



GRANTS ACTION NEWS

Information on available state, federal and private grants

February 2026
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Look inside for funding for:

- construction of municipal recreation facilities and other improvements to municipally owned recreational sites & parks
- legal assistance to rental households to maintain housing stability
- child care capital construction
- comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs
- Great Lakes Basin projects
- braille training programs
- improving engineering education
- massage therapy research
- emerging craft artists
- solutions to boost patient safety
- nonprofits working with immigrant artists and communities
- Rapid Outcomes from Agricultural Research
- for direct service organizations that tackle the roots of chronic poverty
- scholarships



Questions?

Contact: Grants Action News • New York State Assembly • Alfred E. Smith Building • 80 S. Swan St. • Suite 1710 • Albany, NY 12248 • grants@nyassembly.gov



On the State Level

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP), Municipal Parks & Recreation (MPR) Grants

MPR grants are available for the construction of recreational facilities and other improvements to municipally owned recreational sites and parks. Examples include playgrounds, courts, playing fields and facilities for swimming, biking, boating, picnicking, hiking, fishing, camping, or other recreational activities. Grants will primarily fund construction costs. Preconstruction activities, such as developing plans and design specifications, may be included in the project budget, but MPR cannot fund projects that are solely for planning and design without a construction component. Only one location per application.

- **Deadline:** February 9, 2026, 4 PM
- **Eligible Applicants:** Counties, cities, towns and villages within the boundaries of New York State that own the property where the proposed project is sited are eligible to apply
- **Total Funding Available:** Up to \$10 million
- **Email:** nysoprhpgrants@parks.ny.gov
- **Links to Additional Information:**
 - ◆ <https://parks.ny.gov/grants/municipal-parks-recreation-grant>
 - ◆ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/get-offline-get-outside-governor-hochul-announces-10-million-funding-available-through>
 - ◆ https://parks.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/FINALMPRRound2GuidanceDocument12.19.25_0.pdf

Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance (OTDA), Legal Services for Housing Stability Program (LSHSP)

This funding will help provide legal assistance to renter households in all areas of the state outside of New York City who need assistance to maintain housing stability. LSHSP contractors will be required to ensure that services are available throughout the region. If necessary to provide comprehensive services to residents, each provider will be required to engage partner agencies. Applicants should describe a comprehensive legal services program model that incorporates support services for individuals and families facing housing instability either on-site, via a subcontract or through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a community-based service provider. LSHSP contractors will be required to ensure that services are available to individuals regardless of immigration status.

- **Deadline:** March 5, 2026, 3 PM
- **Eligible Applicants:** Not-for-profit entities
- **Total Funding Available:** \$35 million
- **Contact:** Geoffrey Green
- **Email:** servicesRFP.qanda@otda.ny.gov
- **Links to Additional Information:**
 - ◆ <https://otda.ny.gov/contracts/2026/LSHSP/>
 - ◆ <https://otda.ny.gov/contracts/2026/LSHSP/26-LSHSP-RFP.pdf>



NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) & Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), Child Care Capital Construction Funding Program

The Child Care Capital Construction Funding Program, administered by Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and Dormitory Administration of the State of New York (DASNY), will provide reimbursement grants to independent private colleges and universities, municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, public authorities and public colleges and universities for the design, construction, reconstruction, renovation and equipment needs for child care centers licensed pursuant to 18 NYCRR 418-1, school age child care programs registered pursuant to 18 NYCRR 414 and group day care programs permitted pursuant to Article 47 of the New York City Health Code.

- **Deadline:** March 16, 2026
- **Eligible Entities:** Independent private colleges and universities; municipalities; not-for-profit corporations; public authorities; public colleges and universities
- **Total Funding Available:** \$100 million
- **Minimum Award:** \$500,000
- **Maximum Award:** \$5 million
- **Email:** cccp@dasny.org
- **Links to Additional Information:**
 - ◆ <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/grants/construction-fund/assets/docs/4CFP-RFA.en.pdf>
 - ◆ <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/news/article.php?idx=2720>
 - ◆ <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/grants/construction-fund/>

NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH), Capital for Expanding Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs (CPEPs)

Funding is available statewide for the development and operation of comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs (CPEPs) across New York State. Grants are available to qualified health care organizations to provide high-quality, equitable and accessible emergency psychiatric services. OMH is seeking to expand the availability of CPEP services to ensure that individuals with mental health needs can access CPEP care. Based on local need, these capital funds are intended to expand CPEP services and increase a hospital's ability to serve children, adolescents and adults.

