



# GRANTS ACTION NEWS

Information on available state, federal and private grants

May 2026  
Vol. 40, Issue 5

## Look inside for funding for:

- beginning farmers
- design, construction & renovation of public playgrounds
- increasing staff to plan & implement farmland protection at the local level
- Resilient NY Watershed Grants
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program
- Rural Microentrepreneur Program
- research to increase the general public's understanding of homosexuality and sexual orientation
- military service organizations offering innovative and effective programs or treatments for service-related mental and physical injuries
- stable housing & empowering communities
- support of movements, organizations and individuals pursuing justice for people and the planet
- assisting individuals with cerebral palsy
- college scholarships



## Questions?



# On the State Level

## New York Farm Viability Institute in Partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, Beginning Farmer Competitive Grant Program

This program will provide \$1.7 million to support beginning farmers in building financially sustainable, independent commercial agricultural enterprises throughout New York State.

■ **Deadline:** June 14, 2026

■ **Eligible Applicants Must:**

- ◆ be a New York beginning farmer with 10 years or less of farm operation experience and who will materially and substantially participate in operating a farm in New York State
- ◆ demonstrate the potential for the project to grow the business and improve financial sustainability.  
**All applicants whose farm generated less than \$1,000 in the previous year must provide a business plan**
- ◆ submit a proposal that may support a business that produces any type of agricultural product, with the exception of cannabis

■ **What Can Be Funded:**

- ◆ start-up, improvement, or expansion of farm operations
- ◆ purchase of land, machinery, equipment, or livestock
- ◆ construction or improvement of structures
- ◆ marketing initiatives
- ◆ worker or apprenticeship training
- ◆ other business needs tied to financial impact

■ **Total Funding Available:** \$1.7 million

■ **Required Match:** 5%

■ **Award Range:**

- ◆ Track 1 -- \$5,000 - \$50,000
- ◆ Track 2 -- \$50,001 - \$200,000

■ **Email:** [info@nyfvi.org](mailto:info@nyfvi.org)

■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://nyfvi.org/grant-programs/producer-grants/beginning-farmer/2026-bf/>
- ◆ <https://nyfvi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/BFCG26TechnicalRequirements-1.pdf>
- ◆ <https://nyfvi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/BFCG26Application.pdf>

## NYS Office Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP), New York Places for Learning, Activity and Youth Socialization (NY PLAYS) Funding

This competitive grant program supports the design, construction and renovation of public playgrounds across New York State. NY PLAYS helps communities expand access to safe, welcoming outdoor spaces that promote physical activity, emotional well-being and in-person social connections for children and families.



- **Deadline:** June 15, 2026
- **Eligible Applicants:** Limited to municipalities and prequalified not-for-profit entities providing playgrounds; at least \$35 million shall be awarded to eligible applicants in underserved communities
- **Total Funding Available:** \$67.5 million
- **Required Match:** 20%
- **Email:** [NYPLAYS@dasny.org](mailto:NYPLAYS@dasny.org)
- **Links to Additional Information:**
  - ◆ [https://www.dasny.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Appendix%201%20-%20NY%20PLAYS%20Application%20-%20Updated%202.13.2026\\_0.pdf](https://www.dasny.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Appendix%201%20-%20NY%20PLAYS%20Application%20-%20Updated%202.13.2026_0.pdf)
  - ◆ <https://www.dasny.org/PLAYS>
  - ◆ <https://www.dasny.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NY%20PLAYS%20RFA.pdf>

## **NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, Farmland Protection Staff Capacity Grants**

These grants support local agricultural and farmland protection goals by building staff capacity for eligible organizations to initiate or accelerate farmland protection projects. Projects will consist of increasing staff capacity for the planning and implementing of farmland protection at the local or regional level.

- **Deadline:** June 26, 2026, 4 PM
- **Eligible Applicants:** Governmental entities, not-for-profit entities
- **Total Funding Available:** \$1 million
- **Contact:** Eric Rubenstahl
- **Email:** [Eric.Rubenstahl@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Eric.Rubenstahl@agriculture.ny.gov)
- **Links to Additional Information:**
  - ◆ <https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfp-0397-farmland-protection-staff-capacity-grants-pilot-program>
  - ◆ <https://agriculture.ny.gov/request-proposals-rfp-0397-farmland-protection-staff-capacity-grants-pilot-program>

## **NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation & Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), Resilient Watersheds Grant (RWG) Program**

RWG helps to implement projects that build community resilience, reduce risk of flooding, erosion and ice jams during extreme weather events, enhance climate resilience and/or implement natural and nature-based feature construction while supporting healthy riparian habitats. This funding is for the implementation or construction of projects, not projects exclusively for planning and/or design.

