Description of Project Costs Eligible for Funding

2013-14 New York State Conservation Partnership Program

CAPACITY & EXCELLENCE GRANTS

Capacity Grants:

- Accreditation application preparation.
- Preparation for accreditation renewal.
- Targeted activities to implement specific *Land Trust Standards and Practices*.
- Completion of a multi-year strategic organizational plan or major fundraising/capital campaign plan.
- Board/staff development, including training and facilitated retreats.
- Development of a strategic land conservation plan that advances the New York Open Space Plan, New York Wildlife Action Plan, Statewide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy and/or other federal, state, or local conservation priorities.
- Improvement of stewardship and easement defense programs, including enforcement and monitoring.
- Development of a management plan or community outreach plan to enhance community access to and enjoyment of conservation lands.
- Development of mapping and GIS capabilities and services.
- Software program upgrades to improve fundraising/ development/ donor relations, recordkeeping, and project tracking, i.e. Giftworks, DonorPerfect. Grant funds can cover initial software purchase, not license renewal.
- Public access improvements, such as including interpretive kiosks and signage, trails, and other activities that enhance public enjoyment and access to lands protected prior to January 1, 2012.
- Temporary capacity building such as the hiring of contractors of interns to support the land trusts work. The Conservation Partnership program has built a relationship with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and encourages land trusts to seek intern support through them. Please contact the Northeast Office if your land trust is interested in hiring an SCA intern.
- Funding for professional development and training (note grant funds may not be used to cover Land Trust Alliance sponsored events such as Rally, workshops, or webinars, but costs can be included as part of the land trust's match).

Assessment Grants:

- Grant funds will total $5,000 and must be used to cover the cost of a Standards and Practices Assessment, and work plan consultation.

Stewardship Grants:

Conservation Easements: Grant funds may be used to complete or improve individual baseline document reports, including property description, easement summary, legal information, natural resource inventories, maps/GIS, on-site and aerial photographic documentation, and other documentation. Baseline documentation reports must conform to the requirements of *Land Trust Standards and Practices* (standard 11B – Baseline Documentation Report).

Fee Owned Conservation Properties: Grant funds may be used to complete or improve documentation for fee-owned properties. Eligible projects include surveys or boundary marking, resource inventories, and management plans. Documentation for fee-owned properties must conform to the requirements of *Land Trust Standards and Practices* (standard 12 –Fee Land Stewardship)

Capacity & Excellence Grant funds may not be used to cover:

- Project costs incurred before January 1, 2014
- General operating support
- Purchasing interests in land or buildings
- Major capital expenditures such as equipment or computers
- Endowment funds

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

- ***1st STAFF HIRE***: hiring the land trust's first permanent employee, typically a full-time executive director.

- ***ADDITIONAL STAFF***: hiring an additional permanent staff member to fill a critical stewardship, land protection, outreach, development need, or other key function.

- ***UPGRADE TO FULL-TIME STAFF***: increasing a part-time executive director, or other key staff position(s), to full time.

- ***SHARED STAFF***: hiring a staff person to be shared by two or more land trusts. Each of the land trusts sharing the position may have no more than seven full-time-equivalent staff at the time of application.

Note: Professional Development Grants are meant to support permanent increases in staffing capacity. If your organization is interested in hiring temporary contractors or seasonal staff to support the land trusts work, this request would fall under a Capacity Grant or Conservation Catalyst Grant. Land trusts interested in seasonal interns through the Student Conservation Association are encouraged to contact the Northeast Office.

CONSERVATION CATALYST GRANTS

- Landscape-scale land conservation projects involving neighboring land trusts, multiple landowners, local government and/or other community partners. Projects may involve urban, rural, or suburban landscapes with important conservation values and public benefits.

- Partnership projects with local governments to design and/or implement a local, municipal or county open space or farmland protection plan.

- Collaborations to enable protection of priority areas identified in the New York Open Space Plan, New York Wildlife Action Plan, Statewide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy and/or other local, regional or statewide land protection plans.

- Community initiatives that promote outreach and public education resulting in greater public support for land trusts and broader public involvement in private land conservation.

- Constituency-building initiatives that re-connect children and families to nature and open space through new education and recreation programs; promote greater diversity (social, economic, demographic, etc.) in land trust activities and memberships; efforts to engage community leaders to expand land trust services in under-served communities; projects that build community relationships by addressing climate change, food security, smart growth planning, or other land trust mission related initiatives with important local or regional implications.

Conservation Catalyst Grant funds may not be used to cover:

- Project costs incurred before January 1, 2014
- General operating support

- Purchasing interests in land or buildings
- Major capital expenditures such as equipment or computers
- Endowment funds

TRANSACTION GRANTS

Conservation Transaction Grants may cover the indirect expenses of a land conservation transaction provided costs are incurred (and the transaction closes) between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014. Eligible projects costs may include:

- Title search report
- Title insurance
- Survey
- Land Trust Appraisal (grant funds not available for landowner/donor appraisal)
- Legal fees
- Mapping & GIS/remote sensing data
- Filing fees and other closing costs
- Environmental assessments
- Baseline documentation reports and/or stewardship plans
- Management and public use plans
- Public access improvements for protected land (fee or easement), including trail development, signage, kiosks, and other public access investments protected after January 1, 2013.
- Staff and/or consultant costs associated with completion of the conservation transaction, including stewardship and management planning, baseline documentation, or similar expenses.

Transaction Grant funds may not be used to cover:

- General operating support
- Easement/ fee acquisition and/ or financing costs
- Property taxes (may count as match)
- Development of or updates to baseline reports or management plans for projects (closed prior to January 1, 2013). Applicants should consider a Capacity or Stewardship grant to cover baselines, management plans, and access improvements.