

TITLE 17: CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 1: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCHAPTER g: GRANTS

PART 3085
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT CONSERVATION AND
EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

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17 AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by the Youth and Young Adult Conservation
18 Education Act [525 ILCS 60].

20 SOURCE: Adopted at 49 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____.

22 **Section 3085.10 Definitions**

24 "Act" means the Youth and Young Adult Conservation Education Act [525 ILCS
25 60].

27 "*Department*" means the Department of Natural Resources. [525 ILCS 60/10]

29 "Entity" means a unit of local government or a non-profit organization that is
30 located in the State of Illinois and that provide conservation education and
31 employment opportunities for youth and young adults of this State.

33 "Grant" means the allocation of money to units of local government or non-profit
34 entities to provide conservation education and employment opportunities for
35 youth and young adults of this State.

37 "Grant Agreement" means a written document executed between the grantee and
38 the Department setting forth the terms and conditions of the grant.

40 "Grantee" means an entity that has been selected by the Department and awarded
41 a grant in accordance with the Act and this Part.

"Non-Profit Organization" means an entity recognized and/or incorporated in Illinois as not-for-profit under the provisions of the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 [805 ILCS 105] and must possess current status as exempt from taxation under section 501(c) or 501(d) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

"Program" means the Youth and Young Adult Conservation and Education Pilot Program created by the Youth and Young Adult Conservation Education Act. [525 ILCS 60/5]

Section 3085.20 Purpose

- a) The purpose of this Part is to provide rules pertaining to the allocation of grants to units of local government or non-profit entities selected by the Department that currently provide a conservation education or conservation internship program to the youth and young adults. Such grants shall be designed to have the Department work with the grant recipient to learn about and help to create a Department run conservation education and internship program for the youth and young adults of this State.
- b) *The Department may enter into contracts, intergovernmental agreements, grants, cooperative agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other instruments as necessary to implement the Program. [525 ILCS 60/25(d)]*

Section 3085.30 Selection of Grantees

- a) The Department may allocate grants to entities to provide conservation education and employment opportunities for youth and young adults of this State. The Department will select grantees based on their ability to meet the goals of the Act, as determined by the Department.
- b) A grantee shall:
 - 1) be a unit of local government or a non-profit entity;
 - 2) be located in the State of Illinois;
 - 3) demonstrate a commitment to providing conservation education and employment opportunities for youth and young adults; and
 - 4) agree to work with the Department to demonstrate and provide guidance to the Department in the creation of a Department run conservation

85 education and internship program for the youth and young adults of this
86 State.

- 87
- 88 c) When making a determination to award Program funding, the Department shall
89 also consider:
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- 91 1) the entity's documented commitment to addressing the barriers to
92 employment and education for youth and young adults from
93 disadvantaged communities such as, but not limited to, rural communities,
94 impoverished communities, communities with high drug use, and
95 historically marginalized communities;
- 96
- 97 2) the entity's commitment to environmental stewardship and civic
98 responsibility;
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- 100 3) the entity's ability to focus on the enhancement of public lands owned or
101 leased by the Department or developing and enhancing projects or
102 initiatives undertaken in whole or part by the Department; and
103
- 104 4) equitable geographical distribution throughout the State.

105
106 **Section 3085.40 Eligible Costs**

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- 108 a) Grant funding may be used for costs associated with providing conservation
109 education and employment opportunities for youth and young adults of this State
110 as set forth in the grant agreement.
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- 112 b) Costs may be evaluated at any time, including during the grant agreement process,
113 at the time grantees submit claims and during any monitoring activities. To be
114 eligible, costs must meet the following criteria:
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- 116 1) Be necessary and reasonable to accomplish the Program work;
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- 118 2) Conform to any limitations or exclusions set forth in the grant agreement;
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- 120 3) Be adequately documented; and
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- 122 4) Be incurred during the approved period of performance.

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124 **Section 3085.50 Compliance Requirements**

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- 126 a) Grantees must retain all financial records associated with implementation of the
127 Program, in accordance with the Grant Funds Recovery Act [30 ILCS 705] and

128 the State Records Act [5 ILCS 160] for possible State audit after final grant
129 payment is made by the Department.

- 130
131 b) Grantees shall indemnify, protect, defend and hold harmless the Department from
132 any and all liability, costs, damages, expenses, or claims arising under, through, or
133 by virtue of the administration of this Program.
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135 **Section 3085.60 Conservation Education and Job Training**
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- 137 a) The Program's education and employment opportunities shall be limited to
138 citizens of this State who at the time of enrollment in the Program are 15 through
139 25 years of age.
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- 141 b) The Education and Job Training Programs shall be for the purpose of:
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- 143 1) development, enhancement, and maintenance of the natural resources of
144 the State of Illinois, and offering related educational opportunities;
145
146 2) environmental stewardship and civic responsibility;
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148 3) enhancement of public lands owned or leased by the Department or
149 developing and enhancing projects or initiatives undertaken in whole or
150 part by the Department;
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152 4) improving the habitat of fauna and flora of the State;
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154 5) improving water quality of the State;
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156 6) any combination of the purposes described in this Section; or
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158 7) any other project deemed by the Department to improve the
159 environmental, economic, and recreational quality of the State's natural
160 resources.
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- 162 c) *All projects and internships designated by the Department shall be within a*
163 *reasonable commuting time for each participant. In no circumstance shall interns*
164 *be required to spend more than 1½ hours of commuting time to a project or a*
165 *designated area, but an intern may agree to spend more than 1½ hours of*
166 *commuting time to a project or a designated area. [525 ILCS 60/25]*
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- 168 d) *Interns shall receive at least the standard minimum wage as set by the State of*
169 *Illinois, when applicable, and shall work normal working hours as determined by*
170 *the Department. The interns shall not be classified as employees of the State for*

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purposes of contributions to the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois or any other public employment retirement system of the State. [525 ILCS 60/25(c)]