Funding Programs

The following contains detailed information about funding sources that could be used to support adventure tourism related activities.

A federal-state economic development program restricted in Kentucky to a 51-county area of eastern and south-central portions of the state concerned with the economic, physical, and social development of the 13-State Appalachian region. Appalachian Regional Commission funds are most often used for physical infrastructure projects but also may support education, workforce development, leadership and civic building, and affordable/accessible health care. Cities, counties, special districts and non-profit entities are eligible. No maximum project amount; 20 percent local match is required in distressed counties and 50 percent match in non-distressed counties. Kentucky's state office of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) generally accepts pre-applications through October of each year. ARC will fund projects that meet one of their five goals. These goals are as follows:

1. Appalachian residents will have the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in the world economy in the 21st century.
2. Appalachian communities will have the physical infrastructure necessary for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.
3. The people and organizations of Appalachia will have the vision and capacity to mobilize and work together for sustained economic progress and improvement of their communities.
4. Appalachian residents will have access to financial and technical resources to help build dynamic and self-sustaining local economies.
5. Appalachian residents will have access to affordable, quality health care.

To meet these goals, ARC helps fund such projects as education and workforce training programs, highway construction, water and sewer system construction, leadership development programs, small business start-ups and expansions, **tourism development**, asset-based development, and development of health-care resources.

Program grants are awarded to state or local agencies and governmental entities (such as economic development authorities), local governing boards (such as county councils), and nonprofit organizations (such as schools or organizations that build low-cost housing). Program grants are not made to individuals or to private corporations.

To apply for ARC funding, a pre-application must be submitted to the state office between January 1 and October 31 for the following fiscal year. The states originate all ARC grant requests and no project may be funded unless a state's governor first approves it. The average grants size is $275,000. For more information or a copy of the application contact the Department for Local Government, 1-800-346-5606.
Contact: Peggy Satterly

Area Development Fund (ADF)
ADF funds are state general funds available as grants to cities, counties and special districts for capital projects. Eligible activities include: construction, reconstruction, renovation, and maintenance of buildings and other improvements to real estate; acquisition of real property; major equipment purchases; industrial site development; installation of water, gas, sewer, and electrical lines to public facilities and industrial sites; solid waste management or disposal systems needed to comply with law; and architectural, engineering and legal fees in connection with such projects. Eligible project costs incurred within the previous five years may be retroactively funded. There is no maximum project amount or local match requirement. Area Development Funds (ADF) are awarded to each county. The Board of Directors of the Area Development District determines the manner in which the funds will be used.
Contact: Area Development Districts

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Kentucky Small Cities
This program makes federal funds available to cities and counties in the form of state grants for community development. Funds are designated for seven separate program areas, described individually below. All activities must meet at least one of three national objectives: benefit low to moderate income persons; prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or meeting particularly urgent community development needs. Eligible applicants are all cities and counties except "entitlement jurisdictions" which may receive similar federal funds directly. These include Ashland, Covington, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Owensboro, Fayette County, and Louisville plus some satellite Jefferson County communities.
Contact: DLG

CDBG Kentucky Small Cities: Community Projects
Funds are designated for projects that will generally enhance the community. Various activities are eligible; typical examples of funded projects include construction of senior citizens centers, community centers and small infrastructure projects. Projects should primarily benefit low to moderate-income persons. Maximum grant amount $500,000. Local match recommended but not required.
Contact: DLG

CDBG Kentucky Small Cities: Economic Development
Program goal is to create or retain jobs for low- to moderate-income people. "Traditional" projects may provide infrastructure to the site of a business or provide funds for equipment purchase. "Non-traditional" projects may support the development of day-care centers or training facilities. Maximum grant amounts: $1 million ($2 million multi-jurisdiction) for traditional projects; $250,000 ($500,000 multi-jurisdiction) for non-traditional projects. Matching funds from benefiting businesses are required.
Contact: DLG

CDBG Kentucky Small Cities: Micro-enterprise Development
Program goal is to help cities and counties develop training programs and provide

technical assistance to low and moderate income persons who currently own, or are interested in starting, a commercial enterprise with five or fewer employees. Maximum grant amount $50,000. Local match is helpful, but not required. **Contact: DLG**

CDBG Kentucky Small Cities: Public Facilities
Program is designed to address the need for public infrastructure, usually water and sewer. Grants up to $1 million ($2 million for multi-jurisdictional projects) are available to cities and counties. Projects are designed to primarily benefit low to moderate income persons. Local match is recommended but not required. **Contact: DLG**

CDBG Kentucky Small Cities: Renaissance Kentucky
Program goal is to enhance designated downtown "Renaissance" areas. Such areas are designated by the Kentucky Heritage Council under the established criteria for downtown revitalization efforts. Eligible activities include downtown revitalization or construction benefiting low to moderate income persons in the downtown area. Maximum grant amount $250,000. Local match is recommended but not required. **Contact: DLG**

