



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

### Roads Survey

I recently released a brief survey about state road usage and conditions intended to help ensure that I receive feedback from all corners of Assembly District 95 regarding our roads. [The survey can be found here](#). The feedback I receive will help inform my ongoing advocacy to the Department of Transportation, to ensure that our roads get the resources and attention they deserve. If you have the opportunity to share the survey with [Assembly District 95](#) residents, I encourage you to do so and thank you for it. You can use the attached graphic to help promote it.

### New Bond Act Website

Governor Hochul recently announced the launch of an [enhanced website for the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act](#), which was approved by voters in 2022.

The site is part of New York State's commitment to a transparent process that empowers the public to track and learn about Bond Act investments statewide. New resources and features on the website include an interactive statewide map to access facts about Bond Act-funded projects, a [funding finder tool](#) including eligibility guidelines, and Bond Act funding allocations based on project category.

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## 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.](#)

### Deadlines Approaching Soon

**Restore NY Communities Initiative Round 8:** Applications are now open for Round 8 of the Restore New York grant program. The program, which is administered by Empire State Development, supports municipalities' efforts to demolish, rehabilitate and restore blighted structures and transform them into vibrant residential, commercial and mixed-use developments. [Click here to learn more about the program and access the application.](#) If you have already submitted the Intent to Apply form, the full application is due on **Wednesday, May 22.**

**Hudson River Valley Greenway Planning & Trail Grants:** The [Hudson River Valley Greenway](#) helps Hudson Valley communities preserve unique scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources. The next round of Greenway Trail Grant applications are due through the Greenway's Online Grants Platform by **Thursday, May 23.** [Click here to learn more about available programs and apply.](#)

**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Funding for Transformative Clean Energy Projects:** Under the new Local Government Energy Program, Communities Sparking Investments in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) will award approximately \$18 million to implement municipally- or Tribal-led, high-impact clean energy projects in disadvantaged communities, energy communities, small- and medium-sized cities and towns, and Tribal communities. The program focuses on delivering funding to support projects and programs at the local level that reduce energy use and create local jobs. Completed applications are due by **Friday, May 31.**

U.S. DOE anticipates making up to 20 awards through this round, with amounts ranging from \$900,000 to \$3,600,000. Communities receiving financial awards will also receive comprehensive technical assistance, including the option for an on-site Community Energy Fellow. C-SITE welcomes diverse project proposals illustrating a variety of approaches and technology areas including, but not limited to, building efficiency and/or electrification, clean transportation, energy infrastructure upgrades, microgrid development and deployment, renewable energy, and workforce development. Some examples include:

- energy efficiency upgrades and on-site battery storage
- Municipally owned utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) installation on reclaimed industrial land accessing relevant tax credits

- Downtown revitalization led by public/private partnership creating energy efficient buildings primed for reuse for business or community

For more information on the application process, visit the [Local Government Energy Program](#) website or email [LGEP@hq.doe.gov](mailto:LGEP@hq.doe.gov).

**Field Hall Foundation Grants:** The Field Hall Foundation is a private foundation whose primary mission is to improve the lives of older adults and their caregivers. They support programs and projects that directly impact low-income and vulnerable older adults and their caregivers in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester Counties, NY. Priority is given to those that address their most basic needs. Congratulations to **Bethel Nursing Home** and **Support Connection**, two local organizations that were recently awarded Field Hall grants to support their programming. Field Hall Foundation is accepting letters of inquiry for their Fall cycle now through **Friday, May 31**. [Click here to learn more and apply](#).

## Deadline Extended for Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund

The Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund focuses on mixed-use housing, transit-oriented development, and infrastructure projects in the Mid-Hudson region. This includes projects that 1) have garnered community support, 2) will result in increased affordable housing, 3) leverage non-State investment, 4) are financially sound, and 5) can begin quickly. The application deadline has been extended to **4 PM on Friday, June 28**. [Applications can be submitted through the CFA Portal](#). Guidelines can be found [here](#). You can sign up to receive Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund updates [here](#).

