Assemblyman Steve Otis

91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye
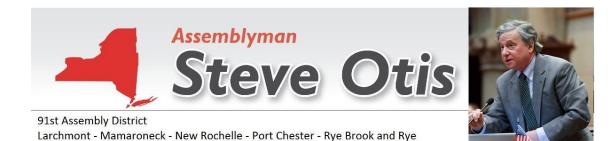
July 15, 2022

Dear Friends,

Since I helped establish the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) in 2015, I have hosted an annual clean water grant workshop for Westchester local governments to encourage applications from our region. Last week Governor Hochul announced the opening of the 2022 application round for these grants and our workshop with officials of the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation. It will be co-sponsored by a number of local government, environmental and construction groups and will be held on Tuesday July 26th at the Jay Heritage Center in Rye. The hearing notice is included below. This year's round includes $255 million in funding for grants to local projects.

Since 2015 the program has provided $1.8 billion in grants to local governments, including over $55 million to Westchester municipalities for important clean water projects. Statewide water infrastructure grants have been awarded to over 800 projects in almost 500 communities. The workshop will also include an overview of the programs included in the Environmental Bond Act on the ballot this November. The workshop is available to local government officials, engineering or grant writing firms, members of environmental groups or anyone interested in learning about the important funding available this year.

On another piece of environmental news, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation rejected the air permit renewal for the controversial cryptocurrency mining facility on Lake Seneca in upstate New York that uses the energy intensive "proof of work" method of cryptocurrency authentication. The decision was based on lack of compliance with the climate change goals established in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act we passed in 2019. You can read the DEC's announcement of the decision here or the full decision here.

I have taken a leadership role on state involvement on the "proof of work" issue and promoting less energy intensive forms of cryptocurrency authentication. The DEC ruling is a strong indicator that the agency views this as an important issue.

This newsletter also includes information about:

- NYS Clean Water Infrastructure Grant Workshop
- Links to NYS Pandemic Business Recovery Programs
- Announcement of a July 27 New Rochelle Climate Emergency Teach-In
- Locating cooling centers in an extreme heat event or electrical outage
- Information on New Grants for Childcare Providers

In the Assembly I serve on the Assembly Workgroup on Transitioning the NY Economy Toward Covid-19 Recovery and have been very supportive of these types of programs to assist businesses. In the 2022-23 state budget, we expanded the reach of childcare programs for providers.

I hope these resources and information are helpful. Please contact me on any issue where I can be of assistance. My District Office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,

Steve

**New York State
Assemblyman Steve Otis**
invites you to a

**NYS CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
GRANT WORKSHOP**

**NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation
A Special Workshop on EFC's Water Infrastructure Improvement and
Intermunicipal Grant Programs**

**Tuesday, July 26, 2022
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Jay Heritage Center – Carriage House
210 Boston Post Road, Rye, NY 10580**

Admission is free, but registration is required.
[Register: NYS Clean Water Grant Workshop](#)

Governor Hochul has announced the 2022 Round for $255 NYS Clean Water Grants. The application, available [HERE](#), has a deadline of 5pm on September 9, 2022.

EFC's Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) Grants: EFC is providing competitive grants for projects that fund water quality infrastructure for wastewater and drinking water projects that protect or improve water quality and/or protect public health. Municipalities may submit applications for multiple projects, including wastewater, sewer and drinking water projects.

Intermunicipal Water Grant (IMG) Program: EFC provides grants to assist municipalities that are working together on water quality infrastructure projects. Grants are available for both drinking water and sewage treatment works, also referred to as clean water projects that serve multiple municipalities.

Environmental Bond Act Overview: The workshop will also include an overview of the 2022 Environmental Bond Act proposal which includes funding for projects of importance to local governments in future years if approved by the voters in November.

Networking opportunities with informational tables available to learn about local sustainable initiatives throughout the Lower Hudson Valley.

NYS Business Pandemic Recovery Initiatives

New York State's continues to support businesses recovering from the Covid

pandemic, including $800 million in state funding for small businesses. To learn more go to: Small Business Recovery Grant Program. A variety of reousrces can be found HERE, including the Restaurant Resiliency Program, the Capital Costs Tax Credit and the NY Forward Loan Fund.

And find a statewide network of centers staffed by people who can walk you through how to apply

---

Port Chester Chamber Honors Hope Vespia

On Thursday the Port Chester Rye Brook Chamber of Commerce honored Town Clerk and community leader Hope Vespia at the Chamber's Summer Cocktail Mixer at Sergio's Saw Pit on South Regent Street. Local officials, business owners and community volunteers turned out to honor Hope and celebrate the chamber's work in supporting local businesses.

Cooling Centers

During the extreme heat that we are experiencing and anticipating, The New York State Department of Health is providing a list of cooling centers by county. The state list is not a complete list of centers; local governments may announce the opening of additional temporary locations during extreme heat events or electrical outages.

Remember, call before you go! Cooling centers may be closed at certain times or only available during extreme heat events. The phone number and address of each cooling center is provided. This information is updated multiple times per week.

If a cooling center is not available in your area, libraries, supermarkets, malls, and community swimming pools are great places to stay cool. Please check with your local radio, television, or other news sources for possible additional places to get relief from the heat. View Cooling Centers FAQ for more information about how cooling centers are identified and why they are important.

To search by address, click Here.

Grant Funding for Childcare Providers

New York State is providing direct support to childcare providers with a second round of stabilization grant funding by the Federal American Rescue Plan Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Applications are now being accepted for $343 million in federal funding that will directly benefit childcare providers and continue to help stabilize the industry. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services is administering the funds.

Eligible providers must be OCFS-licensed or -registered childcare programs, or enrolled legally exempt group childcare programs (enrolled with an enrollment agency). There will be two application windows depending on the provider type: July 5 for those who received the first round of Stabilization Grants and August 22 for all school-age childcare programs and new providers who were licensed after the first round of Stabilization Grants were launched.

To support the childcare workforce and to assist with recruitment and retention efforts, at least 75% of this funding must be used for the below, among additional items:

- Bonuses or increases in wages
- Contributions towards health insurance costs that reduce these costs for staff
- Contributions to staff retirement plans that supplement any employer contribution
- Supplemental educational advancement or tuition reimbursement
- Mental health supports and services for staff

The remaining 25% can be used on other eligible expenses. More information on the grant can be found here.