



# **New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NY SWIMS)**

## **Request for Information (RFI)**

February 9, 2024

## 1. Introduction

### **DASNY**

The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (“DASNY”) is a public benefit corporation of the State of New York empowered by Article 8, Titles 4 and 4-B of the Public Authorities Law (the “Act”), to provide design and project management services and to issue bonds, notes and other obligations for a variety of public purposes. Under the Act, DASNY provides various services in connection with the design, construction and financing of capital facilities for the State University of New York, including dormitories and educational facilities; City University of New York Senior Colleges; Community Colleges; Boards of Cooperative Educational Services; cities and counties with respect to court facilities and combined occupancy structures, as defined by law; the Department of Education of the State of New York with respect to certain facilities under its jurisdiction; other State and local governmental entities; independent colleges and universities; facilities for the aged; certain not-for-profit hospitals and nursing homes, as well as various not-for-profit organizations specifically described in the Act. DASNY also administers grant programs in cooperation with the State of New York.

To learn more about DASNY, please visit our website at [www.dasny.org](http://www.dasny.org).

### **New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**

The **New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation** (“NYS OPRHP”) is a state agency within the New York State Executive Department charged with the operation of state parks and historic sites within the State of New York. The NYS OPRHP manages more than 360,000 acres of public lands and facilities, including more than 250 individual parks, historic sites, recreational trails, and boat launches that hosted 84 million visits in 2023.

To learn more about NYS OPRHP, please visit their website at <https://parks.ny.gov/>.

## 2. Background

Recognizing that drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 and that climate change will increase extreme heat events, Governor Hochul announced the New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NY SWIMS) initiative, a new competitive grant program to expand access to safe swimming facilities across the state. The selection criteria may prioritize access to underserved communities. NY SWIMS will provide grants to eligible entities including municipalities and not for profit organizations to support the deployment of a range of swimming facilities including municipal pools, temporary or mobile pools, and innovative pools. It will also promote initiatives to help more New Yorkers swim safely by investing in State Parks and pools, addressing the statewide lifeguard shortage, increasing swimming instruction, and increasing amenities at pools and beaches.

The FY2025 Executive Budget includes \$150 million in capital funding for NY SWIMS grants. Eligible municipalities and not for profits will be able to apply for funding to support the construction or renovation of public swimming facilities, the deployment of movable or temporary pools, and the development of innovative pool concepts.

### 3. Purpose and Objective

DASNY in consultation with NYS OPRHP is releasing this Request for Information (“RFI”) to determine interest and solicit information from municipalities, local recreation commissions, not-for-profit organizations, pool vendors and contractors authorized to do business in New York State that are interested in participating in the NY SWIMS grant program (as a grantee or selected vendor through the grantee to provide design and construction) to facilitate the renovation and construction of pools with an emphasis on underserved neighborhoods across the state. NY SWIMS grants can be used to fund the design and construction, renovation, or assembly of swimming pools along with other related capital expenses, including but not limited to, site infrastructure, land acquisition, ancillary splash pads, diving boards and slides, bathrooms and changing rooms, concessions, and other features that create value for local communities. Please see Attachment A for examples of potential swimming facilities.

This RFI is a formal, non-competitive informational inquiry that is being released to obtain market information, desire, and input on services provided in connection with the NY SWIMS program. Submittal of an RFI is not a condition for future consideration as a grantee or potential provider of the services contemplated herein. Consequently, it is understood and agreed that no obligation or commitment is made by DASNY or NYS OPRHP to any Respondent submitting a Response to this RFI.

The information collected through this RFI will inform subsequent procurements to advance the NY SWIMS grant program. It is anticipated that DASNY and NYS OPRHP will issue one or more Request for Applications for municipalities and not-for-profit organizations to advance public pool construction and renovation, temporary or movable pop-up pools and innovative pool projects in underserved communities once funding is allocated in the FY2025 Enacted Budget.

### 4. Response Items

DASNY invites Respondents to include answers to the following questions in their Response, referencing the same numbering system as used in this section. The information provided should address the specific response item and be informative and concise.

1. Are you interested in constructing a new pool facility in your community?
  - a. If so, have you developed an estimate for the capital construction work? If yes, what is the estimated cost? (Estimates should reflect permanently installed features to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities; accessory facilities or amenities related to pool activities, operations and safety).
  - b. If so, would a new pool facility be an outdoor seasonal facility or indoor year-round facility?
  - c. If so, would a new pool facility be constructed within a natural waterbody? Please describe.
  - d. If you are not interested in constructing a pool facility, what are the reason(s) why not?

2. Do you currently have an existing pool facility that requires redevelopment to be functional?
  - a. If so, please describe the work necessary to make the pool operational and an approximate cost.
  - b. If so, would the renovated pool facility operate seasonally or year-round?
  - c. If so, how many individuals does your facility serve?
  - d. If so, how will the renovated facility provide accessibility to individuals with disabilities?
3. Do you currently have an operational pool facility and wish to increase capacity, which may include enclosing the pool, to serve more people?
  - a. If so, please describe the work necessary to achieve your goals, an approximate cost, and anticipated increase in capacity.
4. If you already have an operational pool facility, describe the annual maintenance and operational costs for the pool facility and the source of the funding for ongoing operations and maintenance.
5. If you do not currently have an operational pool facility but are interested in constructing one, please describe your plan to fund ongoing staffing, operations and maintenance once the facility is constructed.
6. Describe your plan for staffing the public swimming facility including, but not limited to, lifeguards and swim instructors.
7. Do you charge (or plan to charge) a fee to swim? For swim lessons? For use of lockers? Any other use fees, including parking fees or park access fees?
8. Is your existing or planned swimming facility accessible by public transportation?
9. Do you or do you plan to require membership for individuals to access your swimming facility?
10. Would you be open to allowing all members of the public to utilize your swimming facility?
  - a. If so, please detail the estimated cost structure to broaden access to the public, or subsidy required to provide access free of charge.
11. If the State were to offer a matching grant program to assist with the capital costs of constructing and/or renovating a pool facility, would you be interested in applying?
  - a. Why or why not?
  - b. How much of a local match share would you consider to be reasonable? Please provide as a percentage.
  - c. Describe the costs that you would pay for using grant funding.
12. Have you evaluated whether any additional permits are required to operate a temporary or permanent facility? Please describe.

