



## State, Local, and Tribal Energy Newsletter

Nineteen funding and technical assistance opportunities are available for state, local, and tribal governments from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and others that can be used to support climate and energy initiatives, including economic development, sustainable communities, green infrastructure, and water efficiency. For full eligibility and application details, please visit the links provided below.

In addition, please visit EPA's [Grants website](#) for further grant opportunities, guidance on how to apply, and training.

## Funding Opportunities

### **New!** EPA American Rescue Plan - Improving Ambient Air Quality Monitoring to Address Health Income Disparities - \$100 million

*Applications Due: EPA plans to issue calls for proposals in fall 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State, tribal, and local governments and community groups*

On July 7, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$50 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to improve ambient air quality monitoring for communities across the United States. EPA will receive a total of \$100 million from the ARP to address health outcome disparities from pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic, with \$50 million specifically to advance environmental justice, and another \$50 million to enhance air quality.

On August 17, 2021, EPA will host a webinar from 2:00-3:30pm EST to provide an overview of the intended distribution of the air quality monitoring funds, with a focus on the competitive grant criteria. In addition, there will be a short overview on the \$50 million in funding aimed at advancing environmental justice. The purpose of this session is to discuss the proposed grant solicitation and timelines, answer questions and receive feedback from environmental justice communities/organizations.

[Register](#)

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **New!** EPA OLEM FY22 Brownfields Job Training - \$3 million

*Applications Due: October 5, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: States, local governments, tribal governments other than in Alaska, state government entities*

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, to deliver Brownfields Job Training programs that recruit, train, and place local, unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. While Brownfields Job Training Grants require training in brownfield assessment and/or cleanup activities, these grants also require that Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training be provided to all individuals being trained. EPA encourages applicants to develop their curricula based on local labor market assessments and employers' hiring needs, while also delivering comprehensive training that results in graduates securing multiple certifications.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **EPA OLEM Supporting Anaerobic Digestion in Communities - \$2 million**

*Applications Due: October 7, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: States (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands), local, tribal, interstate, and intrastate government agencies and instrumentalities.*

EPA is seeking applications for projects from states, Tribes, territories, and nonprofit organizations to help reduce food loss and waste, and divert food waste from landfills by expanding anaerobic digestion (AD) capacity in the United States. All applications must achieve one or more of the following objectives: develop new or expand existing AD capacity for processing food waste; demonstrate solutions and/or approaches for increasing food waste AD utilization that can be replicated by other communities, governments, or other entities; support state, tribal, and/or local government programs that seek to use AD to increase their food waste diversion rates.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **New!** DHS FEMA Fiscal Year 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) - \$1 billion

*Applications Due: January 28, 2022*

*Eligible Entities: U.S territories, states, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities*

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program makes federal funds available to states, U.S territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities for hazard mitigation activities. It does so with a recognition of the growing hazards associated with climate change<sup>1</sup>, and of the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards. These include both acute extreme weather events and chronic stressors which have been observed and are expected to increase in the future.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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## **New!** DOC Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program - \$268 million

*Applications Due: December 1, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: The Act defines an eligible recipient as: a historically Black college or university (HBCU); a Tribal College or University (TCU); a Minority-serving institution (MSI); or a consortium that is led by a historically Black college or university, a Tribal College or University, or a Minority-serving institution. A consortium is eligible for a grant under the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program if it is led by an eligible institution as defined above.*

The Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program provides new federal funding for the Assistant Secretary to make grants for the expansion of broadband internet access, connectivity, and digital inclusion. The Act authorizes new federal funding for the Assistant Secretary to make grants to eligible recipients in anchor communities: for the purchase of broadband internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel; to facilitate educational instruction and learning, including through remote instruction; to operate a minority business enterprise (MBE); or to operate a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The Act also authorizes grants to a consortium, led by an eligible recipient institution (i.e., educational institution), that includes an MBE or a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. See Section I of this NOFO for the full Program Description.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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## **New!** DOC EDA FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge - \$30 million

*Applications Due: October 19, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, county governments, special district governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), others*

Through this American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity (ARPA BBBRC NOFO), EDA aims to assist communities and regions impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has caused, and continues to cause, economic injury to U.S. communities and regions in devastating and unprecedented ways. This ARPA BBBRC NOFO is designed as a two-phase competition to (1) help regions develop transformational economic development strategies and (2) fund the implementation of those strategies that will create and grow regional growth clusters. Such efforts will help regional economies recover from the pandemic and build economic diversity and resiliency to mitigate impacts of future economic disasters.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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**New! DOC EDA FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge - \$500 million**

