



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.

Best,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg

Reminder re: NYS Grants Management Transition

As of January 16, New York State (NYS) has transitioned grants management activities that were performed in the Grants Gateway to the Statewide Financial System (SFS). SFS is the NYS government's accounting and financial management system used to manage contracts and payments. Grantees doing business with NYS will access SFS through the SFS Vendor Portal, which is available from the [SFS Public Website](#).

Training materials, including videos and step-by-step instructions for various topics on grants management-related tasks in SFS, are available within the SFS Vendor Portal. For questions or assistance using SFS, contact the SFS Help Desk at helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov.

Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund Deadline Extended - Applications due April 24

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 to access the application. Applications for the next round of funding are now due by **4 PM on Wednesday, April 24.**

ArtsWestchester Arts Alive Grant Program

The 2024 cycle of the Arts Alive grant program is open now. Arts Alive is designed to support community-based, grassroots organizations and local artists. In 2023, this grant awarded funding to over 160 projects throughout Westchester and Rockland including festivals, library events, and free arts programs for audiences of all ages. Of those funded projects, 65 were new, first-time applicants.

ArtsWestchester will be hosting in-person and virtual info sessions throughout Westchester, including an in-person event at Kino Saito (115 7th St, Verplanck, NY 10596) on **Thursday, February 15.** A link to register plus the full meeting schedule is available on the ArtsWestchester grants page. Applications are due by **Thursday, March 14.** Interested parties may contact ArtsWestchester's Director of Grant Programs, Sue Abbott, at sabbott@artswestchester.org with any questions.

New York Presbyterian Mini-Grants

New York Presbyterian offers mini-grants to small community-based organizations (CBOs), and invites CBOs whose programming supports health and wellness for communities in Westchester County to apply. Click [here](#) to register for an upcoming information session and application tutorial, taking place at **11 AM on Thursday, February 15.** Applications are due on **Friday, March 8;** click [here](#) to learn more and apply.

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 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.

Other Deadlines Approaching Soon

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](#).

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.

EPA Grants to Address Indoor Air Pollution in Schools: As part of its [Grant Funding to Address Indoor Air Pollution at Schools Program](#), the EPA will award [\\$32 million to approximately 6 applicants](#) to help K-12 schools in low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities develop and adopt comprehensive indoor air quality management plans to reduce indoor air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in schools. The deadline to apply for the competitive grants is **Tuesday, March 19**.

DEC Grants for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

DEC is accepting applications for matching grant funding of municipal household hazardous waste collection events that were held during January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. [Applications must be submitted no later than Thursday, February 29 at 3 PM](#). Funding will reimburse up to 50 percent of costs of eligible household hazardous waste collection events. [For more information on the HHW Grants for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events](#), email RecyclingGrants@dec.ny.gov with any questions.

Additional Opportunities

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](#).

Mobility Equity Research Initiative Grants: Through the [Mobility Equity Research Initiative](#), the U.S. Department of Transportation seeks to advance research and technologies that support the Department's goal of expanding accessibility and mobility to underserved communities, including people with disabilities, older Americans, and rural and disadvantaged communities. For additional information or questions, contact EquityResearch@dot.gov. The deadline for submitting applications is **Tuesday, March 5**. [Click here for the application and additional details](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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](#). Note that a webinar is scheduled from 9:30-10:30 AM on **Monday, March 4** to review program changes and the application process. Advance registration is required. Community Assistance Teams are ready to engage with any community that needs help with its water infrastructure.

Brownfield Planning Grants: Transforming Eyesores into Community Assets

The New York Department of State Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure's Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Program can help your community transform vacant and underutilized brownfield sites into vibrant community assets.

The BOA program supports:

- Community Planning, Outreach and Engagement
- Predevelopment activities, such as—market studies, planning and zoning and environmental assessments
- Redevelopment tax credits for developers
- Connections to other supportive funding opportunities at DOS and elsewhere

To start the process of redeveloping your brownfield sites, contact the New York Department of State Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure by calling **(518) 486-2469** or e-mailing Alexander.Yerou@dos.ny.gov for an initial consultation. To learn more about Brownfield planning and redevelopment, visit dos.ny.gov/brownfield-redevelopment.

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 February 2024 edition. This month, it contains opportunities for not-for-profits, municipal governments, higher education institutions, school districts, small businesses, undergraduate students and graduate students. 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.](#)

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.](#)