



## State, Local, and Tribal Energy Newsletter

Twenty-five funding and technical assistance opportunities are available for state, local, and tribal governments from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and others that can be used to support climate and energy initiatives, including economic development, sustainable communities, green infrastructure, and water efficiency. For full eligibility and application details, please visit the links provided below.

In addition, please visit EPA's [Grants website](#) for further grant opportunities, guidance on how to apply, and training.

## Funding Opportunities

### Featured Webinar: Accessing Funding for Communities

Thursday, September 23, 2021 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM (Eastern)

The U.S. EPA invites you to attend the next session of the virtual environmental justice webinar series “[Growing Grassroots: Building Capacity for Environmental Justice Work](#)” This webinar and series are free and open to the public. During this webinar attendees will learn practical tips on successful grant-writing and how to access community-based funding (i.e., federal, state grants, foundations, other community-based funding sources).

[Register](#)

### **New!** EPA EJ4Climate: Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience - \$2 million

*Applications Due: November 14, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: Tribal nations, indigenous peoples and communities, nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), civil society groups, environmental groups, and community-based associations*

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation ( [CEC](#) ) is launching a first-of-its-kind USD \$2 million grant program, EJ4Climate, to support environmental justice and climate resilience for underserved, vulnerable communities, and Indigenous communities across North America. This program will provide funding directly to Indigenous communities and community-based organizations to deliver environmental justice and advance local solutions to adapt to climate change.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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### **New!** EPA Sustainable Materials Management Grants - \$150 thousand

*Applications Due: October 1, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: States, local, tribal, interstate, and intrastate government agencies and instrumentalities*

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications that support the EPA Sustainable Materials Management Program, for the benefit of States or communities within EPA Region 2 (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and eight Indian Nations). Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) is a systemic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their entire life cycles. It represents a change in how our society thinks about the use of natural resources and environmental protection. By looking at a product's entire life cycle, we can find new opportunities to reduce environmental impacts, conserve resources and reduce costs. Specifically, this request for applications addresses the following programmatic priorities: Sustainable Management of Food, and Sustainable Packaging.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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### **COMING SOON!** EPA American Rescue Plan - Improving Ambient Air Quality Monitoring to Address Health Income Disparities - \$50 million

*Applications Due: EPA plans to open this opportunity in fall 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State, tribal, and local governments and community groups*

On July 7, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$50 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to improve ambient air quality monitoring for communities across the United States. Learn more about this upcoming opportunity [here](#) .

The funding opportunity should be available soon and [will be posted here](#).

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### **COMING SOON!** EPA 2021 American Rescue Plan Electric School Bus Rebates - \$7 million

*Applications Due: EPA plans to open this opportunity in fall 2021*

*Eligible Entities: Public school districts listed on the [ARP Electric School Bus Rebates Eligibility List](#) , tribal schools, and private fleets that operate school buses under a contract with an eligible entity.*

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) appropriated funds to the EPA for “activities that identify and address disproportionate environmental or public health harms and risks in minority populations or low-income populations” under several programs, including the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA). EPA will fund \$7 million for electric school bus rebates in underserved communities. This program has not yet opened to accept applications, but more details and supporting information for this program will be available by the end of September.

The funding opportunity should be available soon and [will be posted here](#) .

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## **EPA OLEM FY22 Brownfields Job Training - \$3 million**

*Applications Due: October 5, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: States, local governments, tribal governments other than in Alaska, state government entities*

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, to deliver Brownfields Job Training programs that recruit, train, and place local, unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. While Brownfields Job Training Grants require training in brownfield assessment and/or cleanup activities, these grants also require that Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training be provided to all individuals being trained. EPA encourages applicants to develop their curricula based on local labor market assessments and employers’ hiring needs, while also delivering comprehensive training that results in graduates securing multiple certifications.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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## **EPA OLEM Supporting Anaerobic Digestion in Communities - \$2 million**

