K-12 schools, non-profits, cities, and tribal organizations. Applications must outline the project's connection to nature and/or outdoor recreation curriculum and opportunities. Application cycle is annually open from early September to mid-October.

Program Contact: Caroline Weiler, Youth Engagement Program Manager: cweiler@utah.gov

For more information on these grants, visit: recreation.utah.gov/grants

APPENDIX C

Construction and Planning Resources

Planning

Outdoor Recreation Planning Assistance (ORPA) aims to support community-led outdoor recreation and planning efforts by providing technical assistance and funding to build capacity at the local level. It is designed to help a community establish its vision and/or plan to pursue the various recreation grants. It is not intended to replace consulting services. Cities, counties and tribal governments are encouraged to apply. Application cycle will be opened in the summer. Contact program staff for more information.

For more information contact: Emily Meadows, Utah Statewide Recreation Planning Coordinator: emeadows@utah.gov

Construction

As partnership organizations, corps can leverage state, federal, and private funding to employ youth to accomplish landscape scale shared stewardship initiatives.

The Canyon Country Youth Corps (CCYC) is the stewardship program of the Canyon Country Discovery Center. CCYC hires young adults ages 15-30 for 5 to 25 weeks to complete service projects on public lands in the Four Corners area in partnership with land management agencies. CCYC Crew Members work on the health and accessibility of these lands through projects such as; building and maintaining trails, fuel mitigation, fence construction and maintenance, invasive species removal, and habitat restoration.

For more information contact: Killian Bailey: killianb@ccdsccovery.org

Southern Utah University’s Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) engages regional youth in internships and youth crews to develop tomorrow’s public land professionals and advocates. Interns gain experience by working with public land mentors and together they accomplish visitor services; range, vegetation, and wildlife monitoring; engineering and archeology support; and build and maintain trails and fences.

For more information contact: Josh Anderson: joshuaanderson3@suu.edu

Utah State’s Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) is an AmeriCorps program with a mission to develop the conservation leaders of tomorrow. Founded in 2001, the UCC has three field offices in Logan, Moab, and Cedar City to complete crew-based projects like habitat restoration, trail maintenance, fuels reduction, and ADA surveys. The program, with 250+ AmeriCorps members serving annually, also completes disaster response projects throughout the nation and has been cooperating with higher education institutions throughout the state to address food insecurity in student and at-risk populations.

For more information contact: Sean Damitz: sean.damitz@usu.edu

American Conservation Experience (ACE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing rewarding environmental service opportunities that harness the idealism and energy of a volunteer labor force to help restore America’s public land. ACE is grounded in the philosophy that cooperative labor on meaningful conservation projects fosters cross-cultural understanding and operates on the belief that challenging volunteer service unites people of all backgrounds in common cause.

For more information contact: Kean Ruane: kruane@usaconservation.org

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Meet the Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant Program Staff



Patrick Morrison

Recreation Program Director
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Noemi Molina

UORG Administrator
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Tara McKee

Grants and Youth Engagement
tmckee@utah.gov

For more information about the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, to download a PDF of this guide or find additional grant resources, please visit: recreation.utah.gov/grants.