



Illinois Clean Energy

community foundation

Planning for Acquisition

Funding Guidelines

[Does the Foundation give Planning for Acquisition grants to individual planning projects \(i.e. those conducted by a single organization as opposed to a larger project team\)?](#)

No. The Planning for Acquisition Funding Category is designed to support planning projects which have the participation and support of multiple public and private land protection agencies and conservation groups. In considering grant requests under this Funding Category, the Foundation looks for proposals which include the involvement and commitment of a group of “customers” of the plan who are equipped to implement the plan. Successful proposals demonstrate that the planning project will not only develop a land protection vision for a shared region of focus, but is likely to lead to on-the-ground acquisitions in the near term future. Fledgling not-for-profit land trusts may be eligible for a limited amount of support for individual land acquisition planning under the Foundation’s Capacity Building Funding Category if such efforts are part of a larger project to build the land trust’s capacity for purchasing and protecting land in its focus area.

[Does the Foundation provide support to update existing plans?](#)

Sometimes. And only if the applicant can provide evidence that the proposed updates have the potential to impact the way the partner organizations implement their land protection programs. In other words, the proposed planning activities should lead to new on-the-ground transactions and acquisition of key natural areas that would not otherwise have occurred under the existing plan and/or map. The Foundation prefers to reserve its Planning for Acquisition grants for projects to develop new plans or conduct new work that helps to identify conservation priorities in areas of the state where such collaborative plans and maps and related planning activities do not currently exist.

[Does the Foundation require a match to be considered for support under the Planning for Acquisition Funding Category?](#)

No. However, your organization’s request may be more competitive as compared to other grant request if the Foundation’s grant would not be the only source of funds for the project.

[Does the Foundation provide support for public education activities or campaigns related to land acquisition planning efforts?](#)

No. Neither does the Foundation consider requests for campaigns to raise the capital funds for acquisition.