



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.

Wishing a very Happy Hanukkah to everyone celebrating!

Best,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all of the municipalities and organizations that received funding through the 13th round of the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative! There were four recipients in or serving communities in Assembly District 95 whose applications I supported during the process:

- **Peekskill Community HUB**, \$50,000
- **Boscobel**, \$250,000
- **Historic Hudson Valley**, \$253,000
- **Pugsley Park and Monument Park Revitalization**, \$500,000

Looking forward to seeing the tremendous work that will result from these investments.

Coming Soon: New Statewide Grants Management System

Starting in the new year, New York State will be transitioning from Grants Gateway to the Statewide Financial System (SFS) to support aspects of the grants management business process. This may include creating and submitting prequalification applications, searching for bid opportunities, responding to bids, approving grant contracts, submitting claims, etc. Many improvements are envisioned, including paperless registration and an enhanced prequalification interface. More information will be provided related to the transition for specific Department of State programs.

In anticipation of the new system, SFS is offering training to grantees this month. If you are able to attend any of these training sessions, it will make the transition easier.

- **Searching for & responding to grant opportunities (bids):** Tuesday, December 12, 10 AM - noon
- **Approving grant contracts & submitting progress reports:** Tuesday, December 19, 10 AM - 11:30 AM
- **Entering & submitting grant claims:** Thursday, December 21, 9 AM - 10 AM

[Click here to learn how to join these training sessions.](#)

Mid-Year Expansion of Free School Meals - Deadline Friday, December 15

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has recently [lowered the eligibility threshold](#) for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) from 40 percent to 25 percent. This federal change, combined with the CEP State Subsidy, is a critical step in New York's expansion of free school meals. Now, approximately 700 additional schools will be eligible to leverage CEP and tap into the CEP State Subsidy.

About the CEP State Subsidy

The enacted FY2024 State Budget included an additional \$134.6M to expand access to free school meals through the 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. Eligible, but unenrolled schools must be approved to participate in CEP by the State Education Department (SED).

SED is now accepting applications for schools to adopt CEP. Applications will be approved on a rolling basis. Approved schools will be able to implement CEP starting the following month.

Applications for CEP will be accepted until December 15, 2023.

If your school does not already offer free meals to all students, please 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 Francesca.DiGiorgio@HungerSolutionsNY.org with questions.

Resources from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) & Hunger Solutions New York:

- [NYSED Memo: Expansion of Community Eligibility Provision in New York State](#) (This memo includes a [list of potentially eligible schools](#) who are not participating in CEP.)
- [NYSED CEP Factsheet](#)
- [NYSED CEP Application and Guidance](#)
- Hunger Solutions New York [webinar series for schools](#)

Other Deadlines Approaching Soon

Hazard and Flood Mitigation Grant Programs: New York State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) offers two grant programs to assist with making infrastructure more resilient in the face of natural disasters. The [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC) grant program makes federal funding available for hazard mitigation activities to reduce the risks of disasters and natural hazards. Activities can include increasing awareness of flood risk through hazard mitigation planning and project scoping, incorporating resilient mitigation projects into infrastructure and critical facilities, and reimbursing management costs associated with a mitigation project.

DHSES also administers the [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) (FMA) grant program, which offers funding towards individual flood mitigation projects, localized flood risk reduction projects and capability and capacity building activities. This includes funding for multi-hazard mitigation planning and technical assistance to enhance local floodplain management.

State agencies and local governments are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted through [FEMA GO](#) to DHSES by **Friday, December 15**. You can find grant information and fact sheets on [NYS DHSES' "FY2023 BRIC and FMA" webpage](#).

Land Trust Alliance Grants: Grants are available through two Land Trust Alliance programs. One, the [New York State Conservation Partnership Program](#), will award up to \$3,075,000 in funding to help New York land trusts prepare for accreditation, build professional capacity, strengthen community partnerships, accelerate land conservation and implement best business practices. The other, the [Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trusts Program](#), will provide competitive grants to assist land trusts in increasing the rate of forest conservation in New York. Click the program links above to read more and apply for each program; applications for both are due on **Friday, December 22**.

New York State Council on the Arts Capital Grants: Governor Hochul recently announced that up to \$37 million is available to support capital projects for arts and cultural organizations

through the New York State Council on the Arts' FY2024 Capital Projects Fund. Guidelines and details are available on the NYSCA website at arts.ny.gov. These grants are recommended for organizations that are in advanced planning stages of capital projects such as the construction of new facilities, the renovation or restoration of existing buildings, and the permanent installation of new, complete equipment systems. Applicants must be nonprofit 501(c)3 arts and cultural organizations in New York State with control of the building site in the form of a deed or lease. [Click here to learn more and apply for this opportunity](#); the application deadline is **4 PM on Thursday, January 11, 2024**.

