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# WHAT IS THE PRAIRIE STATE CONSERVATION FUND?



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# HOW IT STARTED

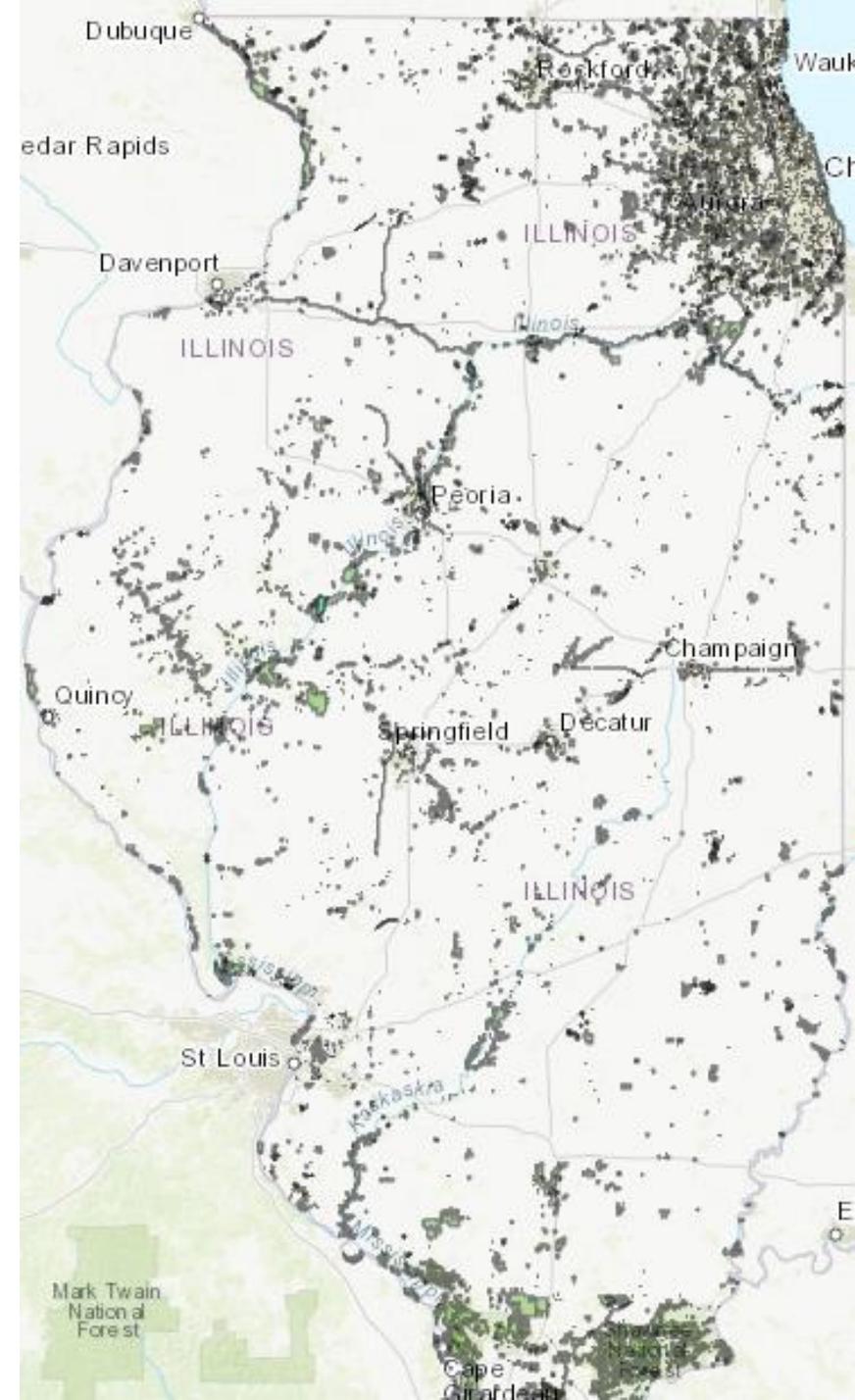
In 2024, Prairie State Conservation Coalition was awarded a \$47 million grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to establish a natural areas grant program to support projects and programs intended to preserve or enhance natural habitats and wildlife areas in Illinois.



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# WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED?

- All projects funded through the PSCF must include outcomes that preserve or enhance the natural habitats and wildlife areas of the State of Illinois.
  - Similar to Illinois Clean Energy community Foundation Natural Areas Programs
  - Additional focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
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# ACQUISITION OF LAND AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

## Applications opening in mid 2025!

- Funds may be used to acquire fee-simple land or permanent conservation easements in Illinois
- Land must be publicly accessible
- 20% match requirement

## Eligible Applicants

- 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations
- A unit of local government having specific statutory authority to acquire land for public open space purposes (i.e., Forest Preserve Districts, Conservation Districts, Township Open Space Districts, etc.)





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# SURVEY COMING SOON!

