



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

PENNSYLVANIA SHOOTING RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

THE SUBMISSION GUIDE TO GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR SHOOTING RANGES IN PENNSYLVANIA



BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
SHOOTING SPORTS DIVISION



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) is primarily funded through two main sources: the sale of hunting licenses and federal excise tax funds derived through the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937.

A majority of these funds has historically been produced by hunters, but over the last 30 years, recreational shooters have also provided a significant portion to the fund.

Recognizing the important role of recreational shooters, the PGC designed the Shooting Range Improvement Program (SRIP) grant to provide financial support to Pennsylvania's aging shooting range infrastructure while creating access opportunities for new members.

Safety and accessibility upgrades are important to hunters and furtakers, as ranges provide a place to test equipment and hone marksmanship skills to successfully harvest game. As such, the SRIP grants are in accordance with the Game and Wildlife Code, specifically Title 34 §521(a), which authorizes expenditures from the Game Fund for the costs of activities for the promotion of public interest in recreational hunting and furtaking.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

RANGE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

The Pennsylvania Game Commission developed the Shooting Range Improvement Program (SRIP) to provide organizations with funding to develop new or unique projects that will have a positive impact on Pennsylvania hunters and shooters.

The agency's future effectiveness in managing both hunters/shooters and wildlife is directly related to the public's ability to increase effectiveness, safety, and efficiency in using firearms and archery equipment.

But the availability of safe shooting facilities is decreasing.

For hunting to remain a regulated, viable, and safe form of wildlife management for Pennsylvania, a greater emphasis on providing the public with safe and accessible facilities for education and practice is essential.

Many states have been leaders in the development of ranges on state-owned properties. Agency range development has been beneficial in many ways, including:

- Increased use of state lands.
- Decreased firearms-related vandalism in those areas with developed and accessible ranges.
- Local citizen support and appreciation.
- Increased generated funds.
- Enhanced user support of the hunting and shooting sports.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

REQUIRED STEPS FOR GRANT SUBMISSION

Please make sure you submit the following information:

- 1.** Shooting Range Improvement Program grant application form and proposal typed, or computer generated (one proposal per grant cycle). Grant cycle is based on fiscal year (July 1-June 30).
- 2.** Documentation of land ownership or lease.
- 3.** Documentation of liability insurance.
- 4.** Detailed maps of project location, including location of specific project (region, township, and range).
- 5.** Images of structures, lands, and areas of project or pertinent to project.
- 6.** One bid for equipment or labor and copies of all approved engineering plans.
- 7.** Schedule of events from previous and current calendar year.

Please read the application carefully and complete all required fields. Incomplete applications will not be considered.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

SHOOTING RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GOALS

1. Increase public access to private and club-type facilities.
2. Enhance shooting range facility availability or quality to the public.
3. Enhance public safety and environmental stewardship.
4. Enhance facilities available for the Pennsylvania Hunter-Trapper Education Program.
5. Provide funding to shooting facilities that have not received grants previously.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND AWARD NOTIFICATION

The application period opens April 1, 2025. Completed applications must be submitted by June 1, 2025, at 5 p.m. Award recipients will be notified on July 1, 2025.

Upon approval, a commencement date for projects to begin will be provided. All project actions, work, invoices, etc. must occur after the PGC assigned start date and only after a signed contract is submitted by the applicant and received by the PGC.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Applications must be submitted to:

Luke Johnson
Shooting Sports Range Management Coordinator
2001 Elmerton Ave.
Harrisburg, Pa 17110

Email: lukjohnson@pa.gov
Phone: 717-645-6820

SCAN TO
APPLY ONLINE



****In the event of grant acceptance, applicants will work with PGC officials to allow for random monitoring of contract obligations to maintain compliance with any contractually agreed upon activities.**

YEAR ONE PILOT PROGRAM 2024

A total of up to 12 projects were selected during the 2024 Pilot Program. Projects were awarded a maximum of \$30,000 for the pilot program.

2024 PILOT PROGRAM AWARDS

NORTHWEST

- KALBFUS ROD AND GUN CLUB
Project: Upgrading 13 traps to expand the club's trap and sporting clay program.
- OIL CITY CHAPTER IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
Project: Improving safety around the hunters' trail range, specifically the earthen backstops and stations.

