



Dear Stakeholder,

Below is my monthly 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

---

## Pro-Housing Community Program

In July 2023, Governor Hochul signed an Executive Order creating the [Pro-Housing Community Program](#), a policy designed to reward local governments that are working to address New York's housing crisis.

Localities that achieve the "Pro-Housing Communities" designation will receive priority in their applications for key discretionary funding programs, including the [Downtown Revitalization Initiative](#) (DRI), the [NY Forward program](#), the [Regional Council Capital Fund](#), capital projects from the [Market New York program](#), the [New York Main Street program](#), the [Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund](#), and the [Public Transportation Modernization Enhancement Program](#) (MEP).

## Resiliency Related Grant Applications Due August 11

In mid-July we notified municipalities that the application deadline for several resiliency-related grants had been extended to August 11 following last month's flooding. The following programs are still accepting applications:

- [Water Infrastructure Improvement \(WIIA\) and Intermunicipal Grants \(IMG\)](#): \$425 million is available to fund critical wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. This amount is made available through a combination of existing state resources and the voter-approved [Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act](#).
- Certain resiliency-related programs available through the Governor's [Consolidated Funding Application](#) are also extended:

- [Water Quality Improvement Projects \(WQIP\)](#): \$75 million is available to fund projects that directly improve water quality or aquatic habitat, promote flood risk reduction, restoration, and enhanced flood and climate resiliency or protect a drinking water source.
- [Green Innovation Grant Program \(GIGP\)](#): \$15 million is available for projects that utilize green stormwater infrastructure design and green technologies.
- [Engineering Planning Grants \(EPG\)](#): \$3 million is available to help fund engineering reports for wastewater projects.
- [Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant](#): \$3 million is available to reimburse the cost of planning reports for nonpoint source water quality improvement projects and mapping of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s).

## Other Deadlines Approaching Soon

**Federal Annual Urban & Community Forestry National Challenge Cost Share Grants:** This year's annual Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program will provide up to \$500,000 for Urban and Community Forestry investments that address the [National Ten Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan \(2016-2026\)](#) Goal 5 (Improve Urban and Community Forest Management, Maintenance and Stewardship). [Click here to learn more and apply](#). Applications are due at **5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 15**.

**DEC Urban & Community Forestry Grants:** Applications for tree planting or tree maintenance grants are due by **2 PM on Wednesday, August 16**.

**USDOT PROTECT Grants:** Under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the [Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation \(PROTECT\) Grant program](#) provides funding to ensure surface transportation resilience to natural hazards including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.

The PROTECT discretionary program offers two types of awards: planning grants and Competitive Resilience Improvement Grants. [Click here to learn more and start an application](#). Applications are due on **Friday, August 18**.

**NYS Urban Forestry Council:** Funding is now available for communities to plant large specimen trees or a grove of trees in a prominent location within the community. Communities in New York State that have been part of Tree City USA for at least the past five consecutive years can apply for up to \$1,000. Funding has been provided by the New York State Urban Forestry Council and the USDA Forest Service. Planting projects must be scheduled for the Fall of 2023, and applications are due (postmarked if mailing) by **Wednesday, August 30**. Award recipients will be notified by mid-September 2023. You can visit their Web site to learn more and apply.

## New State Funding for Free School Meals

The recently enacted State Budget included an additional \$134.6M to expand access to free school meals through a new Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) State Subsidy. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a federal option that allows high poverty schools to offer free meals to all students. The CEP State Subsidy ensures all CEP meals are reimbursed at the "free rate". In order to receive this new funding, schools must be enrolled in CEP in the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. Eligible but unenrolled schools must be approved to participate in CEP by the State Education Department (SED). **Applications for CEP are due August 31.**

**If your school does not already offer free meals to all students, consider the following next steps:**

- Assess your school district's potential eligibility to adopt or expand the [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\)](#).
- Consider applying for CEP or expanding CEP to other schools in your district.
- Need help? Hunger Solutions New York provides assistance to schools at no cost. Reach out to [Jessica.PinoGoodspeed@HungerSolutionsNY.org](mailto:Jessica.PinoGoodspeed@HungerSolutionsNY.org) with questions.

### CEP Resources:

- [NYSED Guidance: CEP State Subsidy](#) (This memo includes a [list of potentially eligible schools](#) who are not participating in CEP.)
- [NYSED CEP Factsheet](#)
- [NYSED CEP Application and Guidance](#)
- [NYSED CEP State Subsidy Questions and Answers](#)

This summer, Hunger Solutions New York is hosting a webinar series for schools to ensure all CEP-eligible schools can maximize this new state subsidy in the upcoming school year. You can visit their Web site to sign up for an upcoming webinar and to watch previous webinars.