- **Deadline:** March 24, 2026, 2 PM
- **Eligible Applicants:** Governmental entities, not-for-profit entities
- **Total Funding Available:** \$23 million
- **Contact:** Jerry Witkop
- **Email:** omhlocalprocurement@omh.ny.gov
- **Links to Additional Information:**
 - ◆ <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/rfp>
 - ◆ <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/rfp/2026/cpep-round-2/index.html>
 - ◆ <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/rfp/2026/cpep-round-2/mh253019-expanding-cpep-rd2.pdf>

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation & New York Sea Grant, Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program

This program funds projects that advance the Great Lakes Action Agenda and align with a locally supported community plan to address environmental challenges in New York's Great Lakes basin. Key requirements include:

- ◆ projects must align with an approved local community plan (e.g., watershed management plan, hazard mitigation plan, etc.)
- ◆ proposals must align with at least one Great Lakes Action Agenda goal and associated metric(s)
- ◆ budget requests may not exceed \$40,000 (no match required)
- ◆ proposals must be submitted electronically, as a single PDF, through New York Sea Grant's application portal. Late submissions will not be accepted

■ **Deadline:** March 27, 2026, 4:30 PM

■ **Eligible Applicants:** Not-for-profit organizations; county and local governments (e.g., county departments, cities, towns, villages, etc.); Indian nations recognized by the state or the United States with a reservation wholly or partly within the boundaries of New York State; public agencies, such as regional planning entities, environmental commissions and soil and water conservation districts; educational institutions, including but not limited to public and private K-12 schools, colleges and universities

■ **Total Funding Available:** \$200,000

■ **Number of Awards:** Approximately 5

■ **Contact:** Megan Cochran

■ **Email:** mk2236@cornell.edu

■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://small-grants-program-ccegeomaps.hub.arcgis.com/pages/apply-for-funding>
- ◆ <https://seagrant.sunysb.edu/funding/PDFs/gliminigrants26/GLMiniGrantsProject26-27-RFP.pdf>
- ◆ <https://www.nyseagrant.org/articles/r/23867>

On the Federal Level

U.S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS): Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA): Braille Training Program

The braille training program offers financial assistance to projects that will provide training in the use of braille for personnel providing vocational rehabilitation (VR) services or educational services to youth and adults who are blind; develop braille training materials; develop methods used to teach braille; and develop activities used to promote the knowledge and use of braille and nonvisual access technology for youth and adults who are blind.

■ **Deadline:** March 27, 2026

■ **Eligible Applicants:** States, public agencies and organizations; nonprofit agencies and organizations; public or nonprofit institutions of higher education

■ **Program Funding:** \$2.1 million

■ **Expected Number of Awards:** 7

■ **Maximum Award:** \$300,000

■ **Contact:** Stephanie Badger

■ **Email:** stephanie.n.badger@ed.gov

■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/dac162ae-55e9-4602-9dfd-337acef9b79b>
- ◆ <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361064>



U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), Professional Formation of Engineers: Revolutionizing Engineering Departments (RED)

Funding is available for projects as part of the RED program, in alignment with the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) framework and Professional Formation of Engineers (PFE) initiative. These projects are designing revolutionary new approaches to engineering education, ranging from changing the canon of engineering to fundamentally altering the way courses are structured to create new departmental structures and educational collaborations with industry. A common thread across these projects is a focus on organizational and cultural change within the departments, involving students, faculty, staff and industry in rethinking what it means to provide an engineering program.

- **Deadline:** April 14, 2026
- **Eligible Applicants:** Proposals may only be submitted by the following: institutions of higher education (IHEs): two- and four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members
- **Program Funding:** \$8 million
- **Expected Number of Awards:** 19
- **Minimum Award:** \$50,000
- **Maximum Award:** \$2 million
- **Contact:** Alice L. Pawley
- **Email:** apawley@nsf.gov
- **Links to Additional Information:**
 - ◆ <https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/8cdbfe4b-7ea9-49f8-9497-9dc2021866a3>
 - ◆ <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/353413>
 - ◆ http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf24564

On the Private Level

Massage Therapy Foundation (MTF), Research Support Grants

MTF will award grants to support high-quality, independent research that contributes significantly and directly to the knowledge and evidence base of massage therapy and/or its application. Basic, applied and translational research studies that investigate massage therapy as a wellness, medical, or health/mental health treatment and/or prevention intervention are supported.

