

NEGLECTED CEMETERY ACCOUNT GRANT PROGRAM

Program Background:

[C.G.S. Sec. 19a-308b](#) established the Neglected Cemetery Account and authorizes the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to make grants to eligible municipalities for the purpose of municipal maintenance of neglected burial grounds and cemeteries, as described in C.G.S. Sec. 19a-308.

Pursuant to [C.G.S. Sec. 19a-308\(a\)](#) a “neglected cemetery” is:

- a burial ground or cemetery containing more than six places of interment;
- a burial ground or cemetery that is not under the control or management of any currently functioning cemetery association; and
- a burial ground or cemetery which has been neglected and allowed to grow up to weeds, briars and bushes, or about which the fences have become broken, decayed or dilapidated.

Subsection (b) of [C.G.S. Sec. 19a-308](#) relieves municipalities, municipal employees, and agents and officers of municipalities from criminal or civil liability for undertaking the care and maintenance of a neglected cemetery.

Allowable Expenditures:

In accordance with [C.G.S. Sec. 19a-308\(a\)](#), only expenditures for the following four types of work can be reimbursed with Neglected Cemetery Account Grant funds:

- Clearing of weeds, briars and bushes;
- Mowing of the ground's lawn areas;
- Repairing of the ground's fences or walls; and
- Straightening of memorial stones.

Municipal labor utilized to perform only the specific work listed above will be considered an allowable expenditure **only** if such labor is performed **OUTSIDE** the course of the employee's regular work schedule.

Eligibility:

The state reserves the right to not award new grant funds from this program to those municipalities that have unexpended grant funds from a previously awarded Neglected Cemetery Account grant.

Additionally, pursuant to [C.G.S. Sec. 8-23](#), as amended by [P.A. 15-95](#), eligible municipalities will be those that have adopted a plan of conservation and development (POCD) within the past ten years. Municipalities that have not adopted a POCD within the past ten years may be eligible for funding if (1) in accordance with C.G.S. Sec. 8-23(a)(2), the municipality submits a notice to the OPM Secretary and the Commissioners of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Transportation, explaining why the POCD has not been adopted within the past ten years, and (2) in accordance with C.G.S. Sec. 8-23(b), the OPM Secretary expressly waives the prohibition of discretionary state funding. Additional information, guidance, and forms are available at [this link](#).

Announcements Regarding Applications for Funding:

When funds become available, such funding will be announced through a Request for Applications (RFA). Such RFA will be posted to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Contracting Portal and a link to the RFA will be posted to the OPM website.

Submission of an application in response to any RFA seeking funding through this program certifies that the applicant agrees to comply with [OPM's General Grant Conditions](#) should the applicant be selected to receive an award.

RFA Results:

Municipalities selected to receive a grant will be listed on OPM's website. These municipalities will be contacted with instructions on how to proceed with the grant process including how to obtain a fully executed Notice of Grant Award (Contract), which is needed prior to incurring grant funded expenditures. Once a municipality has a fully executed Contract, such Contract will be posted to the DAS Contracting Portal.

Grant Payments:

Municipalities selected to receive a grant will be required to submit additional paperwork. Once the paperwork has been submitted to and approved by OPM, a fully executed Contract will be issued to the grantee. No grant funds will be paid to any municipality which fails to fully execute a Contract with OPM. Grantees should not incur any grant related expenditures until they have received a copy of their fully executed Contract.

Grants will be paid on a reimbursement basis, and reimbursements will only be made for allowable expenditures incurred between the start and end dates of the grant. The start and end dates of the grant will be provided by OPM to the municipality upon notification of a fully executed Contract. Reimbursement will only be made for the allowable specified work performed at the specific locations as submitted on the municipality's application.

Contact:

You may contact Martin Heft at 860-418-6355 or at martin.heft@ct.gov with questions pertaining to this grant program.