

# Shooting Range Grant Program Guidance

A financial assistance program administered by the Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

**Notices:**

*This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.*

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\* For purposes of this grant program, "subrecipient" refers to an applicant who has been awarded a grant (i.e., grantee, grant recipient).

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## I. Planning & Communication are the Keys to a Successful Project!

- **Before applying for a grant, you must** contact the DNR Shooting Range Grant Manager or the Statewide Public Shooting Range Manager to discuss your proposed project. See contact information below or under the contact tab of the webpage.
- **Your project can only proceed after** you are issued a grant agreement from the DNR. Getting your project approved and receiving a grant agreement usually takes **about one year** after your application is submitted. Make sure you factor this approval period into your project planning.
- This grant program is administered as a **reimbursement program**. This means you must incur and pay all costs associated with the project **before** seeking reimbursement from the DNR. No grant advances are available. As costs are incurred, save all invoices, receipts, and other proofs of purchase and proofs of payment.
- Be sure to document volunteer hours, donated services, and donated equipment use. The value of these hours can be used as your match. Find more information and worksheets under the “Reimbursement” tab on the Shooting Range Grant webpage.
- Planning and design of improvement projects should conform to generally accepted practices and Best Management Practices as described by national shooting sports organizations. The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) BMPs for lead management at ranges should be followed. An excellent resource is the NRA Range Source Book, which can be purchased from the NRA. Links to these and several other helpful websites are listed on our webpage under the “Resources” tab.
- Costs incurred prior to the grant agreement start date or after the end date of the grant agreement are **not** eligible for reimbursement.
- **MOST IMPORTANT**, ask questions! We are here to help.

Brett Johanen  
Statewide Public Shooting Range Manager  
Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Recreational Safety & Outdoor Skills  
2421 Darwin Rd.  
Madison, WI 53704  
[Brett.Johanen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Brett.Johanen@wisconsin.gov)  
Phone: 608-772-4928

Sarah Brenner  
Shooting Range Grant Program Manager  
Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Community Financial Assistance  
1300 W Clairemont Ave  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
[Sarah.brenner@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sarah.brenner@wisconsin.gov)  
Phone: 715-894-8666

## II Introduction

Promoting hunting, shooting sports and hunter safety is a long-standing objective of the DNR. A key component of promoting shooting sports in Wisconsin is to increase public access to high quality, safe shooting opportunities at well-designed ranges. The Shooting Range Grant Program is one tool to help reach this goal. The grant offers financial assistance to both private and public entities to make improvements to existing ranges that are open to the public, and to assist with the development of new ranges intended to provide safe shooting opportunities within reasonable travel distances for the public.

### A. Applicable Laws

The DNR's ability to provide grants for development of new ranges and improvements to existing ranges is based on funding through the Federal Wildlife Restoration Program. Funding is generated by Federal manufacturer excise taxes collected on the sale of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. It is managed as a federal grant program to the State of Wisconsin under the Federal Pittman-Robertson (PR) Wildlife Restoration grant (2 CFR 200 and 50 CFR 80). The State then subawards these grants to eligible applicants via the Shooting Range Grant Program. The grant program is managed at the state level under Wis. Admin. Code § NR50.17.

Other applicable shooting range laws include s.895.527: Sport shooting range activities; limitations on liability and restrictions on operation.

See the Laws tab on the Shooting Range Grant webpage for more information.

### B. Available Funding

Total funding available for grant awards varies from year to year. In recent years, DNR has provided \$800,000 in grant funding under this program. Individual grant awards are normally limited to \$75,000 for projects on existing ranges, but the maximum award may be increased depending on the total amount of grant requests received in a given year. **The minimum award request is \$5,000.**

Applicants are required to provide matching funds for their project. In most cases, applicants must provide a minimum 25% non-federal match. The maximum grant award and minimum match may be modified for projects seeking funds to develop a new range. Any applicant interested in applying for grant funds to build a new range should reach out to DNR program staff as soon as possible for further guidance.

## III Grant Program Deadlines

Shooting range grant applications are accepted once per year. Please check the Shooting Range Grant webpage for the next application deadline. Work on your project should not begin until you have received a signed grant agreement from the DNR. Any costs incurred before the start date of the grant agreement are **not** eligible for reimbursement.