- **Comparable Study Submission Deadline:** June 5, 2026, 11:59 PM
- **Application Deadline:** June 26, 2026, 4 PM
- **Eligible Applicants:** Local governments; Indian nations; state agencies; soil & water conservation districts; not-for-profit entities
  - ◆ applicants must possess either a Resilient NY\* or DEC-approved comparable flood study (Resilient NY reports must be finalized by the time funding is awarded)
  - ◆ Funds are awarded to the eligible entity with ownership and/or control for the duration of the useful life of the project (30 years); applicant must collaborate with an eligible entity if applicable
- **Total Funding Available:** \$60 million



- **Required Match:** 10%

- **Contact Emails:**

- ◆ [Madison.Moore@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Madison.Moore@dec.ny.gov)
- ◆ [Brian.Hahn@efc.ny.gov](mailto:Brian.Hahn@efc.ny.gov)

- **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://dec.ny.gov/media/48276>
- ◆ [https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/resilient-ny#:~:text=The%20Resilient%20NY%20program%20was%20established%20in,of%20flooding%20\\*%20Support%20healthy%20riparian%20habitats](https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/resilient-ny#:~:text=The%20Resilient%20NY%20program%20was%20established%20in,of%20flooding%20*%20Support%20healthy%20riparian%20habitats)

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## On the Federal Level

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### U.S. Dept. of Labor (DOL), Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) Program

IAL supports high-quality programs designed to develop and improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade in high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools. IAL promotes innovative literacy programs that support the development of literacy skills in low-income communities, including programs that: develop and enhance effective school library programs, which may include providing professional development for school librarians, books and up-to-date materials to high-need schools; provide early literacy services, including pediatric literacy programs through which, during well-child visits, medical providers trained in research-based methods of early language and literacy promotion provide developmentally appropriate books and recommendations to parents to encourage them to read aloud to their children starting in infancy; provide high-quality books on a regular basis to children and adolescents from low-income communities to increase reading motivation, performance and frequency.

- **Deadline:** June 9, 2026, 11:59 PM
- **Eligible Applicants:** Independent school districts; Native American tribal governments (federally recognized); nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- **Program Funding:** \$16.8 million
- **Expected Awards:** 25
- **Contact:** Simon Earle & Kristin Mitchell
- **Email:** [Simon.Earle@ed.gov](mailto:Simon.Earle@ed.gov) & [Kristin.Mitchell@ed.gov](mailto:Kristin.Mitchell@ed.gov)
- **Links to Additional Information:**
  - ◆ <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361808>
  - ◆ <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-birth-grade-12/well-rounded-education-grants/innovative-approaches-literacy>

### U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Microentrepreneur Program (RMAP)

RMAP provides loans and grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) to provide microloans for microenterprise startups and growth through a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund.

- **Deadline:** June 30, 2026, 11:59 PM
- **Eligible Applicants:** Domestic organizations that are non-profit entities, Indian Tribes (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)) or public institutions of higher education



- **Program Funding:** \$4.6 million
- **Expected Awards:** 20
- **Maximum Award:** \$500,000
- **Minimum Award:** \$50,000
- **Contact:** Shamika Johnson
- **Email:** [Shamika.Johnson@usda.gov](mailto:Shamika.Johnson@usda.gov)
- **Links to Additional Information:**
  - ◆ <https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/38ad3064-6597-4f64-8168-bf2fe52605db>
  - ◆ [https://files.simpler.grants.gov/opportunities/38ad3064-6597-4f64-8168-bf2fe52605db/attachments/4158c680-f47f-4809-8282-6409425ce4ae/FY26\\_RMAP\\_Grants.gov\\_2.4.26\\_final.pdf](https://files.simpler.grants.gov/opportunities/38ad3064-6597-4f64-8168-bf2fe52605db/attachments/4158c680-f47f-4809-8282-6409425ce4ae/FY26_RMAP_Grants.gov_2.4.26_final.pdf)
  - ◆ [https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fact-sheet/508\\_RD\\_FS\\_RBS\\_RMAP.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fact-sheet/508_RD_FS_RBS_RMAP.pdf)

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## On the Private Level

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### American Psychological Foundation, Wayne F. Placek Grants

These grants encourage research to increase the general public's understanding of homosexuality and sexual orientation and to alleviate the stress that LGBTQIA+ individuals experience in this and future civilizations.

- **Deadline:** June 12, 2026
- **Eligible Applicants:** Doctoral-level researcher or graduate student affiliated with an educational institution or a 501(c)(3) nonprofit research organization
- **Award Amounts:** Up to \$15,000
- **Expected Number of Awards:** 2
- **Email:** [programs@ampsychfdn.org](mailto:programs@ampsychfdn.org)
- **Links to Additional Information:**
  - ◆ <https://ampsychfdn.org/funding/placek-grants/>
  - ◆ <https://ampsychfdn.givingdata.com/portal/campaign/WayneFPlacekGrants>
  - ◆ <https://ampsychfdn.org/faqs/>

### Infinite Hero Foundation Grants

These grants support military service organizations offering innovative and effective programs or treatments for service-related mental and physical injuries.