*Applications Due: October 7, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: States (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands), local, tribal, interstate, and intrastate government agencies and instrumentalities.*

EPA is seeking applications for projects from states, Tribes, territories, and nonprofit organizations to help reduce food loss and waste, and divert food waste from landfills by expanding anaerobic digestion (AD) capacity in the United States. All applications must achieve one or more of the following objectives: develop new or expand existing AD capacity for processing food waste; demonstrate solutions and/or approaches for increasing food waste AD utilization that can be replicated by other communities, governments, or other entities; support state, tribal, and/or local government programs that seek to use AD to increase their food waste diversion rates.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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## **DHS FEMA Fiscal Year 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) - \$1 billion**

*Applications Due: January 28, 2022*

*Eligible Entities: U.S territories, states, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities*

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program makes federal funds available to states, U.S territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities for hazard mitigation activities. It does so with a recognition of the growing hazards associated with climate change<sup>1</sup>, and of the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards. These include both acute extreme weather events and chronic stressors which have been observed and are expected to increase in the future.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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## **DOC Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program - \$268 million**

*Applications Due: December 1, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: The Act defines an eligible recipient as: a historically Black college or university (HBCU); a Tribal College or University (TCU); a Minority-serving institution (MSI); or a consortium that is led by a historically Black college or university, a Tribal College or University, or a Minority-serving institution. A consortium is eligible for a grant under the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program if it is led by an eligible institution as defined above.*

The Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program provides new federal funding for the Assistant Secretary to make grants for the expansion of broadband internet access, connectivity, and digital inclusion. The Act authorizes new federal funding for the Assistant Secretary to make grants to eligible recipients in anchor communities: for the purchase of broadband internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel; to facilitate educational instruction and learning, including through remote instruction; to operate a minority business enterprise (MBE); or to operate a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The Act also authorizes grants to a consortium, led by an eligible recipient institution (i.e., educational institution), that includes an MBE or a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. See Section I of this NOFO for the full Program Description.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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## **DOC EDA FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge - \$30 million**

*Applications Due: October 19, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, county governments, special district governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), others*

Through this American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity (ARPA BBBRC NOFO), EDA aims to assist communities and regions impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has caused, and continues to cause, economic injury to U.S. communities and regions in devastating and unprecedented ways. This ARPA BBBRC NOFO is designed as a two-phase competition to (1) help regions develop transformational economic development strategies and (2) fund the implementation of those strategies that will create and grow regional growth clusters. Such efforts will help regional economies recover from the pandemic and build economic diversity and resiliency to mitigate impacts of future economic disasters.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **DOC EDA FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge - \$500 million**

*Applications Due: January 26, 2022*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), others*

Through this American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity (ARPA Good Jobs Challenge NOFO), the Economic Development Agency (EDA) aims to assist communities and regions impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has caused, and continues to cause, economic injury to U.S. communities and regions in devastating and unprecedented ways. This ARPA Good Jobs Challenge NOFO is designed to help get Americans back to work by developing and strengthening regional systems to develop and execute sectoral partnerships that will lead to well-paying jobs. The goal of regional workforce training systems is to create and implement effective employer-driven training programs that will connect the existing and emerging skills needs of employers with workers and will help workers find and keep quality jobs and advance along their chosen career path.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **DOC EDA FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Economic Adjustment Assistance - \$500 million**

*Applications Due: March 31, 2022*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), others*

Through this ARPA EAA NOFO, EDA aims to assist communities and regions impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, including historically underserved communities. The pandemic has caused, and continues to cause, economic injury to U.S. communities and regions in devastating and unprecedented ways. EDA's ARPA EAA NOFO is designed to provide a wide-range of financial assistance to communities and regions as they respond to, and recover from, the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, including long-term recovery and resilience to future economic disasters. Under this announcement, EDA solicits applications under the authority of the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, which is flexible and responsive to the economic development needs and priorities of local and regional stakeholders. This is the broadest NOFO EDA is publishing under ARPA

and any eligible applicant from any EDA Region may apply. EDA expects to fund a number of projects under this NOFO that support communities negatively impacted by the downturn in the coal economy, supporting transitioning away from coal.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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## **DOC EDA FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Indigenous Communities - \$100 million**