## IV. Grant Program Priorities

The following range attributes or range projects are grant program priorities:

- Range development at a range open to the public greater than 275 days per year.
- Projects at an existing range with the primary purpose of improving safety at the range
- Ranges within 20 miles of one of these major cities: La Crosse, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Waukesha, Madison, Janesville, Appleton, Racine, Oshkosh, West Allis, or Green Bay. See map at the end of this program guidance for further details.
- Proposed new ranges where there is a documented need.
- Projects at ranges that host hunter education, school shooting teams or clubs, Learn to Hunt events, 4H shooting sports events/volunteer training, or other recruitment and retention programs.
- Range development at a range that has not received a Shooting Range grant in the last 10 years.
- Range development at a range that has conducted lead reclamation activities within the last 10 years.
- Ranges replacing existing surveillance equipment that is now prohibited by 2 CFR 200.216.

## V. Eligibility

### A. Eligible Applicants

Increasing public access to high quality, safe recreational shooting opportunities is a primary goal of this program. Ranges owned and operated by the following entities are eligible for shooting range grants, provided that they provide adequate opportunities for public access:

- a. Wisconsin tribal governmental unit
- b. Wisconsin school districts
- c. Wisconsin counties, towns, villages, and cities
- d. Other Wisconsin governmental units, as defined in s. 66.299, Wis. Stats.
- e. Not for profit entities: Rod and gun clubs, Conservation organizations, Sportsmen`s Clubs, etc.
- f. Wisconsin universities, colleges, and technical schools

**\*For-profit businesses are not eligible to apply.**

“Adequate public access” means that the range must be open to the public a minimum of 3 days per week or 75 days per year to be grant eligible. **Of the 75 days, the range must be open to the public a minimum of 12 weekend days per year.** A “day” is considered to be at least four hours. “Open to the public” means that any public user can either access the facility on the day of their visit or obtain permission from the range for access during

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public hours. Scheduled events do **not** count toward the minimum requirement of 3 days per week or 75 days per year since such events receive preference/priority over walk-in users. Examples of scheduled events include leagues, school teams, hunter education courses, etc. Applicants are required to have their public hours posted in a location that is accessible to the general public at any time (e.g., landing page of website, sign outside of property gate, etc.).

Range owners may charge a use fee. However, fees must be reasonable based on geographic location and amenities offered at the range.

### B. Eligible Program Costs

Ranges can be either indoor or outdoor facilities. Eligible items for ranges include but are not limited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Range design services</li><li>• Archery ranges</li><li>• Backstops and berms</li><li>• Parking areas</li><li>• Target holders</li><li>• Shooting benches</li><li>• Baffles</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protective fencing</li><li>• Signs</li><li>• Access road</li><li>• Trenches</li><li>• Gun racks</li><li>• Platforms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restroom facilities</li><li>• Lead reclamation</li><li>• Shade covers</li><li>• Classroom facilities</li><li>• ADA Enhancements</li><li>• RSO shelter</li></ul>
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This is a partial list; other items may be eligible if they are determined to be necessary for project completion. Call the Grant Program Manager to discuss specific items.

Guidance for range designs is available through several organizations, including the National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Archery Trade Association, and others. Links to several resources are available on our [webpage](#) under the Resources tab.

### C. Ineligible Costs

The following items are not eligible for shooting range grant funding:

- a. Operation and maintenance of the range (mowing activities, painting, cleaning, etc.).
- b. Construction of clubhouses and multi-use facilities that are not essential to the operation of the shooting range.
- c. Promotional or advertising activities.
- d. Most consumable and single-use items (e.g., targets). Please call the Grant Program Manager to discuss the eligibility of these items.
- e. Law enforcement activities.
- f. Activities conducted for the primary purpose of producing income.
- g. Activities, projects, or programs that promote or encourage opposition to the regulated taking of fish, hunting, or the trapping of wildlife.

## D. Amendment to the Federal Acquisition Regulation

**Purpose:** This notice is to inform subrecipients of federal funds of the prohibition on certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment. This is an implementation of a Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Guidance requirement that became effective upon publication in the Federal Register on August 13, 2020.

**Summary:** OMB revised 2 CFR 200 to align with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2019 (NDAA 2019); adding section 2 CFR 200.216, *Prohibition on certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment*. This section prohibits Federal award recipients from using loan or grant funds to enter into contracts (or extend or renew contracts) with entities that use telecommunications equipment or services from affected vendors. As of April 27, 2021, prohibited vendors included Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, Dahua Technology Company, and any subsidiaries or affiliates.