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
Provides federal grant funds to acquire land for outdoor recreation and to develop or renovate public outdoor recreation facilities. Cities and counties are eligible. Maximum grant amount $75,000; 50/50 local match required. **Contact: Jodie McDonald at DLG**

Local Government Economic Assistance Fund (LGEAF)
Redistributes a portion of coal severance tax and mineral severance tax revenues to local governments. Funds are distributed quarterly to eligible participants according to a formula specified by legislation. Eligibility is established by the production of coal or other minerals, or significant impact by transportation of coal through the county. **Contact: Amy Barnes at DLG**

Local Government Economic Development Fund (LGEDF)
Redistributes a portion of coal severance tax revenue to coal-producing counties. Funds are allocated quarterly to eligible participants according to a formula specified by legislation. Eligibility is established by the production of coal. Allocated funds are transferred into county accounts from which awards are made by the Department for Local Government (DLG) through applications submitted by the local government for community and economic development projects. **Contact: Amy Barnes at DLG**

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
Provides federal grant funds that may be used to acquire land for recreational trails and to develop and renovate trails for both motorized and non-motorized use. Eligible applicants

are cities, counties, and non-profit organizations. Maximum award is $50,000; 50/50 local match required.
Contact: Jodie McDonald at DLG

Rail To Trail Development Office
The RailTrail Development Office was established by the 2000 General Assembly to help preserve abandoned railroad right-of-ways in Kentucky and utilize them for public recreation. Under the "rail banking" concept, a public or not-for-profit agency may negotiate to acquire such a right-of-way and develop it as a recreational trail, while the option of future transportation use is preserved. In June 2003, the Railtrail Development Office completed a statewide project to inventory all previously abandoned rail corridors and evaluate their suitability for railtrail conversion.

The office also monitors abandonment applications and other relevant proceedings at the federal level; disseminates information about proposed abandonment to all potentially interested parties; and provides technical assistance to agencies and political subdivisions that are interested in initiating rail banking procedures or applying for funds.

More information about the railtrail concept, completed and proposed projects in the state, and related matters can be found at the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council website.
Contact: Jodie McDonald at DLG

Renaissance Kentucky Program
The Governor's Office for Local Development administers the Renaissance Kentucky program -- an effort to bring together communities with the resources necessary to revitalize and restore the Commonwealth's downtown areas. DLG partners with the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Kentucky Housing Corporation, the Kentucky League of Cities, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in administering this program. Renaissance Kentucky cities are eligible to receive priority status when applying for funds through state government agencies.
Contact: DLG

Kentucky Tourism Development Act
This landmark legislation, the first of its kind in the nation, provides a state sales tax incentive program for tourism development projects. The incentive for developers of approved new or expansion tourism projects are the ability to recover up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the project's development costs over a ten-year term. Projects including, but not limited to lodging facilities, that area constructed on state park, federal park and national forest lands are eligible to recover up to fifty percent (50%) pf development costs over a twenty year term. An expanding attraction receives the incentive on increased sales tax due to the expansion. On an annual basis the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet will return to developers of approved projects the state sales tax paid by visitors to the attraction on admission tickets, food and gift sales, and lodging costs. Projects that do not qualify are strictly retail businesses and recreational facilities that area used primarily by local residents and are not a likely destination for out-of-state

travelers. For more information or to request an application, contact the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet at (502) 564-8067.
Contact:

Community Development Projects
The state legislature can appropriate funds for a wide variety of economic and community development projects. In order to access these funds it is best to make your local elected officials aware of a project and funding needs for the project. In addition to the support of local officials, the support of you State Representatives and Senators is vital. Area Development Districts can assist in this process.

Kentucky Heritage Land Trust
The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund was established to provide funding for:
1. Natural areas that possess unique features such as habitat for rare and endangered species;
2. Areas important to migratory birds;
3. Areas that perform important natural functions that are subject to alteration or loss;
4. Areas to be preserved in their natural state for public use, outdoor recreation and education.

Revenue for the fund comes from the state portion of the unmined mineral tax, environmental fines, and the Nature License Plate. The Coal Marketing and Export Council receives $400,000 of the unmined mineral tax each year for public education of coal-related issues. The Environmental Education Council receives $150,000 of environmental fines each year for environmental education programs. A 12-member Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board appointed by the governor manages the fund. Applications for funding are due at set deadlines before the organization's board meetings. For more information, visit http://www.kyheritageland.org/.

