



Dear Stakeholder,

Below is my latest grants message. If you know of someone who would find this email round-up useful, please forward this along and invite them to subscribe by emailing my office at [levenbergd@nyassembly.gov](mailto:levenbergd@nyassembly.gov).

If you are planning to apply for an opportunity that requires a letter of support from a state official, please feel free to contact my chief of staff, Victoria Cafarelli, at [cafarelliv@nyassembly.gov](mailto:cafarelliv@nyassembly.gov) with more details about your project.

Best,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg

## Congratulations!

I'm proud to announce that I have successfully secured funding for \$1.5 million in capital grants for municipalities and organizations serving AD95, along with more than \$300,000 in funding to support services and activities that benefit the public. The grant recipients are:

- The **Village of Croton Fire Department** for a new tower ladder truck (\$250,000)
- The **Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps** for a new ambulance (\$200,000)
- The **Yorktown Heights Fire Department** for a new fire training center (\$125,000)
- The **Village of Ossining** for a new roof for the community center (\$125,000)
- The **Town of Ossining** for the construction of a new stage at Louis Engel Park (\$125,000)
- **Historic Hudson Valley** for accessibility improvements (\$125,000)



- The **Peekskill Youth Bureau** for renovations to their building (\$125,000)
- **Teatown Lake Reservation** for accessibility site improvements to their walkable campus (\$125,000)
- **Boscobel** to construct a nature-based playscape (\$125,000)
- The **Garrison School District** for a roof reconstruction (\$125,000)
- The **Village of Cold Spring** for a pump for the Cedar Street culvert (\$55,000)
- **ArtsWestchester** for capital improvements (\$50,000)



- **New Era Creative Space** for their pathways to careers program (\$35,000)
- The **Peekskill City School District** for performing arts programming (\$30,000)
- **Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES** for a greenhouse expansion & community empowerment initiative (\$25,000)
- The **Ossining School District** for its community schools project (\$25,000)
- The **Ossining Youth Bureau** for its environmental, visual arts, and civilian youth academy projects (\$25,000)
- The **Hudson River Museum** for its planetarium programs (\$25,000)



- The **Desmond Fish Library** for expanding and modernizing technology access (\$22,000)
- The **Harris Project** for its CODA (Co-Occurring Disorder Awareness) Power Through Sports program (\$22,000)
- **Buchanan Fire Company No. 1** for extrication and auto accident equipment (\$20,000)
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County** for development of a diagnostic service to protect human health and the environment (\$13,000)
- The **Sing Sing Prison Museum** for interpretation, volunteer and membership programs (\$10,000)



Congratulations to all of the recipients! I look forward to seeing the results of these investments.

## Deadlines Approaching Soon

**NEA Our Town Grant:** The [National Endowment for the Arts \(NEA\) Our Town Grant](#) program offers creative placemaking grants program provides project-based funding to support activities that integrate arts, culture, and design into local efforts that strengthen communities over the long term. Our Town projects engage a wide range of local stakeholders in efforts to advance local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes in communities. Competitive projects are responsive to unique local conditions, develop meaningful and substantive engagement in communities, center equity, advance artful lives, and lay the groundwork for long-term systems change.

A full grant program description can be found under [Grant Program Details](#). For detailed instructions on how to apply, see [Application Instructions](#). Grants range from \$25,000-\$150,000. Apply by **Thursday, August 15**.

**Brownfields Job Training Grants:** The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR) is soliciting applications from eligible entities for [Brownfields Job Training Grants](#) to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites. Eligible entities can include state and local governments, Tribes, and nonprofit organizations. The application submission deadline is **Thursday, August 15**. See the [FY 2025 Brownfields Job Training Grant Guidelines and Application Resources webpage](#) for more information.

**Green Resiliency Grant Program:** Applications are now being accepted for the [inaugural round of a Green Resiliency Grant \(GRG\) program](#). The new program will provide grants to flood-prone communities and help them undertake innovative green infrastructure projects such as green roofs, green streets and permeable pavement. GRG is being administered by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC). Applications are due by **Friday, August 16**.

**Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program:** FHWA is accepting applications for its [Charging and Fueling Infrastructure \(CFI\) discretionary grant program](#). The CFI Round 2 [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) offers up to \$1.3 billion in funding for new applications and for previously submitted applications. The CFI Program is a competitive grant program created by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure in the places people live and work – urban and rural areas alike – in addition to designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). CFI Program investments will make modern and sustainable infrastructure accessible to all drivers of electric, hydrogen, propane, and natural gas vehicles. This program provides two categories of grants: (1) Community Charging and Alternative Fueling Grants (Community Program); and (2) Charging and Alternative Fuel Corridor Grants (Corridor Program). FHWA hosted a grant overview webinar and a webinar on reconsideration of Round 1 applications in June – [view the webinar presentations and recordings](#). Applications are due by **Wednesday, August 28, 2024**.



