

Mercer County Open Space Preservation Assistance Program 2021 Policy

The Mercer County Open Space Preservation Assistance Program was established to supplement state and local funding by providing grants to municipal and non-profit preservation partners for projects of local importance.

The 2021 funding level will be as follows:

- The percent of the grants will be up to 40% of the CFMV*
- Urban projects will receive grants of up to 50% of CFMV*
- There can be multiple grants per project which together are not to exceed 40% of the CFMV* and 50% for urban projects
- County funds for a project not to exceed \$1,600,000
- Every project, with the exception of urban projects, needs to have at least 10% funding from a source other than the County and the State Green Acres program, which can include municipal funds (not the municipality's Green Acres funds), other grant funds, private donations and/or bargain sale (landowner donation)
- The County encourages applicants to pursue bargain sales. In the event that the CFMV exceeds the purchase price, the County will fund 40% of the CFMV. In no event can total public funds, including State, County and local funding, exceed the purchase price.
- Non-profit applicants must provide a copy of the project application to the municipality where a project is located and must provide proof to the County through an acknowledgment of receipt or a resolution of support.

(*The Certified Fair Market Value, CFMV refers to the State Green Acres appraisal process. If the applicant is not obtaining a Green Acres CFMV, the County may consider accepting another certified appraisal or satisfactory value.)

“Urban projects” are those physically located in the City of Trenton and in portions of other municipalities which are highly urbanized and under-served and which have many urban characteristics, such as high population density, lack of access to open space within walking distance, low income, and other characteristics of urban distress.

This policy will be in effect until December 31, 2021 and will be re-evaluated at the first 2022 meeting of the County's Open Space Board. Please contact Emily Blackman, Senior Planner, with any questions at 609-989-6545 or by email at eblackman@mercercounty.org.