



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.

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 with more details about your project.

Environmental Bond Act Survey - One Week Left

The State has created a new [web-based survey](#) as part of ongoing efforts to involve stakeholders and all New Yorkers during the [Bond Act rollout](#). Note that the survey is not a formal funding application, but is instead intended to help users share potential project ideas and other feedback on the State's funding mechanisms. The survey will help collect feedback about the types of projects communities may be seeking to support with Bond Act resources. Entries will be collected until **Friday, September 15**.

Best,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg

CREST Grant Funding Through My Office

I have a new grant opportunity to share! The 2023-24 enacted state budget includes funding to support capital projects, and we have recently received guidance on how these funds may be disbursed. Funds may be used for various capital purposes including improvements to municipal facilities, and for other purposes such as economic development, educational, arts and cultural, parks and recreational, community development, as well as workforce training and employment development projects.

Please note projects must have a minimum of a ten-year useful life to be funded, and the applicant must also demonstrate site control. **Grant requests must be either \$125,000 or \$250,000.** Grants are reimbursement based; entities must expend project costs and request subsequent reimbursement from the state. [Click here to read the full set of guidelines](#) and [click here to apply](#). Applications are due by **4 PM on Friday, September 29.**

Other Deadlines Approaching Soon

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, or by phone at 914-761-3456 x161
- Jayselle Trancoso-Liburd, via email at jaysellet@cccwny.org, or by phone at 914-761-3456 x227

Solar For All Opportunity: 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](https://grants.gov). Please direct questions to ggrf@epa.gov.

Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods Pilot (RCN): The RCN Program supports the reconnection of communities divided by transportation infrastructure, with a priority on helping disadvantaged communities improve access to daily needs (jobs, schools, healthcare, grocery stores and recreation). Funds will support planning and capital construction activities that aim to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation or replacement of highways, roadways or other infrastructure

facilities that create barriers to mobility, access or economic development. Click here to learn more and apply. Applications are due by **Thursday, September 28**.

Additional Opportunities

Field Hall Foundation Grants: Field Hall Foundation is a private foundation whose mission is to improve the lives of older adults and their caregivers. The Foundation accepts Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) on a continual basis and awards grants three times a year. See their [Grantmaking Guidelines](#) page for instructions on how to submit an LOI. They recommend that you contact them to discuss a proposal prior to submitting an LOI, especially if your organization has not previously worked with the Foundation. The Foundation does not accept unsolicited grant applications. The next deadline for submitting an LOI is **Tuesday, October 3**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the expenses they fund and how to submit a grant application to Field Hall.

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 with any questions.

Invasive Species Grant Program: DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos has announced that [\\$3 million is available in the third round of the State's Invasive Species Grant Program](#). This grant program, supported by the State Environmental Protection Fund, is designed to advance projects that target aquatic and terrestrial invasive species across the state. There are six funding categories that address: invasive species spread

prevention; early detection and rapid response; research; management planning; and education and outreach.

Applications are due by **3 PM on Wednesday, November 1, 2023**. Visit DEC's [Invasive Species Grant Program webpage](#) for more information.

Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced that \$240 million is available for habitat restoration and coastal resilience projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. The grants will support efforts such as reconnecting rivers to their historic floodplains, outplanting corals to rebuild reefs, and building living shorelines that protect coasts from erosion and sea level rise.

Applications are due by **Friday, November 17, 2023**.

Find [more information, including how to apply and scheduled webinars](#) on NOAA's website.

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 September 2023 edition. This month, it contains opportunities for municipalities, school districts, not-for-profits, childcare centers, mental health care providers, institutions of higher education, museums, research labs, libraries, college students, high school seniors, and more. To get this newsletter sent directly to your inbox, email grants@nyassembly.gov.

Other Relevant Opportunities

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).

For local businesses and nonprofits: Last month, 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 [here](#) 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.