- **Deadline:** February 28, 2026, 11:59 PM CT
- **Eligibility:** Research Support Awards are granted to a single sponsoring organization, not to individuals. Applicants must be currently associated with or have secured the cooperation of a university, independent research organization, health center, or other institution (the “sponsoring organization”). A sponsoring organization must have sufficient facilities as well as human and informational and institutional review board (IRB) resources available to support the proposed research project and to perform the proposed work and expected outcomes
- **Award Amounts:** Up to \$30,000
- **Contact:** Annie LaCroix
- **Email:** alacroix@massagetherapyfoundation.org



■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://massagetherapyfoundation.org/>
- ◆ <https://massagetherapyfoundation.org/grants-awards-contests/>
- ◆ <https://massagetherapyfoundation.org/grants-awards-contests/research-grants/>

Spector Family Foundation, Craft Prizes for Emerging Artists

Prizes will be awarded to help support exceptional emerging craft artists whose work demonstrates technical mastery, innovative vision and deep engagement with American culture. The prize aims to recognize artists who show significant potential for contributing to the field and who would benefit from the comprehensive support provided by the program. Selected artists represent the future of American craft and demonstrate a commitment to strengthening craft's role in contemporary American culture through their practice, community engagement and artistic vision. Eligible disciplines include but are not limited to ceramics, glass, woodworking, textiles, metalwork, paper arts, basketry and more. All works must demonstrate mastery of fundamental techniques while pushing creative boundaries.

■ **Deadline:** March 1, 2026

■ **Eligible Applicants Must:**

- ◆ be within the first seven years of commencing their professional craft practice
- ◆ be residents or citizens of the United States
- ◆ be 21 years of age or older at the time of application
- ◆ submit high-resolution images of an artistic work created within the last 3 years (further detail below)
- ◆ be the sole creator of the submitted work
- ◆ self-identify as an "emerging" craft artist who would benefit from the Spector Prize program

■ **Award Amount:** \$10,000

■ **Expected Number of Awards:** Up to 5

■ **Email:** infor@spectorcraftprize.org

■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://spectorcraftprize.org/>
- ◆ https://spectorcraftprize.org/media/pages/files/75ba4150cd-1763030468/spectorcraftprize_rulesofentry.pdf
- ◆ <https://spectorcraftprize.org/about>

Elevance Health Foundation, Patient Safety Grants

A total of \$5 million will be awarded for proven solutions that boost patient safety for communities across the United States. The Patient Safety Prize invites pioneering solutions in three key areas: empowering health literacy for safer patient care; innovating to eliminate medication errors; and promoting fall-free futures.

■ **Deadline:** March 17, 2026, 5 PM

■ **Eligible Applicants:** An entity based in the United States and/or US territories under section 501(c)(3) and 509(a) (1) or (2) of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") that has received a tax determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"); private foundations based in the United States and/or US territories under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC that has received a tax determination letter from the IRS; fiscally sponsored nonprofit organizations; tribal governments or tribal-owned enterprises; public colleges, junior colleges, or university under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC that has received a tax determination letter from the IRS; PreK-12 public, private, or charter schools; for-profit corporations organized under the laws of a state (or territory) in the United States; benefit corporations, flexible purpose entities, or

similar “hybrid” entity organized under the laws of a state (or territory) in the United States; limited liability companies or partnerships organized under the laws of a state (or territory) in the United States

- **Award Amounts:** Vary
- **Expected Number of Awards:** Up to 5
- **Email:** questions@patientsafetyprize.org
- **Link to Additional Information:** <https://www.patientsafetyprize.org/>

Vilcek Foundation, Grants to Support Nonprofits Working with Immigrant Artists and Communities

These grants will support nonprofit organizations based in the United States and U.S. territories that work with immigrant artists and communities and that promote diversity in the arts, sciences, education, or through the provision of social services. The foundation invests in organizations that take a creative approach to putting their mission into action and prioritize the development of unique projects and operations that effectively achieve meaningful goals. The ideal grant recipient creates outputs, provides services, or serves populations in an innovative way that sets them apart from other organizations.