SOUTHWEST

- SOUTH CONNELLSVILLE ROD AND GUN CLUB
Project: Building a new skeet range to promote more shotgun shooting sports.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

NORTHCENTRAL

- **FOX TOWNSHIP SPORTSMEN'S CLUB**
Project: Building new skeet houses to provide the ability to host national competitions that will be open to the public.
- **LIBERTY TOWNSHIP SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION**
Project: Improving safety to the current rifle range, adding an access road, and conducting site work for a new pistol range.

SOUTHCENTRAL

- **HOPEWELL FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION**
Project: Conducting a lead remediation project on the current rifle range, as well constructing new backstops to increase opportunities on the range.
- **MIFFLIN COUNTY SPORTSMEN ASSOCIATION**
Project: Improving the 5-stand and trap range to increase capacity and safety, as the association hosts more outreach events.

NORTHEAST

- **GREAT BEND ROD AND GUN ASSOCIATION**
Project: Upgrading the trap shooting houses with new throwers.
*The previous throwers are more than 30 years old and have thrown more than 1,360,000 clay targets.
- **NEW MILFORD RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB**
Project: Building a new training building and a covered shooting bench.

SOUTHEAST

- **VALLEY VIEW GUN CLUB**
Project: Constructing a new facility to host more classroom opportunities, including Hunter-Trapper Education and a "Learn to Shoot" style programming.
- **COLUMBIA FISH AND GAME**
Project: Constructing a new covered area for the pistol range as well as expanding pistol shooting opportunities at the club.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

SELECTION PROCESS 2025

A total of \$500,000 will be awarded during the 2025 grant cycle. A max of \$50,000 dollars will be awarded per application.

Awards shall be made to applicants based on review by a three-member committee selected by the PGC. The scores will be totaled and then averaged for the final score.

Awards will be made to applicants who provide a complete application and who, in the sole and final judgment of the PGC, provide proposals that best reflect the goals and interests of the program.

Award recipients shall be required to sign contracts with the PGC following notification of acceptance. Award recipients shall be required to execute and submit all other necessary documentation (e.g. reports) as directed during the term of the life of the contract agreement following all state guidelines.

The PGC reserves the right, at any time, to cancel or amend this request for proposals, reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, waive minor irregularities in proposals, or allow applicants to correct minor irregularities, if the best interest of the PGC SRIP grant is served by doing so.

Award recipients that receive SRIP funding must also commit to maintaining the project improvements for their useful life. Projects will be assessed for useful life during grading. Examples would include, but are not limited to, permanent archery targets useful life would be five years whereas, a new roof projects for a rifle range would be 10 years. Failure to maintain the project or to allow public access during the useful life may require the award recipient to repay a pro-rated portion of the grant. Each year, within the agreement of useful life of the project, applicants must report membership totals to PGC Range Coordinator.

Recipients must provide the agency with deliverables for the life of the project. The deliverables for the life of the project are PGC signage of program funding, one youth field day per year or two hunter/shooter education classes, and 25 public days per calendar year (matches, tournaments, sight in days, (open house event). Each year, within



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

the agreement of useful life of the project, applicants must report membership totals to PGC Range Coordinator.

The agency will pay the grantee for the project upon completion and final inspection. The agency will work with the applicant to select the best contractor who meets the applicant and the PGC goals for the project. If selected, the club may need to provide up to three bids for the project. During this process, the PGC will conduct a site visit with all parties involved to discuss the contract and assess the site. All projects will be reviewed by a certified engineer before work may begin.

If selected, the club will need to register for a vendor number with the Commonwealth. More information on vendor numbers can be found at pa.gov/agencies/budget.html.

Projects must comply with the “General Prohibitions Against Discrimination,” 28 C. F. R. § 35.130, and all other regulations promulgated under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act which are applicable to the benefits, services, programs, and activities provided by the Commonwealth through contracts with outside contractors.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Applicants who are eligible to apply for SRIP grants are existing shooting ranges, shooting clubs, recreational shooting organizations, archery clubs, and education groups. Applicants must demonstrate public use of current facilities. Examples of public use of facilities include public range times, educational outreach/trainings, or organized shooting competitions. Retail ranges are not eligible to apply for this program.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Projects for rifle, handgun, shotgun, skeet, and trap ranges should be designed to standards found in National Rifle Association (NRA) Range Source Book, a Guide to Planning and Construction, or the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) website.

For archery ranges, design information is available on websites for the Archery Trade Association, the National Field Archery Association, and other organizations.