**Action:** Subrecipients should first review 2 CFR 200.216 to confirm the list of prohibited vendors. Certain prohibited entities identified in NDAA 2019 are recorded in the System for Award Management (SAM) exclusion list. Although SAM is not a comprehensive exclusion list, Subrecipients should query the SAM database to determine if their proposed vendor is allowable under terms of 2 CFR 200.216. If the vendor is not found in the SAM database, Subrecipients should work with their technology service vendor to ensure any grant-funded equipment, systems, or services meet the obligations of 2 CFR 200.216.

## E. Build America, Buy America Act

With the passage of the “Build America, Buy America” portion of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Federal financial assistance programs for infrastructure must comply with domestic content requirements. Under the Buy America requirements, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for infrastructure projects under an award must be produced in the United States. These requirements took effect on May 14, 2022. “Domestically produced” means that manufacturing and fabrication of applicable products are performed within the United States or its territories. Products used temporarily during construction are not subject to this requirement. As a Subrecipient of federal funding, it is the Subrecipient’s responsibility to confirm that all goods and services used to complete the project comply with Buy America requirements. This may include incorporating Buy America provisions into vendor quotes and contractor RFPs.

Subrecipients will need to comply with the Buy America sourcing provisions for any equipment purchases or construction activities, whether conducted directly by the subrecipient or through contractual services. Subrecipients should review the following Buy America information to understand the requirement and implement its provisions in procurement of any applicable goods and services needed to complete the project.

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- a. USFWS Buy America Preference Guidance Document:  
<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/FWS-Buy-America-Preference-for-Infrastructure.pdf>
- b. Federal OMB Buy America Preference Memorandum:  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/M-24-02-Buy-America-Implementation-Guidance-Update.pdf>
- c. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (i.e. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law):  
<https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf>, Section 11513

## VI. Subrecipient Responsibilities

### A. Open to the Public

In order to receive a shooting range grant, range operators must provide public access, as defined earlier in this guidance. Subrecipients are responsible for operation and maintenance of the range for 20 years after the grant project is complete or for the useful life of the project, whichever is less. “Useful life” is the period during which a federally funded capital improvement is capable of fulfilling its intended purpose with adequate routine maintenance.

### B. Financial Responsibilities

The financial responsibility contained in the DNR’s grant agreement cannot be passed to another entity by a resolution or any other means. **All reimbursement requests must be submitted by the subrecipient named on the grant agreement.**

***Caution:** If a consultant completes the application for you, be sure to check the completeness and accuracy of the information. Remember that, as the grant applicant, you are responsible for the accuracy of the information provided on your application and fulfilling necessary requirements.*

#### 1. Cost Containment

Local government applicants must follow procurement requirements in Wisconsin Statutes. See the Shooting Range Grant Program web page, under the Resources tab. Other applicants should obtain 3 price quotes for contracted work.

#### 2. Match

Subrecipient match means that portion of the total eligible project cost that is not part of the grant award. Shooting range grants normally require a minimum of 25% match.

Your subrecipient match may consist of cash (e.g., private funding or state or local funding), or the value of donated labor, services, materials, or equipment used. Funds from other Federal sources may not be used as subrecipient match.

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**Documenting donated labor, services, materials, and equipment as part of subrecipient match:** Volunteer time and donated professional services (i.e., engineering, consulting, and/or other services donated by a professional), materials, and/or equipment usage may only be applied towards the required subrecipient match. All sources of the subrecipient match must be included in the budget section of grant application. Donations cannot be reimbursed but they do provide a means for the subrecipients to reduce the amount of cash needed to complete their project. Speak with the program manager to discuss documentation requirements for your match

- **NOTE:** Subrecipients can never be reimbursed for more than their incurred costs (cash spent). If donated values exceed cash costs, reimbursements are capped at the total cash spent or grant award amount, whichever is less.

### 3. Program Income

If a grant-funded project may generate revenue for the subrecipient during the grant period, additional documentation requirements may apply. The Grant Program Manager will work with you if this is applicable. More information about program income can be found in [2 CFR 200](#).

## C. Official Authorizing Resolution

Every grant application must include [form 8700-388](#). This is a resolution that will need to be adopted by the applicant's governing body. This resolution must do the following:

- Request financial assistance from the DNR.
- Authorize one representative, preferably by "title" rather than by name, to act on behalf of the applicant to:
  - submit an application
  - sign a grant agreement
  - take necessary action to complete the proposed project
  - request reimbursement from DNR
  - submit required reports and before/after photos of the project site
- Affirm that the applicant has funding for the subrecipient match

## D. ADA Accessibility

All repairs or new construction, whether indoors or outdoors, must **comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**. See DNR's Accessibility Guidance for Grant Funded Projects (CF-031) at the Shooting Range Grant webpage under the Resources tab.

