



## New York Pollinator Conservation Fund

Request for Proposals – March 2026

**PROPOSALS DUE at 5 p.m. ET on Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

### Overview

U.S. pollinator populations have declined significantly over the past 50 years. For example, the eastern monarch butterfly population has fallen by more than 90 percent since the 1990s. In 2022, the [Empire State Native Pollinator Survey](#) found that at least 40 percent of pollinator species native to New York are at risk of disappearing from the State, threatening the future growth of crops and wildflowers. In 2023, the Office of the New York State Attorney General (“the OAG”) obtained \$6.9 million in a [settlement with Bayer CropScience LP and Monsanto](#) over alleged false and misleading claims about the safety of certain Roundup® brand consumer herbicides.

In 2024, the OAG selected The New York Community Trust (The Trust) to administer the New York Pollinator Conservation Fund (the Fund) using \$3.45 million in settlement funds to award two rounds of grants over the course of 2025 and 2026.

In early 2025, New York Attorney General Letitia James and The Trust announced \$3.3 million in grants to 34 organizations, ranging from urban coalitions and land trusts to Indigenous communities and grassroots education groups, following a selection process guided by a group of expert advisors. (The Trust contributed \$573,000 toward the grants.) Grants ranged from \$8,000 to \$300,000 in three categories: smaller one-year projects, larger two-year projects, and matching grants focused on larger groups.

This year, the New York Pollinator Conservation Fund invites proposals for small projects (\$5,000–\$20,000) to be implemented in [disadvantaged communities, identified through the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#). Nonprofits or volunteer-led organizations are eligible to apply if they are either: 1) located in the disadvantaged community where the project will be implemented; or 2) located outside the disadvantaged community where the project will be implemented but have at least one year of experience working in the community. Organizations located in the disadvantaged community where a project will be implemented will receive preference.

To be competitive, projects should be consistent with the recommendations of the [2016 New York State Pollinator Protection Plan](#) and [subsequent updates](#). Projects must focus on one or more of the following:

- Preventing, abating, mitigating, or controlling prior or ongoing water, land, or air pollution affecting pollinators and their habitat
- Creating, managing, restoring, or enhancing pollinator habitat, including working with property owners or managers
- Undertaking pollinator-related research, monitoring, education, and outreach
- Working with tribal authorities and local governments to support the development and implementation of pollinator-friendly policies, programs, and activities

As part of the 2026 grant round, the New York Pollinator Conservation Fund will recommend at least 25 one-year grants, for a total of up to \$500,000 (\$350,000 from the Monsanto settlement and \$150,000 from The Trust's Kraft Fund). Projects will be evaluated using the following criteria: the impact of the project on pollinator conservation, the scale and nature of the project with a particular focus on how it benefits a disadvantaged community or communities; the likelihood of successful project completion during the grant period, including the capacity of the grantseeker to achieve the proposed project goals; and the extent of benefits to pollinator species negatively affected by pesticides.

Nonprofits or volunteer-led organizations that meet eligibility requirements may apply for one-year grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 to support the following activities:

- habitat creation, restoration, or enhancement on a combined 3 acres or less;
- site assessment, planning, and securing relevant professional services such as a landscape architect or horticulturalist;
- procurement of native plants, seeds, and other materials to support pollinator conservation efforts;
- community research such as place-based pollinator surveys;
- adoption of sustainable horticultural practices, including obtaining relevant certifications such as Pollinator Partnership's Pollinator Steward Certification or the National Garden Clubs' Pollinator Garden Certification; and
- activities to raise public awareness and promote community stewardship of pollinators.

**Grants will not be made for general operating support, contributions to capital campaigns, or funding for political advocacy, lobbying, legal actions, or electioneering.**

Nonprofits seeking grants or organizations that wish to act as the funds administrator for an applicant must be incorporated under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, with an active New York State Charities registration number and be in good standing. Grants will be contingent on a review to confirm independent board governance (at least four independent board members) and good financial practices.

Submissions will be reviewed by Trust staff. This is a competitive funding opportunity, so many worthy proposals will not be selected for funding.

## **Proposal Requirements & Application Deadline**

Grantseekers must electronically submit a proposal no later than **5:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, May 20, 2026**, on [The New York Community Trust's Grantseeker Portal](#).

### **Submission Materials**

Organizations should submit only ONE proposal that *includes*:

1. A narrative of up to 4 pages (in 12 pt. font) including:
  - a. a brief description(s) of the organization(s) engaged in the proposed project, and the organization and the project's connection to the disadvantaged community in which the project will be implemented;
  - b. an overview of the organization's previous pollinator-focused activities;
  - c. a brief discussion of the need, challenge, or opportunity the project will address;
  - d. a description of the proposed project, including specific goals, expected outcomes, and the activities planned to achieve the goals;
  - e. an explanation of how the project conforms to the priorities of the [2016 New York State Pollinator Protection Plan](#) and [subsequent updates](#).
2. A project budget (not included in the 4-page limit), including:
  - a. projected personnel, programmatic, and administrative costs;
  - b. any other sources of confirmed and/or expected revenue, including grants, individual donations, and in-kind support.
3. Current organizational operating budget and list of board members (not included in 4-page limit).

### **Submission Instructions**

1. Combine items 1, 2, and 3 (listed above) into a single PDF file no larger than 25 MB in size using the file name and format "Applicant Organization Name.pdf".
2. Go to The Trust's [Grantseeker Portal](#) and click on the "Apply" button next to The New York Pollinator Conservation Fund RFP submission opportunity.
3. Complete the Proposal Cover Sheet and upload your single PDF.

### **Information Session**

The Trust will hold a [virtual information session](#) to answer questions regarding this Request for Proposals (RFP) on **Wednesday, March 25, 2026, from 4:00–5:00 ET**.

During the session, Arturo Garcia-Costas, Program Director for the Local, National, and International Environment at The New York Community Trust, and Peter Washburn, Policy Advisor for the Environmental Protection Bureau at the Office of the New York State Attorney General, will discuss the eligibility requirements, submission process, and answer questions for this RFP. The session is

optional and attendance will not factor into funding decisions. The session will be recorded and made available upon request. If interested in attending the session, please [register here](#).

Applicants are not guaranteed an award and not all qualifying or meritorious projects will receive grants. Applicants will be notified by email if the submission is of interest to The Trust and may be asked to provide additional information. Grant decisions will be announced in June 2026.

*Please direct all questions about this solicitation to Arturo Garcia-Costas, Program Director for the Local, National, and International Environment, at [agarciacostas@theytrust.org](mailto:agarciacostas@theytrust.org).*

*Please direct questions regarding the use of the Grantseeker Portal (completing the cover sheet, uploading the proposal) to Marc Schell, Program Department Manager, at [mschell@theytrust.org](mailto:mschell@theytrust.org).*