HOUSING AFFORDABILITY & SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

Program Guidelines

The Tompkins County Housing Affordability and Supportive Infrastructure Grant provides support to municipalities working to address the community's housing shortage. In particular, this program is intended to:

- Increase the number of municipalities applying for state or federal funding related to housing affordability including, but not limited to, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME, and New York State Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA), and to increase the success of these applications.
- Support new development of housing whose total costs, including utility and transportation expenses, are affordable to households with a range of incomes.
- Encourage a variety of housing types that meet the diverse needs, preferences, and income levels of Tompkins County residents.
- Increase the development of housing within Tompkins County Development Focus Areas.
- Improve and maintain the affordability of existing housing.
- Create and preserve affordable housing opportunities in manufactured home parks and improve housing conditions within the parks.
- Further goals for expanding housing affordability, as defined in locally adopted plans and the Tompkins County Housing Strategy.

Applicant and Project Eligibility

The proposed project must meet all of the following minimum requirements:

- Only municipal governments are eligible to apply for these funds.
- The project must support housing affordability.
- The project must have support from the municipality's Planning Board, elected body, Town Supervisor or Mayor.
- The project must support Tompkins County and local comprehensive plans.
- The County cost will be no more than 90% of the total project cost.
- Projects must have a reasonable expected completion date within 12 months of award date.
- Projects may request no more than $10,000 in County funds.
- Funding may be used to hire consultants or to add staff time to perform one or more of the following:
  1. Write and/or administer grants to support housing affordability
  2. Improve zoning and the development review process as they relate to housing affordability
  3. Identify and assess potential sites for affordable housing development and pursue implementation activities
  4. Conduct research necessary to increase affordable housing development and lower housing costs
  5. Develop infrastructure studies or make needed infrastructure improvements that support housing affordability

**Additionally, projects located in or near County Development Focus Areas are strongly encouraged. Activities related to stick-built, modular, and manufactured housing may be supported by this grant program.*

Process

Application instructions are available on the Tompkins County website. Eligible entities will be informed about the grant opportunity, process and guidelines early each year.

In 2026, project proposals will be accepted by the Department of Planning and Sustainability on a rolling basis starting March 16, 2026 until November 18, 2026 or until funds are depleted. Project proposals will be reviewed on the third Wednesday of each month. Because applications are accepted on a rolling basis, it is encouraged to apply early as funds may be depleted sooner than the final accepted date.

Projects that propose using ≤ $5,000 of County funds will be reviewed by Department of Planning and Sustainability Staff based on the Applicant and Project Eligibility criteria. The Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability will be authorized to approve applications for ≤ $5,000 that clearly meet the letter and intent of the program. Projects applying for more than $5,000 will be brought for consideration to the relevant committee of the Tompkins County Legislature and, if approved, to the full Legislature for approval. Tompkins County Department of Sustainability will notify the applicant of the award decision.

CONTACT: Shawna Stevenson, Housing and Community Development Planner, via e-mail to shstevenson@tompkins.co.org or by telephone at 607-274-5560.