**U.S. DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants:** The USDOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) is open for applications. The SS4A program funds regional and local initiatives through grants to prevent deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways.

The FY24 SS4A NOFO had multiple application deadlines depending on the grant type; the Planning and Demonstration Grant is the last program that remains open. These applications must be received by **Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 5:00 PM ET**. Unsuccessful Implementation Grant applicants may apply for a Planning and Demonstration Grant application in that final application round. For more information, please visit the [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) website](#).

## Additional Opportunities

**USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreements:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications for Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) pilot projects. The cooperative agreements, using remaining funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, are jointly administered by USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). These cooperative agreements support projects led by local governments, schools or other eligible entities that generate compost, increase access to compost for agricultural producers, reduce reliance on and limit the use of fertilizer, improve soil quality, encourage waste management and permaculture business development, increase rainwater absorption, reduce municipal food waste, and divert food waste from landfills.

USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) will accept applications on [Grants.gov](#) until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **Wednesday, September 4**. Projects must be two years in duration with an estimated start date of June 1, 2025. [Click here to learn more about the program and funding opportunity](#).

**U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Community Change Grants:** The EPA is providing a total \$2 billion for Environmental Justice Community Change Grants for activities that encourage climate resilience and adaptation and mitigate climate and health risks in environmental justice communities. Each award will be between \$10-20 million or \$1-3 million depending on the project. Applications are open through **Thursday, November 21**. [Click here to learn more](#).

## HUD Economic Development Initiative Community Project Funding Page

Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Community Project Funding (CPF) grants provide investment in a wide variety of projects such as housing, homelessness prevention, workforce training, public facilities, parks, resilience planning, and other critical infrastructure and services. The CPF page will be your one-stop shop for key information, resources, and training related to CPF grant implementation. [Click here to access the page](#).

## Rapid Response Fund from Communities First Fund

Communities First Fund's Rapid Response Fund will provide \$1,000,000 in funding on a rolling basis to support organizations' or coalitions' needs to position themselves or others to respond to infrastructure crises, movement moments, and time-sensitive federal funding notices or rulemakings that require rapid mobilization. See #9 on their [website](#) for additional application information.

## NYSERDA's Inflation Reduction Act Guide for Municipalities & Not-for-Profits

Tax-exempt organizations can receive IRA tax credits as direct payments for eligible clean energy projects. [Click here to learn more in NYSERDA's new guide.](#)

## Funding Available for Electric School Bus Charging Infrastructure

NYSERDA is now accepting applications from school districts and school bus operators seeking help funding their electric school bus charging infrastructure. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the level of funding provided is based on the number of electric buses a school district or bus operator has purchased or is currently purchasing. Amounts start at \$25,000 per bus to cover hardware, customer-side electrical site upgrades, installation costs, and battery storage. Districts designated as [priority districts](#) can receive an additional \$10,000 per bus. Priority districts are defined as high-need school districts by the New York State Education Department or those that serve [disadvantaged communities](#) as defined by the New York State Climate Justice Working Group.

As part of the process, applicants can receive up to an additional \$30,000 per bus if they choose the option to complete a Fleet Electrification Plan which provides a comprehensive evaluation of existing fleet operations, analysis of current site electrical capabilities, and will serve as an action plan for electrifying the applicant's entire fleet by 2035. [Click here to register and start an application.](#)

## Department of Energy Low-Income Communities Bonus

The Department of Energy (DOE) has opened applications for the [Low-Income Communities Bonus \(LICB\)](#). Tax-exempt entities that expect to complete a solar or wind project smaller than 5 MW in the next ~4 years should apply for the LICB to [maximize the amount of money they can receive](#) with the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) through Direct Pay.

DOE administers the LICB Program in partnership with the Department of the Treasury and the IRS. The LICB requires its own application and is separate from the IRS's pre-registration and filing processes for Direct Pay. Unlike Direct Pay tax credits and their other bonus credits, the

LICB is competitive and only granted to a limited number of projects. To qualify, an applicant must build a solar or wind project <5 MW that meets any of the following criteria:

- Category 1: [Located](#) in a low-income community (+10% bonus credit)
- Category 2: Located on Indigenous land (+10% bonus credit)
- Category 3: [Part of a Qualified Low-Income Residential Building Project](#) (+20% bonus credit)
- Category 4: [Part of a Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Project](#) (+20% bonus credit)
- Plan to claim the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for this project
- Expect to complete this project in the next ~4 years. (The LICB will not apply for projects that have already been placed in service.)