- **Letter of Interest (LOI) Deadline:** June 15, 2026
- **Eligible Applicants Must:**
  - ◆ have a mission consistent with the mission and goals of the Infinite Hero Foundation and be committed to creating or working with cutting-edge technologies, methods, practices, or products which advance the front lines of combat against the mental and/or physical challenges faced by military heroes and their families
  - ◆ be a charitable organization currently recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code")



- ◆ have a reputation for credibility and integrity as well as a proven track record of fiscal responsibility
  - ◆ serve active-duty military, veterans and/or military families
  - ◆ fall within the five categories the Infinite Hero looks to invest in: physical recovery, brain health to include TBI and PTSD, suicide prevention, veteran leadership and military families
  - ◆ provide programs and services at no cost to active-duty service members or veterans in the areas of mental and physical recovery from service-related injuries
  - ◆ demonstrate clearly outlined goals and objectives for the program and an evaluation plan that measures qualitative and quantitative outcomes
  - ◆ agree to submit an interim report six months after the funds have been received by the organization and a final report once all the funds have been expended or at the close of two years, whichever is first
- **Award Amounts:** Up to \$100,000
  - **Email:** [infor@infinitehero.org](mailto:infor@infinitehero.org)
  - **Links to Additional Information:**
    - ◆ <https://www.infinitehero.org/grants/>
    - ◆ <https://www.infinitehero.org/grants/ihf-grant-guidelines/>

## **Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Stable Housing & Empowering Communities Grants**

The foundation accepts grant requests to advance social mobility and economic opportunity through support of any of the following:

- ◆ ensuring basic human needs: access to necessities related to health and wellness, including healthcare, disease prevention, healthy food, homelessness, crisis or disaster response
  - ◆ creating income: enabling job or career readiness and exposure, sustainable incomes, advancing entrepreneurship, small business and/or financial resilience
  - ◆ providing stable housing: ensuring affordable housing solutions and services through creation and preservation of affordable housing, long-term rental housing and home ownership opportunities
  - ◆ empowering communities: ensuring inclusive, thriving communities focused on systemic reform, community leader development, neighborhood revitalization, environmental concerns and the continuation of arts and culture
- **Deadline:** June 29, 2026
  - **Eligible Applicants:** Qualified 501(c)(3) organizations with a valid IRS Tax ID or an accredited educational institution in the following Bank of America footprint: <https://about.bankofamerica.com/en/making-an-impact/eligible-states-local-markets>
  - **Award Amounts:** Vary
  - **Email:** [foundation@bofa.com](mailto:foundation@bofa.com)
  - **Links to Additional Information:**
    - ◆ <https://communities.grantsoffice.com/s/grant/a0B3300000Keka5EAB/bank-of-america-charitable-foundation>
    - ◆ <https://about.bankofamerica.com/en/making-an-impact/charitable-foundation-grant-faq>



## Nathan Cummings Foundation (NCF) Grants

NCF is working to help create a more just, vibrant, sustainable and democratic society. This funding supports movements, organizations and individuals pursuing justice for people and the planet. Review the “frequently asked questions” in the link below and racial, economic and environmental justice focus areas to determine whether your work aligns.

- **Letter of Inquiry (LOI) Deadline:** Rolling
- **Award Amounts:** Range from \$50,000 - \$250,000
- **Email:** [ga\\_admin@nathancummings.org](mailto:ga_admin@nathancummings.org)
- **Links to Additional Information:**
  - ◆ <https://nathancummings.org/>
  - ◆ <https://nathancummings.org/faq>

## Alyssa V Phillips Foundation Grants

These grants support individuals with cerebral palsy (CP) with a focus on assisting children with CP, the families of children with CP, or any individual impacted by CP in maximizing independence.

- **Deadline:** Rolling
- **Eligible Applicants Must:**
  - ◆ have a diagnosed disability of cerebral palsy
  - ◆ be a US citizen
  - ◆ have a letter of recommendation from a healthcare professional (therapist, doctor, case manager, etc.)
  - ◆ have pursued other funding options before applying with the Alyssa V Phillips Foundation (i.e. insurance)
  - ◆ be able to provide a denial letter or explanation of non-coverage if an applicant has medical insurance or government funding (DARS/Texas Workforce Solutions, MDCO, CLASS, etc)
- **Other Information:**
  - ◆ for any request involving vehicle modifications, the vehicle must not be greater than seven years old and must have fewer than 100,000 miles
  - ◆ for any item that costs over \$1,000, a portion of the total cost is expected to be self-funded by the applicant (or another resource), which applicants are required to detail for requests greater than \$1,000
  - ◆ for requests in excess of \$3,000, a portion of the cost must be funded through sources other than the Alyssa V Phillips Foundation, such as another charity, which applicants are required to detail for requests greater than \$3,000
  - ◆ the Alyssa V Phillips Foundation is limiting direct and indirect financial assistance to any one beneficiary (or the family of a beneficiary) to \$5,000 per year, with a lifetime maximum of \$10,000
  - ◆ if an application is denied due to limited funding, applicants can re-apply 150 days from the original application
- **Award Amounts:** \$500 - \$5,000
- **Email:** [Info@alyssavphillipsfoundation.com](mailto:Info@alyssavphillipsfoundation.com)
- **Links to Additional Information:**
  - ◆ <https://www.alyssavphillipsfoundation.com/>
  - ◆ <https://www.alyssavphillipsfoundation.com/application-for-funds>