13. Do you have interest in procuring, operating and maintaining a temporary, movable, or “pop-up” pool facility in your community?
  - a. If so, please describe the temporary pool facility, including ancillary physical assets to ensure health and safety.
  - b. If so, would you charge a fee to swim or any other fees?
14. Do you now or do you intend to partner with other groups to operate or maintain a pool facility?
15. Do you now or do you intend to operate learn to swim programs at a pool facility?

## 5. Key Events/Dates

Provided below is the schedule of milestones for this RFI process, listed in order of occurrence. Please follow the instructions included in Section 6. Inquiries/Questions & Answers for further guidance on how to utilize the DASNY Portal to submit inquiries and questions. Please follow the instructions included in Section 7. Submission of Information for further guidance on how to utilize the DASNY Portal to submit the requested information.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Issuance of RFI	2/09/2024
Deadline for RFI Questions	2/16/2024 (3:00PM)
Post Responses to RFI Questions	2/22/2024
Submission of Information Due Date	3/08/2024 (3:00PM)

## 6. Inquiries/Questions & Answers

### A. Inquiries

All inquiries concerning this RFI or any other aspects of this RFI must be emailed to the Designated Representative for this RFI:

**Kara Mallard**

E-mail: [NYSWIMS@dasny.org](mailto:NYSWIMS@dasny.org)

### B. Questions & Answers

No significant interpretation or clarification of the meaning of any part of this RFI will be made orally to any Respondent. Respondents must request such interpretations or clarifications in writing from DASNY. Questions should reference the RFI page and topic number. Questions must be received no later than 3:00 PM EST time on February 16, 2024. Questions must be submitted through the Portal through the following link:

[DASNY's RFI Portal](#)

## 7. Submission of Information

Submission of Information shall be completed through DASNY's RFI Portal (link found below) before 3:00 PM EST on **March 8, 2024**. **Please create an account at least 48 hours in advance to ensure the site is working correctly. It is strongly encouraged to submit information in advance of the submission date and allow time in the event you require technical assistance from DASNY. DASNY may not be able to assist submitters with troubleshooting errors if submissions are not made in a timely manner.**

### [DASNY's RFI Portal](#)

After clicking on the link above, please either create a **DASNY Portal Account** or sign-in to the account you previously created. DASNY requires Multifactor Authentication (MFA) to meet our security needs and keep your account safe. Upon initial account creation, you will be prompted to enter a phone number. Be sure to enter a number you will have access to when signing into your account at all times as DASNY will require MFA each time you log in to the Portal.

DASNY allows submitters to submit a response and continue to make edits (if necessary) until the RFI deadline. Once you start a response, be sure to EDIT that response and not begin a new one. DASNY will only review a single response. If your response is in draft mode, you will be able to see it in the list when you select to edit an existing response on the Portal. Your response is not complete and DASNY does not have access to view your responses until you submit a final package prior to the deadline.

If there are any issues associated with the link above or if you have technical issues with DASNY's RFI Portal, please contact the email below:

Email: [NYSWIMS@dasny.org](mailto:NYSWIMS@dasny.org)

## 8. General Provisions

The issuance of this RFI and the submission of a Response by any Respondent or the acceptance of such Response by DASNY or NYS OPRHP does not obligate DASNY or NYS OPRHP in any manner. By submitting a Response, you agree to the terms of this RFI. DASNY and NYS OPRHP reserve the right to:

- Amend, modify, or withdraw this RFI;
- Revise any requirement of this RFI;
- Require supplemental statements or information from any Respondent;
- Extend the deadline for submission or Responses;
- Hold discussions with any Respondent;
- Communicate with any Respondent to correct and/or clarify Responses which do not conform to the instructions contained herein; and
- Cancel or reissue in whole or in part this RFI.

This RFI shall not be construed in any manner to implement any of the actions contemplated herein, nor to serve as the basis for any claim whatsoever for reimbursement of costs for efforts expended in preparing a Response or otherwise. DASNY and NYS OPRHP shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by any Respondent related to preparing and submitting a Response, attending oral

presentations, or for any other associated costs. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be at the sole cost and expense of the Respondent.

Responses and any other materials submitted in connection with this RFI are subject to disclosure under the New York State Freedom of Information Law, Article 6 of the Public Officers Law. The submission of a Response is not required to participate in any potential future Request for Proposals.

**Attachment A**  
**Examples of Potential Swimming Facilities**

Large Municipal/Civic Facilities:



*Photo credit: NYC Parks*

Barge Pool:



*Photo credit: NY*

Floating Pool:



*Photo credit: River Pool at Beacon*

Pop-Up Pool:



*Photo credit: Brooklyn Paper, Paul Martinka*