## Additional Opportunities

**Candrea Foundation Grant Program:** The Candrea Environmental Foundation is a New York state-based organization that provides seed money for local environmental education initiatives and projects that engage young people in environmental service. Awards of up to \$500 can be used for materials, printing costs, student and teacher travel, communication costs, and other project-related expenses. Grants are limited to Westchester and Putnam Counties. [Click here to learn more and apply](#). Applications are due **Saturday, June 1**.

**Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) & Intermunicipal Grant (IMG) Funding:** The Environmental Facilities Corporation is now accepting applications for the next round of Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) & Intermunicipal Grant (IMG) funding. There is \$325 million available this round. Applications are due by **5 PM on Friday, June 14**. [Click here to learn more and apply](#). Community Assistance Teams are ready to engage with any community that needs help with its water infrastructure.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program:** FHWA is [accepting applications](#) for up to \$44.5 million in funding for projects that will strengthen safety and improve bicycling, walking and access to public transit in communities

across the country. FHWA's new [Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program \(ATIIP\)](#) is a competitive grant program that will focus on building networks of connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, including to better connect trail networks between communities. As part of the program, FHWA will award competitive grants to help communities plan, design, or construct safe and connected active transportation networks such as sidewalks, bikeways, and trails that connect destinations such as schools, workplaces, residences, businesses, recreation areas and medical facilities within a community or metropolitan region. Grants will also be provided for projects used for trails, pedestrian facilities, bikeways and other routes that serve as backbones to connect two or more communities, metropolitan regions or states. The funding is available for states, local and Tribal governments, as well as metropolitan and regional planning organizations, and applicants can apply for more than one grant. Applications are due by **Monday, June 17**.

**Funding for Tributary Restoration:** The application deadline for a grant program supporting tributary restoration through the improvement of culverts and road-stream crossings has been extended to **Friday, June 21**. \$200,000 is still available for projects that will help municipalities restore aquatic organism passage and habitat connectivity, reduce localized flood risks, and improve water quality for communities along Hudson River estuary tributaries. [Click here to learn more and apply](#).

**Youth Climate Action Fund Grants:** Partners for Climate Action has partnered with Bloomberg Philanthropies' new Youth Climate Action Fund to provide grants for young people, ages 15 – 24, to design and implement urgent climate solutions in the mid-Hudson Valley Region, including Putnam County. Award amounts will range between \$1,000 to \$5,000. Visit the Partners for Climate Action Web site to learn more and apply. Applications are due by **5 PM on Sunday, June 30**.

**Local Stewardship Planning & River Education Grants:** [\\$1 million in grant funding is now available for projects to help communities in the Hudson River Valley](#) improve water quality, advance stewardship of habitat and natural resources, and enhance river education. Two Hudson River Estuary Requests for Applications (RFAs) are available: 2024 Local Stewardship Planning (Round 43) and 2024 River Education (Round 44). The minimum grant award is \$10,500 and the maximum is \$75,000. The deadline for all applications is **Wednesday, July 17 at 3 PM**.

**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**.

**Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Program**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is accepting applications for its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program. The SMART Grants Program was made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. As part of the President's Investing in America agenda, the program will fund up to \$500 million in grants over five years for demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems that improve transportation safety and efficiency.

The funding opportunity is open to public sector entities seeking to carry out transportation projects that demonstrate at least one of the following technology areas:

- Coordinated automation
- Connected vehicles
- Sensors
- Systems integration
- Delivery/logistics
- Innovative aviation
- Smart grid
- Traffic signals

Successful projects will create sustainable partnerships across sectors and levels of government, engaging industry, labor, academia, and nonprofits to better meet community transportation needs.

The notice of funding opportunity can be found on the [SMART Grants Program website](#). It will also be posted on [grants.gov](#) later this week. There will be a 'How to Apply' webinar on **May 28**; register for the webinar on the SMART Grants Program website. Applications must be submitted by **5 PM on Friday, July 12** to the [Valid Eval Submission website](#).

## 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 accepting its last round of applications for this year. 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 at 5:00 PM**. 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](#).