- **Deadline:** April 30, 2026

- **Eligible Applicants Must:**

- ◆ be a nonprofit organization operating under U.S. IRC Section 501(c)(3)
- ◆ be based in the United States or U.S. territories
- ◆ have activities and expenditures that are primarily based in the United States or U.S. territories
- ◆ abide by all laws and regulations governing nonprofit organizations under IRC Section 501(c)(3) in the United States
- ◆ be in good standing and hold tax-exempt status with the IRS
- ◆ An organization must be able to provide the following documents:
 - ◆ signed W-9 with a valid EIN for the organization
 - ◆ IRS determination letter
 - ◆ a recent Form 990, Form 990-PF, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N
 - ◆ audited financial statement
 - ◆ annual operating budget and proposal budget when applicable

- **Award Amounts:** Vary

- **Email:** grants@vilcek.org

- **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://vilcek.org/>
- ◆ <https://vilcek.org/grants/>
- ◆ https://portal.vilcek.org/grantportal/s/login/SelfRegister?_gl=1*hv142t*_gcl_au*NDI2NDExMjYxLjE3Njc4ODQyOTY.*_ga*MjEzOTA0Nzc1OS4xNzY3ODg0Mjk2*_ga_PMRH1P23GE*czE3Njg0MTkzODckbzIkZzEkdDE3Njg0MTk0NjckajQ4JGwwJGgw*_ga_2V5DYM0WCN*czE3Njg0MTkzODckbzIkZzEkdDE3Njg0MTk0NjckajQ4JGwwJGgxMjE4NDg1OTM0



Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR), Rapid Outcomes from Agricultural Research (ROAR) Program

This program deploys urgent funding to support research and outreach in response to emerging or unanticipated threats to the nation's food supply or agricultural systems. According to FFAR, plant and animal pests and pathogens can strike quickly, devastating crops, livestock and livelihoods. To address these outbreaks quickly, the ROAR program funds rapid research related to response, prevention, or mitigation of new pests and pathogens. ROAR's one-year funding fills urgent research gaps until traditional, longer-term funding can be secured.

- **Deadline:** Rolling
- **Eligible Applicants:** Public and private institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations and for-profit organizations
- **Award Amounts:** Up to \$250,000
- **Matching Funds Required:** Yes
- **Email:** communications@foundationfar.org
- **Links to Additional Information:**
 - ◆ <https://foundationfar.org/programs/rapid-outcomes-from-agricultural-research/>
 - ◆ <https://foundationfar.org/about/contact/>
 - ◆ <https://foundationfar.org/what-we-do/>

Hearst Foundation, Funding Priorities in Social Service

This funding helps support direct service organizations that tackle the roots of chronic poverty by applying effective solutions to the most challenging social and economic problems. The priority is to support programs that have proven successful in facilitating economic independence and in strengthening families. Preference is also given to programs with the potential to scale productive practices in order to reach more people in need. Funding preference will be given to:

- ◆ affordable housing
- ◆ domestic violence victims/survivors
- ◆ economic development with a focus on environmental sustainability
- ◆ food banks and food delivery — provided services are program-related
- ◆ job creation and job training
- ◆ legal services for those in need of legal representation
- ◆ prison education and reentry programs
- ◆ youth development
- ◆ an organization's national headquarters for wider initiatives instead of local chapters

- **Deadline:** Rolling
- **Eligible Applicants Must:**
 - ◆ be a 510 (c)(3) nonprofit organization providing direct services to large populations focusing on the areas mentioned above
 - ◆ operate in the United States
 - ◆ serve significant demographic and geographic populations
 - ◆ focus on providing direct services in key areas

■ **Minimum Award Amount:** \$100,000

■ **Matching Funds Required:** Yes

■ **Email:** hearst.ny@hearstfdn.org

■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://www.hearstfdn.org/general-overview>
- ◆ <https://www.hearstfdn.org/grant-request-evaluation-process>
- ◆ <https://www.hearstfdn.org/social-service/funding-priorities>
- ◆ <https://www.hearstfdn.org/faq>

Scholar Awards

Marine Corps. Scholarship Foundation, College Scholarships

These need-based scholarships are for children of a Marine or Navy Corpsman, chaplain or religious programs specialist attached to a Marine unit, to help cover the cost of attending post-high school, undergraduate and career and technical education programs.