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Be on the lookout for a survey that will help us better understand your organizations land acquisition funding needs and priorities



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# RESTORATION OR STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL HABITATS AND WILDLIFE AREAS

## **Applications to open in 2026**

- Specific program criteria coming soon

## Eligible Applicants

- 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations
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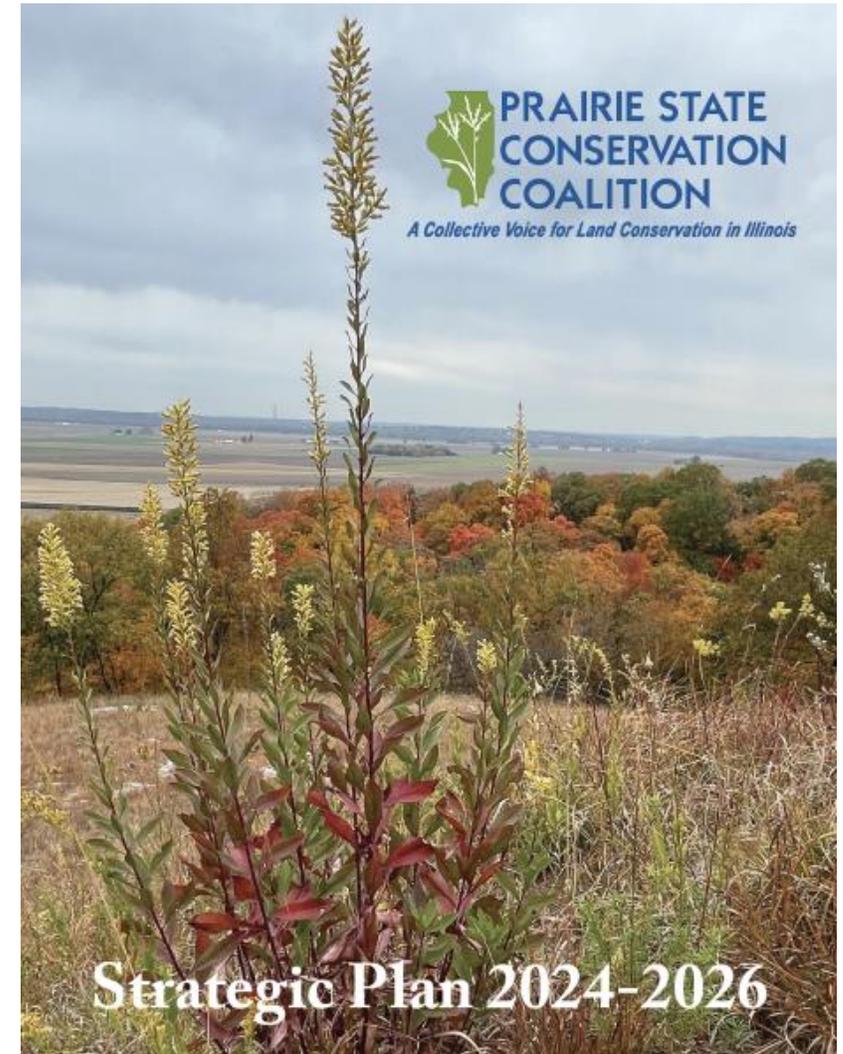
# ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

## Applications to open in 2026

- General Capacity-Building for Conservation Land Trusts and Other Types of 501c3 Nonprofit Conservation Organizations
- Capacity-Building for Organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Capacity-Building for Organizations seeking to advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) outcomes

## Eligible Applicants

- 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations that are conservation land trusts or have as their main mission to preserve natural habitats and wildlife areas.



**DOES MY ORGANIZATION  
HAVE TO BE A PSCC  
MEMBER TO APPLY FOR  
A GRANT?**

**NO!**

**IF I SERVE ON THE PSCC  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
CAN AN ORGANIZATION  
WITH WHICH I'M  
AFFILIATED APPLY FOR A  
GRANT?**

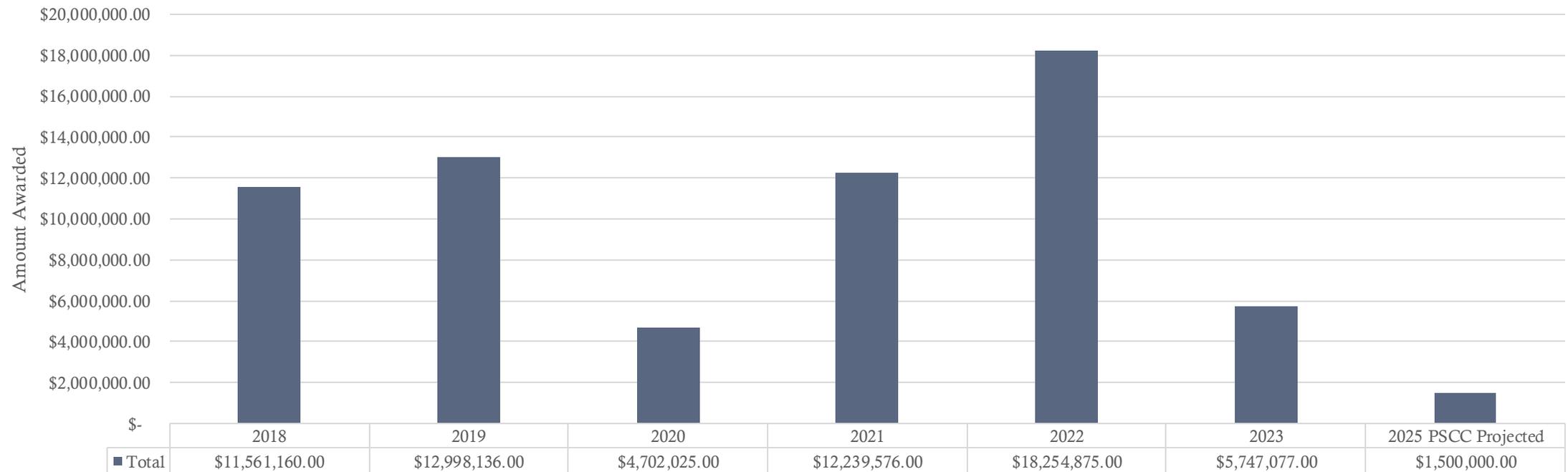
**YES!**

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# FEASIBILITY OF STATEWIDE CONSERVATION FUNDING

ICECF Acquisition Funding Awarded (2018 - 2023)

\*No Grants awarded in 2024



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**QUESTIONS?**

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