## U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Community Change Grants

The EPA is providing a total \$2 billion for Environmental Justice Community Change Grants. Each award will be between \$10-20 million or \$1-3 million depending on the project. Applications are now open (learn more [here](#)) and will remain so until **Thursday, November 21**.

Who can apply:

- A partnership between at least two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs).
- A partnership between a CBO and one or any combination of the following: a Federally-Recognized Tribe; a local government; or an institution of higher education.

Eligible activities:

- Climate resiliency & adaptation
- Mitigating climate & health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, & wildfire events
- Community-led air & other (including water & waste) pollution monitoring, prevention, & remediation
- Investments in low- & zero-emission & resilient technologies & related infrastructure
- Workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions & other air pollutants
- Reducing indoor toxins & indoor air pollution
- Facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in State & Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, & other public processes

### **Additional Resources:**

[Community Change Grants FAQs](#) (PDF)

[Community Change Grants Informational Video](#) (English)

The Environmental Protection Network has created suggested [6-step application guides](#) for [Track I](#) and [Track II](#), with checklists, templates, and additional resources. They encourage all interested applicants and potential partners to begin by filling out their [Partner and Assistance Survey](#) so that you can use the responses (publicly available [here](#)) to find partners and share information.

## **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 NYS DOS Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure

The New York Department of State (DOS) 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).

## 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](#).

## 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.](#)

## Training on Applying for Federal Grants for Environmental or Energy Projects in New York

One of our regional Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers is hosting a two-day grant training at SUNY Cobleskill from **8:30 AM-4:30 PM on Thursday, June 13 and Friday, June 14**. This will be an in-person event at SUNY Cobleskill's Wheeler Hall, Room 100, which is located at 111 Schenectady Avenue in Cobleskill, NY. Participants will receive hands-on training to develop competitive grant proposals. Topics discussed include organizational preparation for federal grants, proposal planning, identification of financing opportunities, outline and work plan of the proposal, budget narrative, post-subsidy sustainability plan, federal forms, and certifications. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

## ConnectALL Opportunities

Empire State Development's ConnectALL has opened the [New York State Broadband Challenge Portal](#) for residents, local governments, nonprofits, and Internet Service Providers to help fine tune which locations could be eligible for [new broadband service grants](#). Through the Challenge Portal, participants can run speed tests, and then share the results to suggest eligibility. Internet Service Providers, government entities, and nonprofit organizations can use the Challenge Portal to register for the formal challenge process. For more information on the challenge process, [visit the ConnectALL website](#).

Not-for-profit organizations that facilitate greater use of internet service by vulnerable populations are strongly encouraged to register as challengers to validate their connectivity data. Local governments and community organizations can direct members of their communities to submit public comments on their internet service using the Challenge Portal.

Owners of affordable housing properties can also apply for the [Affordable Housing Connectivity Program](#), which provides no-cost broadband upgrades for eligible buildings, by completing a Building Conditions Self-Assessment survey. [Click here to access the survey.](#)

## 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 May 2024 edition. This month, it contains opportunities for not-for-profits, county governments, higher ed institutions, school districts, high



school chemistry teachers, animal shelters, visual artists, incoming or current college students, and children of first responders. To get this newsletter sent directly to your inbox, email [grants@nyassembly.gov](mailto:grants@nyassembly.gov).

## Rebate and Low-Cost Financing Opportunities for Municipalities and Small Businesses

**Clean Water State Revolving Funds for Water Pollution Control and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds:** The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), DEC, and the Department of Health (DOH) have announced the availability of funds in support of [Clean Water State Revolving Funds \(CWSRF\) and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds \(DWSRF\) eligible projects for Federal Fiscal Year \(FFY\) 2025](#). The CWSRF and DWSRF programs help municipalities and certain non-municipal entities in New York State to finance water quality and drinking water related projects with low- and zero-cost financing.

New project listing forms and project updates will be accepted through **Friday, June 14**. Eligible projects for which the required items have been submitted will be listed in the CWSRF and DWSRF 2025 Draft Intended Use Plans (IUPs). [Learn more on the EFC website](#).

**\$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.

**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.