DOE is accepting applications on a rolling basis. For more information, see the [DOE's LICB landing page](#) with more links and resources.

## Grants Action News

Every month, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie's office produces a newsletter, [Grants Action News](#), that contains a round-up of state, federal and private grants and scholarships along with details on how to access them. [Here](#) is a link to the August 2024 edition. This month, it contains opportunities for nurses, health care facilities, not-for-profits, municipal governments, school districts, students, higher education institutions, independent schools, and libraries with bookmobiles. To get this newsletter sent directly to your inbox, email [grants@nyassembly.gov](mailto:grants@nyassembly.gov).

## Rebates, No-Cost & Low-Cost Financing Opportunities

**\$750,000 Available to New York Municipalities Under Zero-emission Vehicle Rebate Program:** The DEC has recently announced the next round of its [Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle \(ZEV\) Rebate Program](#). A total of \$750,000 is available from DEC for municipalities to apply for funding on a first-come, first-served basis through **Friday, September 27** or until funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first. Rebates are available to municipalities across the State that purchase – or lease for a minimum of 36 months—an eligible vehicle placed into municipal service at a dealership in New York State between Sept. 30, 2022, and Sept. 27, 2024. All electric, plug-in hybrid, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are eligible for rebates.

[More details can be found in the Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) posted on the DEC website. Applications are available through the [NYS Statewide Financial System Grants Management System](#). DEC encourages municipalities that are designated as disadvantaged communities under the [Climate Justice Working Group's criteria](#) to apply.

**Biden-Harris Climate Capital Guidebook:** The Biden-Harris Administration has released a new [Climate Capital Guidebook](#), which highlights current federal funding opportunities—including grants, loans, loan guarantees, and cooperative agreements—for small- and medium-

sized companies, both startups and established, focusing on clean energy technologies and other climate solutions. This resource includes programs funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, as well as those funded by annual appropriations. Highlighted programs have funding available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Small Business Administration, Export-Import Bank of the United States, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

This Guidebook complements existing resources—including the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook](#), the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Tribal Playbook](#), the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook](#), and the [Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#)—which detail funding opportunities made possible through the President’s Investing in America agenda. [Click here to access the guide](#).

**Environmental Protection Agency WIFIA Program:** The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program is a bank operated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that provides low-cost, flexible loans for water infrastructure projects across the country. WIFIA loans support a wide variety of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater projects. Eligible borrowers include public entities, private entities, and public-private partnerships. WIFIA loans can support a broad range of project costs, including project planning and design, construction, land and equipment acquisition, and more. Prospective borrowers can apply for and receive a single WIFIA loan or bundle multiple WIFIA loans under a single application for nearly any stage of project completion, including design-only loans. The WIFIA program has funding available on an ongoing basis and can provide technical assistance to prospective borrowers (particularly disadvantaged and small communities) that need support to complete their [Letter of Interest \(LOI\) package](#). Click here for the [application process and materials](#) as well as office hours. You can also contact [wifia@epa.gov](mailto:wifia@epa.gov) to ask questions or request a one-on-one meeting. Click here to get [monthly updates on WIFIA program news and updates](#).

**New York State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI):** SSBCI provides funds to support programs for small businesses, including socially and economically disadvantaged individual (SEDI) owned businesses and very small businesses (VSB), to recover from the economic effects of COVID-19 and allow them opportunity to succeed in the post-pandemic economy. SSBCI offers several programs designed to support small businesses in accessing the capital they need to grow and succeed. Visit the SSBCI website at [esd.ny.gov/ssbci](https://esd.ny.gov/ssbci) to learn more about available programs.

## Non-Monetary Assistance

**Upcoming Lunch & Learn Events with Pattern for Progress:** Hudson Valley Pattern For Progress is hosting two lunch and learn events for municipal officials, planners, and others who play a role in our downtowns as part of its Main Street Initiative. [“Brownfields & Revitalization,”](#) taking place on **Wednesday, August 21**, is about grants and tax credits that can be used to remediate brownfields and turn them into vibrant, usable community assets. [“Starting From The Ground Floor”](#) on **Wednesday, September 18** will present a case study and discuss how increasing the flexibility of permitted uses for ground-floor commercial space can improve economic resiliency, increase foot traffic, and improve overall downtown vitality.



