



State, Local, and Tribal Energy Newsletter

Sixteen 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

EPA Clean School Bus Program - \$500 million

Applications Due: to be determined

Eligible Entities: State governments, local governments, non-profits, for-profits, tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal schools

Authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA's Clean School Bus Program provides \$5 billion over the next five years to replace school buses with low- and zero-emission school buses.

[Prepare for Clean School Bus Funding](#)

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

EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program - \$1.6 million

Applications Due: May 20, 2022

Eligible Entities: Federally recognized tribal governments

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. Environmental Justice Small Grants fund projects up to \$100,000, depending on the availability of funds in a given year.

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

BIA Tribal Climate Resilience 2022 Annual Awards Program Request for Proposals - \$46 million

Applications Due: July 6, 2022

Eligible Entities: Federally recognized tribes

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Trust Services, Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience (TCR, Branch) solicits proposals from Federally recognized Tribes and authorized Tribal organizations to receive awards to support 1) Tribal climate resilience planning and strategy implementation and 2) ocean and coastal management planning. The Branch supports Tribes as they prepare for climate change impacts on Tribal Treaty and Trust resources, economies, regenerative agriculture and food sovereignty, conservation practices, infrastructure, and human health and safety. The Branch's Annual Awards Program will provide funding for projects that support Tribal climate resilience as Tribes incorporate science, including Indigenous and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK), Indigenous languages, and technical information.

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

America the Beautiful Challenge

Applications Due: July 21, 2022

Eligible Entities: states, tribes, territories, local groups, non-governmental organizations, and others

The America the Beautiful Challenge coordinates funding from multiple Federal agencies and private philanthropy into one competitive grant program. It is a public-private grant program for locally led ecosystem restoration projects that invest in watershed restoration, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation, consistent with the America the Beautiful Initiative.

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

New! DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program - \$550 million

Applications Due: to be determined

Eligible Entities: States, local governments, tribes

This funding is meant to assist states, local governments, and Tribes to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.

The estimated program opening date is 4th quarter 2022.

Contact stateandlocal@hq.doe.gov with any questions.

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

DOE Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience (RACER) - \$25 million

Applications Due: May 27, 2022

Eligible Entities: Federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, for-profit entities, educational institutions, and nonprofits

the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) announced the Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience (RACER) funding opportunity, which will award \$25 million in funding for projects to enable communities to utilize solar and solar-plus-storage to prevent disruptions in power caused by extreme weather and other events, and to rapidly restore electricity if it goes down.

Projects will foster engagement and ongoing communication among multiple stakeholders such as utilities, municipal planners, emergency responders, community groups, and others, especially in underserved communities located in areas vulnerable to extreme events causing frequent energy and power service disruptions. In addition, projects will develop and demonstrate rapid energy restoration technologies based on the community resilience plan in order to increase the durability of photovoltaic (PV) systems.

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

New! DOI BOR WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2023 - \$5 million

Applications Due: July 28, 2022

Eligible Entities: States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority

This Water and Energy Efficiency Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity provides funding for projects that result in quantifiable water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits. These projects 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; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western United States.

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

DOI FWS Coastal Program 2022 - \$6 million

Applications Due: September 30, 2022

Eligible Entities: State governments, city or township governments, county governments, special district governments, Native American tribal governments (other than federally recognized), Native American tribal governments (federally recognized), and others

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) 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.

The Coastal Program takes an adaptive approach to designing and implementing coastal habitat protection and restoration strategies that anticipate and ameliorate the impacts of climate change and other environmental stressors. Coastal Program habitat improvement projects strive to increase coastal resiliency by improving the ability of coastal ecosystems to adapt to environmental changes and supporting natural and nature-based infrastructure projects to protect and enhance coastal habitats.

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

DOI FY 2022 Energizing Insular Communities Grant Program - \$15.5 million

Applications Due: June 15, 2022

Eligible Entities: Local government entities, independent authorities, and educational institutions located in the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) is requesting proposals for its Energizing Insular Communities (EIC) Program which provides grant funding for sustainable energy strategies that mitigate climate change, reduce reliance and expenditures on imported fuels, develop and utilize domestic energy sources, and improve the performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency in the territories.

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

New! DOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Program - \$ 1 billion

Applications Due: to be determined

Eligible Entities: states, local governments, tribal governments (federally recognized), metropolitan planning organizations, nonprofits

The Department of Transportation (DOT) anticipates posting one or more Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP) in summer of 2022. The RCP was created under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will provide up to \$1 billion over the next 5 years. The program's funds can support planning, capital construction, and technical assistance to equitably and safely restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.

Attend a Webinar on the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Program

On Thursday, May 19, 1:30 - 2:30pm, DOT invites you to join Christopher Coes, DOT Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, for a 60 min webinar intended to help potential applicants and their partners better understand the upcoming program before its official launch.

[Register for the webinar](#)

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

DOT FY 2022 Low or No Emission Grant Program - \$1.1 billion

Applications Due: May 31, 2022

Eligible Entities: Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), county governments, state governments, city or township governments

The Low or No Emission Grant Program provides funding for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities such as recharging, refueling, and maintenance facilities.

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

New! USGS Water Use Data and Research Program FY 2022 - \$1.5 million

Applications Due: June 3, 2022

Eligible Entities: state water resource agencies

The Water Availability and Use Science Program (WAUSP) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is offering a two-year cooperative agreement opportunity to State water resource agencies that collect water-use data to participate in the Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) program. This funding opportunity is to support State Water Resource agencies in the collection and reporting of water-use data for the WUDR program, and to address the Department of Interior's Secretarial Priorities. The USGS

WUDR program will provide financial assistance, through cooperative agreements with State Water Resource agencies, to improve the availability, quality, compatibility, and delivery of water-use data that is collected and/or estimated by States.

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

No-Cost Technical Assistance Opportunities

DOE National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) States Collaborative

Applications Due: Not applicable

Eligible Entities: state energy offices, regulatory agencies, program administrators, and other critical partners

During the summer of 2021, NCSP conducted stakeholder engagement events with state partners to understand the barriers to equitable deployment of community solar across all states. NCSP heard that state partners would benefit from regular opportunities to engage with and learn from their peers in other states as they explore, design, launch, administer, and expand community solar programs. To address this, the Collaborative will facilitate peer learning opportunities to address specific issues around community solar implementation, provide technical assistance, and serve as a knowledge hub and support network. This work is in support of NCSP's [target](#) of expanding the benefits of community solar to five million homes by 2025.

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

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

Interagency Working Group Funding Opportunities Web Tool

During a December 15 roundtable summit hosted by the White House and the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities, IWG launched its [federal funding clearinghouse](#). The user-friendly, one-stop web tool enables leaders and advocates in Energy Communities to access up to \$38 billion in available federal funding for infrastructure, environmental remediation, union job creation, and community revitalization.

Many of the opportunities do not require any matching funds, helping reduce barriers many communities face in accessing funding for projects. Users of this centralized database can easily sort, and filter opportunities based on funding type, program purpose, and eligibility.

[Access the one-stop resource](#).

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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