

IPRA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Advance Your Career with IPRA Funding



APPLICATION DEADLINE
Noon • Friday,
August 28, 2026



APPLICANTS NOTIFIED
Friday,
September 11, 2026

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

IPRA has **\$5,000** in grant funding available to help members earn professional certifications and expand their knowledge.

ELIGIBLE COURSES



CERTIFIED POOL OPERATOR (CPO)

- Any in-person class
- October 2026 – June 2027



AQUATIC FACILITY OPERATOR (AFO)

- December 1–2, 2026



CERTIFIED PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTOR (CPSI)

- November 17–19, 2026



PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE COURSE (PMC)

- December 16, 2026
- or Spring 2027 (TBD)

WHO CAN APPLY?

- ✓ Current IPRA Individual Professional or Agency Members
- ✓ One grant per fiscal year
- ✓ Must wait three years before applying again
- ✓ Course must be completed by **June 30, 2027**

WHAT'S COVERED?

Grant funding includes:

- Course registration
- Course manual
- First exam attempt

Participant is responsible for:

- Travel
- Lodging
- Meals
- Exam retakes

IMPORTANT



Recipients who do not complete their course by **June 30, 2027** will not be eligible for future grant funding.



APPLY ONLINE!

Application Deadline:

Noon • Friday, August 28, 2026

[Registration link for all classes](#)



QUESTIONS?

Email questions to
Kelly Johnson Rose

kelly@iapro.org

IPRA CPRP/CPRE CERTIFICATION GRANTS

Invest in Your Future. Strengthen Our Profession.



GRANT AMOUNT
Up to \$460
per person



COMPLETION DEADLINE
May 31, 2027
Total funding \$5,000
for all IPRA grants



FUNDING EXPIRES
June 30, 2027



HOW IT WORKS

Candidates or their department will make the initial investment, with IPRA reimbursing once the exam is taken.

IPRA will reimburse the recipient or the department once the exam is completed, and proof of payment from NRPA.



IMPORTANT DATES

- Initial deadline:
Friday, August 28, 2026
- Recipients notified:
September 11, 2026
- Application forms are
now available!

ABOUT THE GRANTS

The IPRA Board of Directors has approved investing in members who wish to become **NRPA Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP)** or **Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE)**.

These credentials demonstrate your commitment to the profession and validate your knowledge, skills, and experience.



CERTIFIED PARK AND RECREATION PROFESSIONAL (CPRP)

The national standard for all parks and recreation professionals who want to be at the forefront of their profession.



The CPRP exam is **150** questions (125 scored, 25 unscored pretest) and covers five core competencies: **Operations, Programming, Human Resources, Finance and Communication**. Includes a set of unscored sample questions to familiarize candidates with the structure.



The computer-based exam is administered through PSI Services Professional Testing Company and is available at testing centers across the U.S. and internationally. There are **five Iowa locations**.



Applicants will have one year from the time of registration to take the exam. But in the case of this IPRA grant opportunity, **candidates must take the exam no later than May 31, 2027.**



To prepare for the exam, applicants are highly encouraged to review the **CPRP Candidate Handbook**.



Exam results are provided on-site at the conclusion of the exam.

[Click here to view the CPRP candidates handbook](#)

[Click here to review the CPRP eligibility requirements](#)



CERTIFIED PARK AND RECREATION EXECUTIVE (CPRE)

Establishes a national standard for managerial, administrative, and executive parks and recreation professionals.



The CPRE exam is **150** questions (125 scored, 25 unscored pretest) and covers five core competencies: **Communication, Finance, Human Resources, Operations, Planning & Policy**. Includes a set of unscored sample questions to familiarize candidates with the structure.



The computer-based exam is administered through PSI Services Professional Testing Company and is available at testing centers across the U.S. and internationally.



Applicants will have one year from the time of registration to take the exam. But in the case of this IPRA grant opportunity, **candidates must take the exam no later than May 31, 2027.**



To prepare for the exam, applicants are highly encouraged to review the **CPRE Candidate Handbook**.



Exam results are provided on-site at the conclusion of the exam.

[Click here to view the CPRE candidates' handbook](#)

[Click here to review the CPRE eligibility requirements](#)



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NOTE: Candidates who successfully complete the exam are responsible for renewing their certification.