**Clean School Buses Virtual Workshop:** NYMTC is hosting a Clean School Buses Virtual Workshop on **Wednesday, September 18** from 10-11:30 AM. Register to learn more about funding opportunities and implementation resources and hear adoptee case studies. [Click here to register.](#)



**Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Program through Pace Law School:** The NY/NJ Onsite Energy TAP is funded by federal tax dollars with the goal of helping industrial and other large energy users transition to clean energy, lower costs, reduce emissions, and contribute to a clean energy economy. It provides no-cost technical assistance screening for interested sites and provides advanced services to maximize economic impact and reduce risk from initial screening to installation to operation and maintenance of onsite energy technologies. This service includes screening, market analysis, and best practices to help industrial facilities and other large energy users increase the adoption of onsite clean energy technologies including battery storage, combined heat and power, district energy, fuel cells, geothermal, industrial heat pumps, renewable fuels, solar PV, solar thermal, thermal storage, waste heat to power, and wind. Email Michael Hamersky at [mhamersky@law.pace.edu](mailto:mhamersky@law.pace.edu) for more details.

**U.S. EPA Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA):** The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law dedicates \$9 billion for investments in communities whose drinking water is impacted by PFAS and other emerging contaminants. EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) services support communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. [Click here to learn more about these resources.](#)

**Assistance from the New York Department of State Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure:** The New York Department of State Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure can assist local governments through various grant



programs and initiatives. They provide comprehensive information and resources on a wide variety of funding opportunities within New York that foster sustainable community development. Their team can guide you to resources that promote community revitalization, strengthen infrastructure, advance environmental stewardship, and create a hub for residents that stimulates local and regional economies.

Learn more about:

1. Brownfield Redevelopment Grants
2. Downtown or Waterfront Revitalization
3. Community Initiatives
4. Resiliency Planning
5. Coastal Natural Resource Protection
6. Community Planning and Zoning

Contact them for a community development consultation by calling (518) 474-6000 or via email at [opd@dos.ny.gov](mailto:opd@dos.ny.gov).

**U.S. EPA Advance Program:** The [EPA's Advance Program](#) is available to assist local governments that want to take proactive steps to keep their air clean by promoting local actions to reduce ozone and/or fine particle pollution. The program offers expertise and technical assistance in air quality, mobile sources, heat island and green infrastructure, woodsmoke and cost-effective energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate policies and programs to interested state, local, and tribal governments. The Advance program integrates our work with climate planning, air toxics, multi-pollutant planning and environmental justice. You may contact the EPA R2 contact, [manj.muhammad-bilal@epa.gov](mailto:manj.muhammad-bilal@epa.gov), or the EPA Headquarters Advance Program team (Rich Damberg, [damberg.rich@epa.gov](mailto:damberg.rich@epa.gov); Mia South, [south.mia@epa.gov](mailto:south.mia@epa.gov); or [ADVANCE@epa.gov](mailto:ADVANCE@epa.gov)) if you have questions about becoming a partner or would like to subscribe to the Advance monthly newsletter.

**Environmental Facilities Corporation Community Assistance Teams:** New York State's Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) offers ongoing consultations to municipalities seeking to improve their water infrastructure. EFC's Community Assistance Teams evaluate community needs and connect municipalities to funding opportunities. [Click here for more information and to request a meeting.](#)

**Assistance from the EPA Municipal Ombudsman:** The [Office of the Municipal Ombudsman](#) provides a unique service specifically for utilities/municipalities in identifying technical assistance opportunities, brainstorming federal funding options (including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law opportunities), clean water act flexibilities, integrated planning assistance, and more. You can reach out to [municipalombudsman@epa.gov](mailto:municipalombudsman@epa.gov) or 202-564-1709 to discuss your projects, permits, or other clean water concerns.

**EPA Region 2 Equipment Loan Program:** The EPA Region 2 Equipment Loan Program provides a variety of equipment for both air and water monitoring. This resource is available to non-profit organizations (e.g. volunteer monitoring organizations, community science groups,

non-government organizations, universities, local governments, etc.) within New York, New Jersey, nine tribal nations, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands. Click [here for more information about borrowing water monitor equipment](#) and [here for air monitoring equipment](#). For more information, email Rachael Leta-Graham at [letagraham.rachael@epa.gov](mailto:letagraham.rachael@epa.gov).

**Equity In Zoning Policy Guide:** The Equity in Zoning Policy Guide by the American Planning Association (APA) provides a framework for assessing and improving equity in housing policy. [Click here to learn more and download the guide.](#)