## Additional Opportunities

**Childcare Workforce Retention Grants:** The NYS Office of Children & Family Services is offering \$500 million in grants to support the childcare workforce. Programs will be able to apply for recruitment funds & staff bonuses. Bonuses will range from \$2,300 - \$3,000 for all eligible employees\* before payroll taxes. To find out if you qualify and how to apply, visit: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/grants/workforce-grant/>. The application closes on **Friday, September 15.**

If you have questions or need assistance filling out the application, you may contact one of the Child Care Business Development Specialists at the Childcare Council of Westchester, Inc.:

- Jessenia Tejada, via email at [jesseniat@cccwny.org](mailto:jesseniat@cccwny.org), or by phone at 914-761-3456 x161

- Jayselle Trancoso-Liburd, via email at [jaysellet@cccwny.org](mailto:jaysellet@cccwny.org), or by phone at 914-761-3456 x227

**Solar For All Opportunity:** Earlier this summer, the EPA released a [\\$7 billion Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) for its new Solar For All program. Through this competition, Solar for All will award up to 60 grants to states, territories, Tribal governments, municipalities, and nonprofits to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities primed for residential solar investment, enabling millions of low-income households to access affordable, resilient, and clean solar energy.

To be eligible to apply, interested parties are required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and should refer to the NOFO to understand their deadline for this requirement. Deadlines vary based on applicant type. A webinar about the process took place on July 12 and has been recorded and posted on [the EPA Solar for All website](#). Application packages must be submitted on or before **Tuesday, September 26th at 11:59 PM** through [Grants.gov](#). Please direct questions to [ggrf@epa.gov](mailto:ggrf@epa.gov).

**Community Forest Conservation Grant Program:** This grant program funds municipal land acquisition for community forests, which are vital for wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, recreational opportunities, mental health, air quality, water quality, and to meet the obligations outlined in New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Community forests build local ownership of forests and local participation in forest management. Properties acquired through this grant program allow public access, which encourages local residents to enjoy the forests in their community and increase their connection to forest benefits.

Grant funds are available from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and are managed and allocated by DEC. [Click here to learn more and apply](#). Applications for this grant are due at **2 PM on Wednesday, October 11**.

**DEC Grants for Recycling Coordination and Education Projects:** DEC is accepting applications for matching grant funding of recycling coordination, education, planning, and promotion projects to be conducted and completed during January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024. Applications must be submitted via [NYS Grants Gateway](#) no later than **3 PM on Tuesday, October 31**.

Funding will reimburse up to 50 percent of eligible projects, including salary costs for a municipal recycling coordinator, recycling education and outreach tools, recycling advertising, recycling websites, and promotional items. [Click here to learn more and apply](#). Email [RecyclingGrants@dec.ny.gov](mailto:RecyclingGrants@dec.ny.gov) with any questions.

**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program:** The EECBG Program is designed to assist states, local governments, and tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency. [Click here](#) to learn more about the program. If you have completed a [pre-award information sheet](#) for the program, you have until **January 31, 2024** to submit a full application for funding.

All local governments are eligible to receive technical assistance to develop their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). For more information, see [the EECBG Program Technical Assistance Webpage](#).

## 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 details on how to access them. [Here](#) is a link to the August 2023 edition. This month, it contains opportunities for not-for-profits, municipalities, building owners and property managers, institutions of higher education, small businesses, and college students, including incoming first-year students. To get this newsletter sent directly to your inbox, email [grants@nyassembly.gov](mailto:grants@nyassembly.gov).

## Other Relevant Opportunities

**For local businesses and nonprofits:** Last week, Governor Hochul announced the New York Forward Loan Fund 2 program for qualifying small businesses and nonprofits. Qualified recipients with fewer than 100 employees and less than \$5 million in gross annual revenue can apply for loans up to \$150,000 with affordable, fixed-rate interest rates. As part of New York's broader State Small Business Credit Initiative efforts led by Empire State Development, the fund will be in place for the next eight years and will focus on helping small businesses and nonprofits, particularly those in low-income, rural and historically underbanked communities, to access flexible working capital to cover a wide range of expenses. Additionally, free support services from experts will work with businesses throughout the life of the loan. [Click here to learn more about the program and pre-apply.](#)

**For tax-exempt nonprofits and municipalities:** As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the IRS recently released proposed guidance on key provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act to expand the reach of the clean energy tax credits. The goal is to help build projects more quickly and affordably. The New York League of Conservation Voters has a good summary of the initiative; click on their Web site to learn more about how you can prepare to take advantage.

**For school districts:** The 2023-2024 state budget includes funding to help with the transition to all-electric buses with an additional \$500 million from the Environmental Bond Act that passed last fall. Click [here](#) for more information from NYSERDA about available programs.