Design may also mirror PGC state game land ranges.

Examples of eligible shooting range projects:

- Training, storage, and clubhouse facilities.
- New construction, renovation, and relocation.
- Construction of backstops and safety berms.
- Sky and noise baffles construction.
- Shooting stations and covers.
- Access roads and parking lots.
- Permanent target systems.
- Signage.
- Lead remediation.

Examples of projects not eligible for funding:

- Land acquisition.
- Engineering and design documents and plans.
- Employees' time to complete application or indirect costs.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

*** PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION USE ONLY ***

Pennsylvania Shooting Range Improvement Program (SRIP) Score Sheet			
Reviewer Name			
Application Number			
Date Reviewed		Total Score	
Score Sheet			
Criterion	Max Points	Reviewer Score	
Supports Hunter-Trapper Education, hunter recruitment, introduction to shooting sports	20		
Construction of new ranges for future opportunities of shooting sports events	20		
Benefits shooting sports through design improvements	10		
Existing rifle range opportunities	5		
Existing shotgun range opportunities	5		
Existing handgun range opportunities	5		
Existing archery range opportunities	5		
The applicant has never received a shooting range grant or has not received a shooting range grant within the last 10 years	10		
Public range use opportunities	10		
Range location to population center	10		
Scorer recommendation (Check Only One)			
	I support funding this application for the following reasons		
	I support this application with reservations and recommend the following stipulations		
	I do not support this application (give reason)		



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

SCORING CRITERIA

1. SUPPORTS HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION, HUNTER RECRUITMENT, INTRODUCTION TO SHOOTING SPORTS

- Points will be awarded to applicants whose projects will expand or enhance hunter education programming or currently host multiple hunter education programs.
- Points will be given to those ranges that conduct hunter outreach programs, including state supported outreach programs, partnerships with conservation organizations, public shooting events, shooting leagues, youth hunts, youth shooting events, and shooter education classes.

2. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RANGES OR OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHOOTING SPORTS

- Points are awarded based on new range design for a project the club currently does not offer.
- Points are awarded for a design that promotes new opportunities for education and outreach for shooting sports.

3. BENEFITS SHOOTING SPORTS THROUGH DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS

- Points are awarded to ranges for projects that promote safety through either improvements or design of project.
- Examples of safety improvements are berms, backstops, fences, or lighting.
- Examples of design improvements are lead remediation, and noise abatements.



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

SCORING CONT.

4. EXISTING RIFLE RANGE OPPORTUNITIES

- Applicant has existing indoor or outdoor rifle ranges.
- Applicant will be graded on number of shooting positions as well as max distance.

5. EXISTING SHOTGUN RANGE OPPORTUNITIES

- Applicant has existing shotgun ranges.
- Examples include trap, skeet, sporting clays, or patterning range.

6. EXISTING HANDGUN RANGE OPPORTUNITIES

- Applicant has existing designated indoor or outdoor pistol range.
- Applicant will be graded on number of shooting positions.

7. EXISTING ARCHERY RANGE OPPORTUNITIES

- Applicant has existing indoor or outdoor archery range on property.
- Max number of points will be received if having both a 3D course and target archery.

**A multiplier of x3 will be used for a single discipline organization
(Ex: Archery Only)**



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

SCORING CONT.

8. THE APPLICANT HAS NEVER RECEIVED A SHOOTING RANGE GRANT OR HAS NOT RECEIVED A SHOOTING RANGE GRANT WITHIN THE LAST 10 YEARS

- Organizations that have not received funding from the PGC in the past will receive priority.
- If previously selected by PGC, you will be awarded 1 point for every year since last award.
- Other grant funding will be taken into consideration while scoring such as Midway Endowments, NRA, or other organizations.

9. PUBLIC RANGE USE OPPORTUNITIES

- The applying organization is currently active in providing public access and shooting programs. Points are awarded to applicants with records of public availability and public programs.
- If club is new, points to be awarded to those who show desire to provide public offerings.
- Examples of public range use are hunter sight-in days, openhouse events, or guest range pass for non-members.
- Fees may be charged to non-members for guest use but must be reasonable to others in the region.

10. RANGE LOCATION TO POPULATION CENTER

- Points awarded by the number of people the applicant may serve in a 50-mile radius.
- Points will be awarded if there is not a similar facility within a 50-mile radius of applicant.