

Concept Paper

“EPTA could submit a C2P2 Partnership Grant Application to Pa. DCNR”

April 2020 Application could lead to Jan, 2021 – June 2022 Grant (18 months)

Overview -- EPTA and ORA could in April 2020 each submit Partnership Grant applications to DCNR, thereby being able to access significantly more monetary resources and mutually supportive contracted services toward achieving the EPTA Strategic Plan more rapidly. In addition, ORA could become the fiscal agent for EPTA, thus enabling EPTA Board to focus on programmatic matters and while ORA could perform contracted administrative support services and project management of other consultants involved in EPTA scope of work. EPTA Projects would thus be treated by ORA as a Program (like with Oil City Main Street Program and A-C Valley Blueprint Communities which are also current ORA Programs).

DCNR’s C2P2 Partnership Requirements

Eligible are regional non-profit recreational, conservation, and greenways organizations.

Grant can be for up to \$300,000, with 50/50 cash match required in most cases.

The non-profit must be classified by IRS as 501(c)(3), and registered with BCO.

Scope of work may include education, implementation, and/or training to help build regional capacity to better develop and manage recreational facilities and promote conservation.

Projects may via Contracted Professional Services conduct training, special purpose studies, economic assessments, implementation of existing plans, construction, promotion of facilities, publications, conferences, feasibility studies, and public engagement.

Advantages to Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance

- Accelerate progress to implement approved EPTA Strategic Plan.
- Increase \$ for staff services and for consultant services.
- With ORA as Fiscal Agent, an experienced entity would do administration; and ORA would provide written quarterly reports to EPTA.
- Contracting with ORA provides access to multiple personnel with diverse skills as well as flexibility within cooperative agreement.
- Central records at established office co-located with corporate Secretary provides continuity of info, convenient central storage, consistency with EPTA leadership, etc.
- DCNR allows up to 5% of C2P2 Partnership Grant as administrative costs.

Advantages to Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism

- Increases and diversifies grant \$ and sources for operational costs.
- Federal \$ still contributed by ORA will be match to EPTA, and the state \$ to EPTA will help fulfill ORA’s required match to the NPS dollars.
- Allows expansion of ORA’s recreational development activities/projects and related staff time/salaries.
- As the trail develops, it is anticipated that economic benefits will increase along the entire EPT corridor.

Actions Prior to April 22, 2020 Deadline for C2P2 Application

1. Confirm EPTA is 501(c)(3).
2. January 15, 2020 EPTA Board motion to authorize filing application.
3. Obtain Federal ID number, Pa. Vendor ID number, DUNS number, and BCO registration.
4. Write and execute Letter of Agreement between EPTA and ORA.
5. Develop Scope of Work and Budget; meet with Erin Wiley Moyers.
6. Identify and Confirm Cash Match, including Letters of Commitment.
7. Write Full Application.

8.Gather Letters of Support.

1-8-2020