■ **Deadline:** March 1, 2026

■ **Eligibility Requirements:**

- ◆ must be a child or stepchild of one of the following:
 - ◆ active duty, reserve, or veteran* U.S. Marine
 - ◆ Marine killed while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps
 - ◆ active duty, reserve, or veteran U.S. Navy corpsman, Navy chaplain or religious program specialist who is or was attached to a U.S. Marine Corps unit or who was killed while serving with a U.S. Marine Corps unit
- ◆ have a minimum 2.00 GPA
- ◆ demonstrate financial need through a family adjusted gross income of \$129,000 or less for the 2024 tax year
- ◆ attend or plan to attend an accredited school that is eligible for federal funding
- ◆ submit a complete application with all required documents

*veteran must have received an honorable discharge

■ **Scholarship Value:** Varies

■ **Number of Awards:** Varies

■ **Email:** scholarship@mcsf.org

■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://www.mcsf.org/our-mission/>
- ◆ <https://www.mcsf.org/apply/eligibility/>
- ◆ <https://www.mcsf.org/apply/>

Agriculture Future of America (AFA), College Scholarships

One application unlocks over 100 scholarship opportunities. These scholarships help dynamic, diverse young leaders develop their personal skills and prepare for careers in the food, agriculture and natural resources industries.



- **Deadline:** March 5, 2026

- **Eligible Applicants Must:**

- ◆ be a current high school senior or undergraduate student
- ◆ be ages 17-25 during the AFA Leaders Conference
- ◆ attend a four-year institution in the US or plan to obtain a four-year degree
- ◆ have a 2.5 GPA or higher
- ◆ have a passion for food, agriculture and/or natural resources
- ◆ intend to pursue a career in the food, agriculture, and/or natural resources industries

- **Scholarship Values:** Vary

- **Number of Awards:** Vary

- **Email:** scholarship@agfuture.org

- **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://www.agfuture.org/scholarships>
- ◆ <https://agfuture.my.site.com/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fs%2F>

Gloria Barron Prizes for Young Heroes

This program celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people from diverse backgrounds across the U.S. and Canada. Each year, the Barron Prize honors 25 outstanding young leaders aged eight to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and the environment.

- **Deadline:** March 15, 2026, 5 PM MT

- **Eligible Applicants Must:**

- ◆ be between the ages of eight and 18 by the March 15th application deadline
- ◆ provide parental consent if the applicant is under the age of 16 on the application deadline
- ◆ be a permanent, legal resident of the US or Canada. Residents of US territories are not eligible

- **Service Project Requirements:**

- ◆ applicant has organized and led an extraordinary service activity that is clearly benefitting other people or the planet. This can include research projects that are already helping or have very real potential to help other people or the planet
- ◆ the service activity must have been initiated primarily by the applicant and cannot have been done solely to complete an assignment for school or work
- ◆ applicants are currently working on his/her inspiring service project or has done so within the past 12 months
- ◆ applicant is working as an individual (or possibly with one other person) to lead their service work. No more than two co-applicants may apply together (and if selected as a winner, co-applicants share one award)
- ◆ applicant has demonstrated heroic character qualities such as courage, compassion, dedication, generosity, perseverance and high moral purpose
- ◆ applicant has accomplished something with inspirational value – something that could inspire others to make a difference
- ◆ applicant has done more than survived a difficult personal challenge. Their heroism must have made an impact on the world beyond themselves

**The Barron Prize does not discriminate against its applicants based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability

■ **Scholarship Value:** \$10,000

■ **Number of Awards:** 25

■ **Email:** admin@barronprize.org

■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://barronprize.org/>
- ◆ <https://barronprize.org/apply/>
- ◆ <https://barronprize.org/faqs/>

Courageous Persuaders, Scholarships

High school students nationwide use their creative talents to create a 30-second television commercial promoting safe driving to enter this scholarship competition. Compete in the following categories: distracted driving, impaired driving and passenger empowerment. Middle school classrooms determine the winners by gauging the persuasiveness of commercials.

■ **Deadline:** March 30, 2026

■ **Award Amounts:** Vary

■ **Email:** info@dada.org

■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://courageouspersuaders.com/>
- ◆ <https://courageouspersuaders.com/resources/>
- ◆ <https://courageouspersuaders.com/video-contest-form/>
- ◆ <https://courageouspersuaders.com/official-judges/>
- ◆ <https://courageouspersuaders.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Courageous-Persuaders-Rules-25-26.pdf>
- ◆ <https://courageouspersuaders.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/DAS-24-CP-Education-Activites-v8.pdf>



Links to State and Federal Grants

NYS Grants Management

- ◆ <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/>

Grants.gov

- ◆ <https://simpler.grants.gov/>

Candid

Candid offers a variety of free trainings:

- **Introduction to Foundation Directory Online**
- **Introduction to Finding Grants**
- **Introduction to Proposal Writing**
- **Introduction to Project Budgets**
- **For More Information, Visit:** <https://learning.candid.org/page/live-training>

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