



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.

2024-2025 State Budget Forum with the Westchester Assembly Delegation

The Westchester Assembly Delegation will be holding its annual state budget forum on **Thursday, January 25 from 10 AM - 2 PM** on Zoom. This is an opportunity to advocate directly for what you would like to see included in the upcoming state budget. Please see the attached flyer for more details, including how you can sign up for a speaking slot and where to send written testimony. If you have any questions, you can contact the office of Assemblyman Steve Otis at 914-939-7028.

Best,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg

Congratulations!

The Department of Environmental Conservation recently announced the winners of its most recent round of Urban Forestry Grant recipients. Congratulations to the **City of Peekskill**, which has been awarded \$75,000 for a Tree Inventory and Management Plan.

Opportunities from Empire State Development - Deadlines Approaching Soon

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. Visit esd.ny.gov/momentum for more information and the application. Applications for the next round of funding are due on **Wednesday, January 31**.

CFA Round 13 Batch 3: Applications are currently open for ESD Capital Grant Funds and [Excelsior Jobs](#) programs. The application and guidelines can be found [here](#). Applications are due **Wednesday, January 31**.

Other Deadlines Approaching Soon

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 Planning and Greenway Trail Grant applications are due through the Greenway's Online Grants Platform by **Friday, January 26** and **Thursday, May 23**, respectively. [Click here to learn more about available programs and apply](#).

EPA Grants to Support Water Systems in Small and Rural Communities: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced \$30.7 million in grants to support water systems in small and rural communities with technical assistance and training. Questions about applying must be received by **Thursday, January 18**, and applications must be received by **Friday, February 2**. The EPA expects to award these cooperative agreements by the summer of 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 **Wednesday, January 31** 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 Clean School Bus Rebate Program: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) \$500 million 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate program provides funding to school districts and

other eligible applicants for electric school buses and charging infrastructure. Applications are due **Wednesday, January 31** at 4:00 PM. [Learn more here](#).

Additional Opportunities

U.S. Department of Labor YouthBuild Grants: The YouthBuild Program grants provides job training and educational services to eligible young people, ages 16 to 24, who left school without a secondary diploma in communities where barriers to academic and career skills development persist. The grants support job training in high-demand industries including construction, healthcare, information technology and hospitality. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program and how it serves communities, and apply [here](#) by **Thursday, February 1**.

Funders Network Partners for Places Grants: [The Funders Network](#), in partnership with [the Urban Sustainability Directors Network](#), has announced the opening of the latest round of [the Partners for Places grant program](#). The program improves communities by supporting equitable sustainability projects that build partnerships between local government leaders, frontline community groups, and place-based funders in the U.S. and Canada. National funders invest in local projects developed through these partnerships to promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being for all residents. These matching awards provide partnership investments between \$45,000 and \$150,000 for one-year projects, or between \$75,000 and \$180,000 for two-year projects. One or more local foundations are required to provide at least a 50-percent matching grant for each project. The deadline to submit proposals is **Tuesday, February 27**. Learn more [here](#) and attend the webinar on **Wednesday, January 17**.

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

- Click on their Web site to read more about the new AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program Replacement and Expansion Opportunity. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, February 1**.
- Click on their Web site to read more about the new AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program Replacement and Expansion Opportunity. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, February 1**.

FEMA: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities: The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC) grants program provides \$1 billion in funding to help state, local, tribal, and territorial governments address high-level future risks to natural disasters, foster greater community resilience, and reduce disaster suffering. The application deadline is **Thursday, February 29**.

Note that FEMA's [BRIC Direct Technical Assistance](#) (BRIC DTA) program provides tailored support to communities and tribal nations that may not have the resources to begin climate resilience planning and project solution design on their own. BRIC DTA will partner with communities interested in enhancing their capability and capacity to design holistic, equitable hazard mitigation solutions that advance community-driven objectives. Completed [technical](#)

[assistance forms](#) (PDF) must be emailed to fema-bric-dta-submission@fema.dhs.gov **before Thursday, February 29.**

US Department of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhoods

Implementation Grants: Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support the implementation of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans that are expected to achieve the following three core goals:

1. Housing: Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood;
2. People: Improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children's education; and
3. Neighborhood: Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families' choices about their community.

Applications are due on **Monday, March 4.** [Click here to learn more and apply on grants.gov.](#)

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.** 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.](#)

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.** Initial award selections will occur in March 2024 – with the suggested deadline of **Friday, February 23** – and the anticipated start for initial selections will be in May/June 2024.

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 toxics & 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.

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 January 2024 edition. This month, it

contains opportunities for not-for-profits, local governments, higher education institutions, school districts, artists, engineering students, and research professors. To get this newsletter sent directly to your inbox, email grants@nyassembly.gov.

Other Relevant Opportunities

Institute for Policy Integrity's Introduction to Justice40 & the CEJST Tool: The New York University School of Law's [Institute for Policy Integrity](#) will host a webinar on **Monday, January 22nd at 5:00 PM** to provide an overview of [Justice40](#) and the [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) (CEJST) developed for it. Click [here](#) to get the Zoom link.

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.](#)

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.

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.](#)