## E. Reports

Interim and final project reports are required for all projects funded by this program. The Grant Program Manager will contact you when an interim report is due. Final reports are required with your final payment request. During the useful life of your project, self-inspection compliance reporting and/or DNR staff inspections will also be required. The DNR will contact you to schedule these inspections.

## VII. Funding Process

1. Applications will be scored on their adherence to program priorities and amount of detail included in the application. See “Project Scoring Criteria” on the [webpage](#) under the Applying tab. Projects typically will be funded in rank order until available funds are depleted.
2. Grant staff will notify applicants whose projects are tentatively selected for funding. At this point projects are not guaranteed funding but are moving into the next round of review and approval.
3. Several State and Federal reviews must be completed for all shooting range projects. These reviews can take a significant amount of time to complete. The reviews include but are not limited to: National Historic Preservation Act, both state and federal Endangered Species, National Environmental Policy Act, and Americans with Disabilities Act.
4. After the DNR completes all required reviews of the project, the project is submitted to the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) for approval. This process takes **at least three months**.
5. Once the USFWS approves the project, you will receive a written Grant Agreement from the DNR and can begin your project. Grant Agreements include the approved project scope, time period for the project, budget, and any special conditions applicable to your project.
6. Grant agreements are normally written to allow for two construction seasons.
7. Successful applicants must sign and return a recorded copy of the grant agreement to the Grant Program Manager. Prior to reimbursement, Grant Agreements are required to be recorded in the register of deeds office in the county where the range is located to secure the public access requirement of this award.

**IMPORTANT!! Costs incurred prior to the start date of the grant agreement or after the end date of the grant agreement are not eligible for reimbursement.**

## VIII. Reimbursement Process

To be eligible for reimbursement, all costs must be items identified in the “Project Scope and Description of Project” section of the grant agreement. The grant reimbursement can only cover the subrecipient’s costs (out-of-pocket expenses), not donations. The subrecipient cannot be reimbursed for project costs they did not incur (e.g. volunteer hours).

Subrecipients may request partial reimbursements from the DNR during the grant period. If you are interested in submitting a partial reimbursement package, please contact the Grant Program Manager to discuss.

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Reimbursement requests must be submitted to the Grant Program Manager. Final reimbursement requests must be submitted within 60 days of the end date of the grant agreement. A complete reimbursement request should include:

1. Grant Payment Request & Worksheet (Form 8700-001)
2. Grant Partner Financial Data Report (Form 9300-230)
3. Copies of all contracts or agreements with contractors or service providers that went out for bid.
4. Copy of summary of all bids (if applicable)
5. Copies of all proofs of purchase (*i.e.*, invoices, receipts, etc.) and proofs of payments (*i.e.*, cancelled checks (front and back), bank statements, credit card statements, etc.). Personal information may be blacked out.
6. Photos (with dates) of completed project area.
7. Equipment (value of over \$5,000) Serial Numbers
8. Signed Volunteer Labor Form(s) and/or Donated Professional Services Form(s)
9. Final Report with photos (final reimbursement only.)
10. A copy of the recorded grant agreement.

Once all items are received, reviewed, and a site visit has been completed, payment will be processed by the DNR.

**All project records must be retained by the subrecipient for a period of not less than 3 years after final payment is issued by the DNR or final disposition of audit findings (if applicable).**

## IX. Amending or Changing the Grant Agreement

If you feel your grant project needs to change from what you originally proposed and were awarded a grant to do, contact the Grant Program Manager as soon as possible to discuss the issues. If an amendment to your project is needed, the Grant Program Manager will require a formal written amendment request. Formal grant amendments are required for:

1. Time Extension – Time extensions may be approved only in certain circumstances.
2. Scope Changes – Requests for project scope modification must justify the need and be accompanied by a revised cost estimate worksheet. Requests for changes in scope must be approved before undertaking any changes in project activity.
3. Award Amount Changes – Requests for additional funding require an amended grant application and cost estimate worksheet. Additional subrecipient match may be needed.

## X. Once your Project is Complete

When the project has been completed, a DNR staff member will visit the site to verify that all elements of the scope have been completed and meet required standards. You may have to submit self-inspection reports (or allow the DNR to perform on-site inspections) to ensure the property is maintained and open to the public as required by the grant agreement.