Non-Profit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program: A minimum of \$60 million in capital grant funding will be available to nonprofit human services organizations through the Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program to support the delivery of critical services to New Yorkers. Eligible not-for-profit organizations that provide direct programs and services to New Yorkers may receive grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for the completion of small- and large-scale construction projects. The request for applications is available [here](#) and applications are due by **Friday, January 12, 2024**.

Primary Project: Primary Project, a program of [Children's Institute](#), is a national evidence-based program that helps children in Pre-K through third grade adjust to school, gain confidence, social skills, and focus on learning. Through play, Primary Project addresses children's school adjustment difficulties and increases their chances for success. Children's Institute receives funds from NYSED to distribute to school districts, public agencies, and child-serving 501(c)(3) organizations to support the costs associated with beginning a Primary Project program for up to three years. Initial applications of interest for new or expanding programs are being accepted on a rolling basis through **Friday, January 12, 2024**.

Additional Opportunities

Urban and Community Forestry Grants: The DEC is now accepting applications for a total of \$12.9 million for urban and community forestry projects through an Inflation Reduction Act funding opportunity. [Click here for the Governor's announcement regarding the funding](#). Applicants may apply for funding under two categories, Community Forest Management Plan Implementation (\$10 million) and Ash Tree Management (\$2.9 million). The maximum request is \$500,000 per application and no match is required. All projects must take place in disadvantaged communities as identified by any of three Federal and State tools listed in the Request for Applications (RFA). **The deadline to submit applications is Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.**

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](#).

EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG): The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched \$4.6 billion across two implementation grant competitions to fund state, local, and Tribal programs and policies that cut climate pollution, advance environmental justice, and deploy clean energy solutions across the country. These competitions will enable community-driven solutions to the climate crisis, helping to accelerate America's clean energy transition.

As part of its evaluation of applications, EPA will prioritize measures that achieve the greatest amount of GHG emissions reductions. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 30 to 115 grants ranging between \$2 million and \$500 million in the general competition. **The deadline to apply to the general competition is Tuesday, April 1, 2024.** EPA estimates that the implementation grants will be awarded in Fall 2024 for the general competition. [Click here to view the general competition Notice of Funding Opportunity and apply.](#) [Click here to sign up for notifications about the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program.](#)

New AmeriCorps Opportunities

AmeriCorps has announced two new opportunities for funding and resources to help communities address pressing needs through national service.

- Click [here](#) to read more about the new AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program Replacement and Expansion Opportunity. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, February 1, 2024.**
- Click [here](#) to read more about the new AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program Replacement and Expansion Opportunity. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, February 1, 2024.**

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.](#)

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 December 2023 edition. This month, it contains opportunities for not-for-profits, municipal governments, mental health providers,

special purpose districts, sustainable forestry companies, school districts, independent schools, institutions of higher education, equine behavior researchers, tenure-track (or equivalent) science professors, high school students, college-bound high school seniors, Jewish teenagers, nurses with BSN degrees pursuing pediatric specialties, and local leaders working on projects promoting civil discourse. To get this newsletter sent directly to your inbox, email grants@nyassembly.gov.

Other Relevant Opportunities

ConEdison Small-Medium Business Energy Efficiency Programs: ConEd has announced a program through which they will cover up to 70% of the upfront costs of upgrades like LED lighting, HVAC systems, refrigeration, wi-fi thermostats, and heat pumps in facilities with an active ConEd electric or gas account. Businesses, not-for-profits, houses of worship, veterans' organizations, and schools with less than 300 kW demand are eligible to apply. [Click here for more details](#) or see the attached flier.

MTA First Mile Last Mile (FMLM) Toolkit: The MTA has developed [this toolkit](#) as a resource for regional communities and users to encourage implementation of improved, equitable, and environmentally-friendly ways for travelers to access Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) and Metro-North Railroad commuter rail stations in the New York suburbs. [This toolkit](#) provides users with a step-by-step guide for identifying and developing potential FMLM strategies that users can implement or test as a pilot program.

Free Vacuums to Reduce Spotted Lanternflies: Earlier this year, the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation acquired high-powered vacuums to help reduce the number of Spotted Lanternflies in County Parks and has since acquired 10 more designated to [loan](#) to Westchester municipalities. Municipal employees can request vacuums through a [request form](#); equipment is given out on a first come, first served basis.

Funding for Electric School Buses: 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.

State Energy Financing Fund: The State Energy Financing Fund provides a complementary funding opportunity for entities working with or applying to the [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) Loan Programs Office \(LPO\) Title 17 Clean Energy Financing Program's Section 1703](#). This program is intended to increase access to the federal Title 1703 loan guarantee program, making it easier to finance projects that reduce emissions from the built environment (including buildings and other infrastructure) in New York State. NYSERDA expects to deploy up to \$20 million of direct capital and credit enhancements to eligible entities, at an amount not to exceed the lesser of \$5 Million or 3% of an eligible applicant's proposed project portfolio amount. [Click here to learn more about the program, including eligibility criteria, and apply.](#)

New York Forward Loan Fund II: In August, Governor Hochul announced the New York Forward Loan Fund II 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.](#)