*Applications Due: January 26, 2022*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), others*

Through this American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity (ARPA Good Jobs Challenge NOFO), the Economic Development Agency (EDA) aims to assist communities and regions impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has caused, and continues to cause, economic injury to U.S. communities and regions in devastating and unprecedented ways. This ARPA Good Jobs Challenge NOFO is designed to help get Americans back to work by developing and strengthening regional systems to develop and execute sectoral partnerships that will lead to well-paying jobs. The goal of regional workforce training systems is to create and implement effective employer-driven training programs that will connect the existing and emerging skills needs of employers with workers and will help workers find and keep quality jobs and advance along their chosen career path.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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**New! DOC EDA FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Economic Adjustment Assistance - \$500 million**

*Applications Due: March 31, 2022*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), others*

Through this ARPA EAA NOFO, EDA aims to assist communities and regions impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, including historically underserved communities. The pandemic has caused, and continues to cause, economic injury to U.S. communities and regions in devastating and unprecedented ways. EDA's ARPA EAA NOFO is designed to provide a wide-range of financial assistance to communities and regions as they respond to, and recover from, the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, including long-term recovery and resilience to future economic disasters. Under this announcement, EDA solicits applications under the authority of the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, which is flexible and responsive to the economic development needs and priorities of local and regional stakeholders. This is the broadest NOFO EDA is publishing under ARPA and any eligible applicant from any EDA Region may apply. EDA expects to fund a number of projects under this NOFO that support communities negatively impacted by the downturn in the coal economy, supporting transitioning away from coal.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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**New! DOC EDA FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Indigenous Communities - \$100 million**

*Applications Due: March 31, 2022*

*Eligible Entities: Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)*

EDA's American Rescue Plan Indigenous Communities Notice of Funding (NOFO) is designed to support indigenous communities as they respond to, and recover from, the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, including long-term recovery and resilience to future economic disasters. Under this announcement, EDA solicits applications under the authority of its Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, which is intended to be flexible and responsive to the economic development needs and priorities of indigenous communities. Competitive applications for funding under this NOFO will propose projects designed to create the conditions for economic growth in indigenous communities and to accelerate economic recovery from the pandemic. These projects can include foundational economic infrastructure projects, such as such as broadband, energy, road, water, and wastewater infrastructure (including community water facilities); vocational and higher education facilities; and community health facilities that are necessary for future job creation. Projects can also include non-construction projects to provide technical assistance to support business development, entrepreneurship assistance, economic development planning, rural prosperity, and workforce training in indigenous communities. Further, EDA seeks to fund projects representing diverse geographies, from rural and urban settings to projects on or near tribal lands.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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## **DOE SolSmart Program Management - \$10 million**

*Applications Due: August 17, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, city or township governments, special district governments, county governments*

The activities to be funded under this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) will support the government-wide approach to the climate crisis by driving innovation that can lead to the deployment of clean energy technologies, which are critical for climate protection. Specifically, this funding program will help to reduce the soft costs of solar energy deployment—those costs not associated with the hardware—which account for up to 64% of the upfront cost of a residential solar installation. This FOA seeks an entity to manage and expand DOE's SolSmart program, which supports and recognizes local governments that reduce soft costs and expand access to solar energy. This community designation and technical assistance program was launched in 2016 and has recognized almost 400 communities from Florida to Alaska. Now, DOE is expanding the program to incorporate new solar-related technologies and respond to the evolving needs of local governments. The chosen entity will manage the program for the next five years.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **New! DOI BOR WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 - \$40 million**

*Applications Due: December 9, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, Native American tribal governments, irrigation or water districts, state, regional, or local authorities. All applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.*

The objective of this notice of funding is to invite eligible applicants (Section C.1. Eligible Applicants) to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on Environmental Water Resources Projects, including water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values; water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values; and watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **New!** DOI BOR WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2022 - \$15 million

*Applications Due: November 3, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, Native American tribal governments, irrigation or water districts, state, regional, or local authorities. All applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.*

The objective of this notice of funding is to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of renewable energy; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; enable farmers to make additional on-farm improvements in the future, including improvements that may be eligible for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the western United States.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **New!** DOI BOR WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022 - \$16.5 million

