



KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP GRANTS

KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds support several DNR-administered grant programs. Available to local governments and nonprofits, Stewardship grants fund recreational development and conservation land purchases statewide.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



Grants for park land and development

NONPROFITS



Grants for conservation land acquisition

COUNTY FORESTS



Grants for county forest acquisition

RECREATIONAL BOATING



Grants for recreational boating facilities

FRIENDS GRANTS



Grants to friends groups of state properties

MOTORIZED RECREATION



Grants for snowmobile and ATV trails

Transportation:

- General Transportation Aids. Increase general transportation aids by 2% for municipalities beginning in calendar year 2022 and by another 2 percent in calendar year 2023.
- Transit Operation Aids. Increase general transit aids by 2.5 percent.
- Reauthorization of MLS Program. Provide \$75 million competitive grant program for local multimodal transportation projects.
- Flood Resilient Infrastructure Grant. Provide \$15 million in bonding for a Local Roads for Critical Infrastructure pilot program to combat the increased frequency of roadway destruction from flooding events.

Housing:

- Establish an affordable workforce housing grant program and provide \$50 million GPR in fiscal year 2021–22 to provide funding to local municipalities to encourage the development of additional affordable workforce housing in the state.
- Modify tax incremental finance law to support the development of workforce housing by increasing the amount of a mixed use tax incremental finance district's area that can be comprised of newly platted residential developments to 60 percent instead of the current law 35 percent if that additional amount is used solely for workforce housing.
- Allow municipalities to extend the life of a tax incremental finance district from one to three years, if the municipality adopts a resolution specifying how the municipality will increase the number of affordable or workforce housing units.
- Municipalities that adopt workforce housing initiatives by implementing one or more of several enumerated policies aimed at improving the availability of workforce housing receive priority in housing grants from state agencies.

Broadband:

- Invest over \$200 million to expand broadband access in Wisconsin, which is five times greater than the combined investments made in the 2013–15, 2015–17, and 2017–19 biennial budgets. The main component of this investment is an increase in funding for the Broadband Expansion Grant Program at the Public Service Commission to \$151.7 million over the biennium, compared to \$48 million during the 2019–21 biennium.
- Make it easier for municipalities defined as broadband "underserved" or "unserved" to directly invest in broadband infrastructure and provide service to residents. Allow these communities to apply directly for broadband grants from the Public Service Commission.
- Create a grant resource team within the Department of Administration, which will, in part, provide technical assistance to communities in navigating state and federal broadband grant processes.

Environment:

- Stewardship. Extend the Warren Knowles–Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program until fiscal year 2031–32 at \$70 million per year. Provide \$700 million in bonding authority for the program. Increase funding for local government grant program from \$6 million to \$18 million annually.
- PFAS Testing Grant. Provide \$10 million GPR in each year of the biennium for a municipal grant program for the testing and remediation of PFAS by local units of government.
- Firefighting foam disposal. Provide \$1 million SEG in fiscal year 2021–22 for the collection and disposal of firefighting foam that contains PFAS.
- Great Lakes Erosion Control Loan Program. This new program would assist municipalities and owners of homes located on the shore of Lake Michigan or Lake Superior where the structural integrity of municipal buildings or homes is threatened by erosion of the shoreline. Provide \$5 million SEG in fiscal year 2021–22 as an initial capitalization for the program.
- Urban Nonpoint Source & Municipal Flood Control Grant Programs: Authorize \$12 million in environmental fund-supported general obligation bonding authority for urban nonpoint source cost-sharing and the municipal flood control program. Of the \$12 million in bonding, \$8 million must be set aside for the municipal flood control program.