Transportation Enhancement Program
The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet accepts applications for the Federal-Aid Transportation Enhancement Program. This federal aid highway reimbursement program is a product of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991(ISTEA) and the Transportation Enhancement Act for the 21st Century (TEA- 21). Twelve exclusive activities are eligible for Transportation Enhancement Funds, including: provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles; provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists; acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites; scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourists and welcome center facilities); landscaping and other scenic beautification; historic preservation; rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals); preservation of abandoned railway corridors – including conversion for use as bicycle or pedestrian trails; control and removal of outdoor advertising; archaeological planning and research; mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff or to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity; establishment of transportation museums.

The Transportation Cabinet stresses that it is essential that a project have a clearly identified relationship to surface transportation. State and local public government agencies are eligible to apply for the reimbursement program. The award requires a 20 percent match. Depending upon project scope and other circumstances, Recreational Trails funding may be used to match Transportation Enhancement funds. Copies of the application packet are available at www.kytc.state.ky.us/Multimodal/doc/.

PRIDE Community Grants
The PRIDE Community Grant Program offers a maximum award of $50,000 to counties, cities and non-profit organizations to clean up waterways, illegal dumps, adopt-a-stream programs, appliance buy-back programs or other aquatic resources and habitat improvement programs. A 10% local match is required. Applications are due in the spring. Decreasing federal funding for the PRIDE Program limits current grant opportunities. For more information visit http://www.kypride.org/.

PRIDE Educational Grants
PRIDE Educational grants are available to educational institutions and environmental education organizations for environmental education projects. These grants of up to $5,000 are available for activities including outdoor classrooms, recycling programs, curriculum materials and other environmental education outlets. Requests for applications are usually made in the spring of each year. Decreasing federal funding for the PRIDE Program limits current grant opportunities. For more information visit http://www.kypride.org/.

PRIDE SuperGrant Program
PRIDE offers up to $1,000,000 for clean-up efforts with its SuperGrant Program. The purpose of the program is to target large, illegal dumps that due to costs cannot be targeted with Community Grant funds. City and county governments, public entities and non-profits working with local governments are eligible to apply. No match is required; however, citizen involvement is encouraged. Applications are typically due in the spring. Decreasing federal funding for the PRIDE Program limits current grant opportunities. For more information visit http://www.kypride.org/.

PRIDE/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 531 Program
Section 531 of the 1996 Water Resources Development Act set up a program whereby the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can provide design and construction assistance for water related environmental infrastructure projects in Eastern and Southern Kentucky. These projects must address wastewater, water supply, environmental restoration, and surface water resource and related problems. All projects will be cost shared 75 percent Federal and 25 percent non-Federal from the local sponsor (certain Federal funds may be used as matching funds). Applications are accepted annually, generally in the month of January. Decreasing federal funding for the PRIDE Program limits current grant opportunities.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)
Aids the long-range economic development of areas with severe unemployment and low

family income problems; aids in the development of public facilities and private enterprise to help create new, permanent jobs.

Public Works and Infrastructure Development – grants for such public works as water and sewer systems, industrial access roads to industrial parks, port facilities, railroad sidings and spurs, tourism facilities, vocational schools, business incubator facilities, and infrastructure improvements for industrial parks. The basic grant rate may be up to 50 percent of the project cost; however, severely depressed areas may receive supplementary grants to bring the Federal contribution up to 80 percent of the project cost.

Sudden and Severe Economic Dislocation (SSED) and Long-Term Economic Deterioration (LTED) – to assist State and local areas develop and/or implement strategies designed to address structural economic adjustment problems resulting from sudden and severe economic dislocation such as plant closings, military base closures and defense contract cutbacks, and natural disasters (SSED), or from long-term economic deterioration in the area's economy (LTED). The statistical factors used to determine LTED eligibility are: (1) very high unemployment; (2) low per capita income; and (3) chronic distress. For SSED eligibility, the economic dislocation must exceed certain job loss thresholds for the area. For all grants a minimum of 25 percent local share is required.

The EDA also sponsors other programs that assist in planning, such as Support for Planning organizations; Technical Assistance; State and Local Economic Development Planning; etc.
Contact: EDA - Atlanta

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (RD)
Rural Development was created in 1994 when rural economic and community development programs that had been splintered among various USDA agencies were forged into a new mission area. With this action, the Farmers Home Administration, Rural Development Administration, Rural Electrification Administration and Agricultural Cooperative Service passed into history, but their tradition of service is being carried on by USDA Rural Development.

RD works with rural communities to fund projects that bring housing, community facilities, utilities and other services to rural areas. USDA also provides technical assistance and financial backing for rural businesses and cooperatives to create quality jobs in rural areas.

Rural Development programs are administered through three services: the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) and the Rural Housing Service (RHS). Programs and services are provided through USDA Rural Development's network of State and local offices. Through these services, RD can sometimes offer a combination of grant and loan funds.
Regional Contact: Jimmy Hall

Environmental Protection Agency
EPA provides support for community-based projects, programs and activities that seek to address local environmental, justice and public health issues and enhance environmental justice and community-based environmental protection. Most EPA funds have been awarded in the past as line items and are achieved as part of the federal budget. Funding opportunities follow the federal fiscal year. In order to have you project considered for funding, please contact Big Sandy Area Development District no later than the December before the new federal fiscal year begins October 1st.

Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Grant Program
The EPA defines a Brownfield as any real property that the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Properties previous utilized for coal mining and coal-related businesses may be eligible for these grant funds, as well as dilapidated buildings that may be perceived as contaminated. Assessment and cleanup monies are made available each year through a competitive grant process. Projects with an end recreational or greenspace use are often funded with a high priority, which makes this a good source to consider for adventure tourism and adventure tourism related projects.
Contact: Herb Petijean or Amanda LeFevre

Small Business Administration
Many projects, including recreation and tourism related projects, have received funding from SBA. The funds often are awarded as congressional earmarks through the federal budget. To be considered for a SBA earmark, please contact Big Sandy Area Development District no later than the December before the new federal fiscal year begins October 1st.

Foundations and other Funding Sources

Tourism Cares Grant Program
The Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant Program distributes charitable grants to worthy tourism-related non-profit organizations worldwide for capital improvements or educational programs. Typical grants are $10,000; however based on availability of funds, grants up to $100,000 will be considered. Deadlines for submission of Letters of Inquiry Packets for 2009 are as follows: Friday, January 30th; Monday, June 1st, and a third date to be announced.

Tourism Cares' Grant Funding Goals and Preferences:

Primary consideration is to fund projects and programs, whose goal is
• capital ("brick-and-mortar") improvements that serve to protect, restore, or conserve sites of exceptional cultural, historic, or natural significance, or
• the education of local host communities and the traveling public about conservation and preservation of sites of exceptional cultural, historical, or natural significance.

Preference is given to organizations with projects or programs that
• allow our grant funding to be leveraged to provide increased philanthropic support, through vehicles such as matching grants or challenge grants that have already been secured from an external source.
• are endorsed by the local, regional, or national tourism office.
• demonstrate strong support from and involvement of the local community.

Additional information about this grant opportunity can be found at www.tourismcares.org.

4-H ATV Safety Grant Program

The 4-H ATV Safety program provides grants to 4-H Extension groups and their community partners to create or enhance local or state ATV safety projects. Such projects should provide opportunities for young people and adults to take action on the issue of ATV safety, ultimately influencing the behavior of people throughout a community. Grants are offered only to 4-H/Extension Programs and their partners.
Projects should support the following goals:

1. To educate and inform pre-teen, teen, and adult ATV riders about safe riding techniques and practices.
2. To help pre-teens and teens increase their critical thinking and life skills as well as enhance their abilities to assess risk and solve problems.
3. To educate parents and other caregivers to protect young riders through supervision and monitoring.
4. To help communities address issues related to safe use of ATVs.

For more information contact a representative of the Big Sandy Area Development District at 606-886-2374 or your local county cooperative extension office.

Yamaha OHV Grant Initiative

Each quarter, Yamaha will accept applications from organizations such as non-profit or tax-exempt OHV riding clubs, national forests and associations, and national, state, and local government agencies.

Some examples of how these grant funds will be used include:

Trail development, restoration, and maintenance.
Trail signage and map production.
Staging area construction, renovation, and maintenance.
Safety and education.

Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program

The objective of the Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program is to promote land access, as well as safety and trail development programs. The program is open to non-profits with a 501c3 or 501c7 status. Grant requests are typically received twice per calendar year. The maximum grant request is $10,000. Please visit the www.polarisindustries.com website for more information.

Kodak American Greenways

Eastman Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society provide small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in Communities throughout America. Greenways are corridors of protected, public and private land established along rivers, stream valleys, ridges, abandoned railroad corridors, utility rights-of-way, canals, scenic roads or other linear features. These greenways link recreational, cultural, and natural features, provide pathways for people and wildlife, protect forests, wetlands and grasslands, and improve quality of life for everyone.

Grants may be used for activities such as: mapping, ecological assessments, surveying, conferences, and design activities; developing brochures, interpretive displays, audio-visual productions or public opinion surveys; hiring consultants, incorporating land trusts, building a foot bridge, planning a bike path, or other creative projects that will expand or improve a greenway project. Awards will be made to primarily local, regional, or statewide non-profit organizations. Public agencies may also apply, however, community, non-profits and organizations will receive preference. Most grants range from $500 to $1,000 and the maximum grant is $2,500. Applications may be submitted from March 31 through June 30 of each calendar year.

Bikes Belong

The Bikes Belong Coalition welcomes grant applications from organizations and agencies within the United States that are committed to putting more people on bicycles more often. Fundable projects include paved bike paths, rail trails, mountain bike trails, and BMX facilities. Grant requests for up to $10,000 will be accepted.