# Scholar Awards

## The Boulé Foundation Scholarships

The Boulé Foundation in conjunction with the United Negro College Fund will provide annual merit-based scholarships to entering college freshmen students (Fall 2026), who attend four-year, accredited, non-profit degree-granting colleges and universities of their choice.

■ **Deadline:** May 29, 2026, 11:59 PM

■ **Eligible Applicants Must:**

- ◆ possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- ◆ be graduating from high school in the spring of 2026 and entering college as a full-time freshman in the fall of 2026
- ◆ be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States (from one of the areas indicated below), a resident of London, England, or a citizen of the Bahamas
  - ◆ Area 1: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, London, United Kingdom, Vermont and Virginia
  - ◆ Area 2: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nassau Bahamas, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee
  - ◆ Area 3: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin
  - ◆ Area 4: Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming
  - ◆ Area 5: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington

■ **Scholarship Value:** \$7,000

■ **Email:** [wwilson@uncf.org](mailto:wwilson@uncf.org)

■ **Links to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://opportunities.uncf.org/s/program-landing-page?id=a2iVJ00000iLh5RYAS>
- ◆ <https://opportunities.uncf.org/s/pre-login-welcome-page>

## Prism Foundation Scholarships

These scholarships empower outstanding students who are making a positive impact on the Asian & Pacific Islander and LGBTQIA+ communities.

■ **Deadline:** June 5, 2026, 11:59 PM, PT

■ **Eligible Applicants Must:**

- ◆ attend a post-secondary institution in the United States in the upcoming academic year, fall 2026, when applying
- ◆ attend a community college, university, or trade/vocational school
- ◆ have a strong history of engagement within the API and/or LGBTQIA+ communities

■ **Scholarship Value:** Ranges from \$1,000 - \$5,000

■ **Email:** [scholarship@theprismfoundation.org](mailto:scholarship@theprismfoundation.org)

■ **Link to Additional Information:**

- ◆ <https://theprismfoundation.org/scholarships>





## Motion + Power Manufacturers Alliance (MPMA) Foundation Scholarships

These scholarships are for students attending schools in the US or Canada pursuing careers in the gear, bearing, or related power transmission industry. Special consideration is given to students who are currently affiliated with, or have previously worked for, an MPMA Member Company.

- **Deadline:** June 16, 2026, 5PM
- **Eligible Applicants:** Students attending schools in the United States or Canada pursuing careers in the gear, bearing, or related power transmission industry.
- **Scholarship Value:** \$1,000 - \$5,000
- **Contact:** Mary Ellen Doran
- **Email Questions to:** [Doran@motionpower.org](mailto:Doran@motionpower.org)
- **Submit Applications to:** [foundation@motion.power.org](mailto:foundation@motion.power.org)
- **Links to Additional Information:**
  - ◆ <https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/35018/mpma-foundation-scholarship-program>
  - ◆ <https://agmafoundation.org/our-work/scholarship-program/>

## Iranian Scholarship Foundation (ISF), Undergraduate College Scholarships

These scholarships are for undergraduate college students of Iranian descent who demonstrate a financial need.

- **Deadline:** June 30, 2026
- **Eligible Applicants Must:**
  - ◆ be an undergraduate student
  - ◆ be of Iranian descent
  - ◆ be enrolled or accepted at a four-year accredited university in the United States
  - ◆ demonstrate financial need
  - ◆ possess and maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher
  - ◆ participate in community service
  - ◆ have proof of legal immigration status in the United States (F1 Visa\*, Permanent Resident, US Citizen)
    - ◆ \* F1 Visa holder must have an approved visa and already have resided in the United States before applying for the scholarship
- **Scholarship Value:** Varies
- **Email:** [info@theisf.org](mailto:info@theisf.org)
- **Links to Additional Information:**
  - ◆ <https://theisf.org/>
  - ◆ <https://theisf.org/undergratescholarship/>



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# Links to State and Federal Grants

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## NYS Grants Management

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

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## Candid

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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/event-calendar/>

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