*Applications Due: October 5, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, Native American tribal governments, irrigation or water districts, state, regional, or local authorities. All applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.*

The objective of this NOFO is to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on Drought Resiliency Projects that will increase the reliability of water supplies; improve water management; and provide benefits for fish, wildlife, and the environment to mitigate impacts caused by drought.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **DOI Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program - \$13 million**

*Applications Due: September 30, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: Tribal, state, county governments, tribal organizations, city or township governments, independent school districts, and others*

The Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance through cooperative agreements to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. The Coastal Program staff coordinates with partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation goals and priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas are where the Coastal Program directs resources to conserve habitat for Federal trust species.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **NOAA Climate Program Office FY2022 - \$15 million**

*Applications Due: October 18, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: Institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments.*

Climate variability and change present society with significant economic, health, safety, and security challenges. As part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) climate portfolio within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), the Climate Program Office (CPO) addresses these climate challenges by managing competitive research programs through which high-priority climate science, assessments, decision-support research, outreach, education, and capacity-building activities are funded to advance our understanding of the Earth's climate system, and to foster the application and use of this knowledge to improve the resilience of our Nation and its partners. Through this announcement, CPO is seeking applications for eight individual competitions in FY22. Several of these competitions are relevant to four high-priority climate risk areas CPO is focusing on to improve science understanding and/or capabilities that result in user-driven outcomes: Coastal Inundation, Marine Ecosystems, Water Resources, and Extreme Heat.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **NPS Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant - \$150 million**

*Applications Due: September 24, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: States, whether on behalf of themselves or eligible urban jurisdictions, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands)*

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program is a competitive grant program. Its goal is to provide new or significantly improve recreation opportunities for economically-disadvantaged communities in larger urbanized areas (as designated by the Census Bureau) that are under-served in terms of parks and other outdoor recreation resources. The program enables urban communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors in economically underserved communities.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

## **No-Cost Technical Assistance Opportunities**

### **EPA Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities Program**

*Applications Due: Not Applicable*

*Eligible Entities: State, local and tribal governments*

EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Program helps communities, states, tribes and others understand risks associated with contaminated or potentially contaminated properties, called brownfields, and learn how to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse them. EPA funds three organizations—Kansas State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology and the Center for Creative Land Recycling—to serve as independent sources of technical assistance. Each of these TABs has an extensive network of partners, contractors and other contacts that provides services across the country. They help communities tackle a variety of challenges related to identifying, assessing, cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields. The technical assistance comes at no cost to communities.

For more information, visit the [technical assistance description](#).

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### **On-Request Technical Assistance from DOE Office of Indian Energy**

*Applications Due: Not Applicable*

*Eligible Entities: Tribal governments*

The DOE Office of Indian Energy provides federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other organized tribal groups and communities, with technical assistance to advance tribal energy projects at no cost. Technical experts from DOE and its national laboratories, along with other partnering organizations, provide support to assist Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages with energy planning, housing and building energy efficiency, project development, policy and regulation, resilience, and village power.

For more information, visit the on-request [technical assistance description](#) .

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## DOE Clean Cities Coalition Network Technical Assistance

*Applications Due: Not Applicable*

*Eligible Entities: Clean Cities Coalitions*

Clean Cities connects transportation stakeholders with objective information and experts to assist with alternative fuels, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies. Through these trusted, time-tested resources, Clean Cities has helped fleets and fuel providers deploy hundreds of thousands of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling stations that serve a growing market. Clean Cities continues to support the entry of new transportation technologies into the marketplace.

For more information, visit the [technical assistance description](#) .

## Grant Writing Basics Blog Series

Learn tips and advice for writing federal grant applications through the Grant Writing Basics Blog Series. The goal of the series is to provide the essential basics to begin writing on a solid foundation.

Topics covered include:

- How to Start Working on Future Funding Opportunities
- Demystifying Funding Opportunity Announcements
- Tips to Avoid Last Minute Problems
- Making Sure You Are Eligible before Writing

[Learn more](#)

## About this Newsletter



State and Local Climate  
and Energy Program

This newsletter is a service of U.S. EPA's [State and Local Climate and Energy Program](#) . We offer expertise about implementing cost-effective energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate policies and programs to interested state, local, and tribal governments.

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