NYS County Infrastructure Grant
FAQ for County Expression of Interest

Empire State Development full grant information available at https://esd.ny.gov/county-infrastructure-grant-program

Expressions of Interest form due to the County by 9:00 AM (EST) on Monday, November 16, 2026

IMPORTANT:

- **A 50% funding match from the applicant is required. The match may include other grant funds so long as Empire State Development is NOT the source.**
- **Project must be ready to begin construction within 1 year of award and able to front all costs as this grant is reimbursement-based upon project completion.**

Award Amount

Up to $1.5 million, but note this grant is reimbursement based and requires a 50% funding match (e.g. $1.5M match for a $1.5M award) AND a 1% admin. fee (so $15,000 if seeking a $1.5M award).

Eligible Projects and Uses of Funds

Tompkins County is eligible to submit one application to Empire State Development (ESD) for an infrastructure project which supports at least 10 housing units.

1) **Eligible uses of funds include:**
   a) Construction, expansion, and/or rehabilitation of municipal, utility, or other public property and/or ancillary infrastructure to support at least 10 new housing units;
   b) Extension or reconstruction of road, water, sewer, or utilities;
   c) Design or engineering costs related to construction (limited to 20% of total project cost);
   d) Acquisition of machinery and equipment related to infrastructure projects;
   e) Site preparation, demolition, acquisition of real property related to the infrastructure project; and
   f) Other capital uses as determined by Empire State Development (ESD)

2) **Ineligible projects and/or costs:**
   a) Any direct costs related to construction of buildings intended for private ownership;
   b) Routine maintenance and upkeep costs;
   c) The creation of revolving loan fund programs;
   d) Religious institution projects;
   e) Operating, marketing, or other non-capital costs;
   f) Wages for municipal employees;
   g) Costs incurred prior to the award of a Program Application submission date; and,
   h) Other costs or expenditures deemed ineligible by ESD

Empire State Development's Project Selection Criteria:

1) Alignment with the local Regional Economic Development Council goals and development priorities;
2) Amount of leveraged funding sources, including demonstration that at least 50 percent of non-Program (meaning non-ESD) funds are utilized;
3) Demonstrated local government, elected official, and/or community support;
4) Project readiness. All projects must be ready to commence within one year of award; and,
5) Project focus. Eligible projects may focus on: construction, expansion, and/or rehabilitation of municipal, utility, or other public property and/or ancillary infrastructure to support such developments, which may include related capital equipment, maintenance, repair, or extension of roads, water and sewer access, and utility access.