*Applications Due: March 31, 2022*

*Eligible Entities: Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)*

EDA's American Rescue Plan Indigenous Communities Notice of Funding (NOFO) is designed to support indigenous communities as they respond to, and recover from, the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, including long-term recovery and resilience to future economic disasters. Under this announcement, EDA solicits applications under the authority of its Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, which is intended to be flexible and responsive to the economic development needs and priorities of indigenous communities. Competitive applications for funding under this NOFO will propose projects designed to create the conditions for economic growth in indigenous communities and to accelerate economic recovery from the pandemic. These projects can include foundational economic infrastructure projects, such as such as broadband, energy, road, water, and wastewater infrastructure (including community water facilities); vocational and higher education facilities; and community health facilities that are necessary for future job creation. Projects can also include non-construction projects to provide technical assistance to support business development, entrepreneurship assistance, economic development planning, rural prosperity, and workforce training in indigenous communities. Further, EDA seeks to fund projects representing diverse geographies, from rural and urban settings to projects on or near tribal lands.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#) .

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## **New! DOI BOR Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022 - Fostering District and Farmer Water Saving Partnerships - \$1 million**

*Applications Due: November 1, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended*

Through Agricultural Water Use Efficiency (AWUE) Grants, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to support stakeholder efforts to stretch scarce water supplies and avoid conflicts over water. The AWUE program also supports Reclamation's priorities, including increasing water supplies, leveraging science and technology to improve water supply reliability, addressing ongoing drought, and improving water supplies for tribal and rural communities.

Through this notice of funding, Reclamation provides funding for projects that increase water reliability consistent with Sections 3 and 4 of the October 19, 2018, Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **DOI BOR WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 - \$40 million**

*Applications Due: December 9, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, Native American tribal governments, irrigation or water districts, state, regional, or local authorities. All applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.*

The objective of this notice of funding is to invite eligible applicants (Section C.1. Eligible Applicants) to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on Environmental Water Resources Projects, including water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values; water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values; and watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **DOI BOR WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2022 - \$15 million**

*Applications Due: November 3, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, Native American tribal governments, irrigation or water districts, state, regional, or local authorities. All applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.*

The objective of this notice of funding is to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of renewable energy; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; enable farmers to make additional on-farm improvements in the future, including improvements that may be eligible for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the western United States.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **DOI BOR WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022 - \$16.5 million**

*Applications Due: October 5, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, Native American tribal governments, irrigation or water districts, state, regional, or local authorities. All applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.*

The objective of this NOFO is to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on Drought Resiliency Projects that will increase the reliability of water supplies; improve water management; and provide benefits for fish, wildlife, and the environment to mitigate impacts caused by drought.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **DOI Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program - \$13 million**

*Applications Due: September 30, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: Tribal, state, county governments, tribal organizations, city or township governments, independent school districts, and others*

The Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance through cooperative agreements to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. The Coastal Program staff coordinates with partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation goals and priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas are where the Coastal Program directs resources to conserve habitat for Federal trust species.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **NOAA Climate Program Office FY2022 - \$15 million**

*Applications Due: October 18, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: Institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments.*

Climate variability and change present society with significant economic, health, safety, and security challenges. As part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) climate portfolio within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), the Climate Program Office (CPO) addresses these climate challenges by managing competitive research programs through which high-priority climate science, assessments, decision-support research, outreach, education, and capacity-



building activities are funded to advance our understanding of the Earth's climate system, and to foster the application and use of this knowledge to improve the resilience of our Nation and its partners. Through this announcement, CPO is seeking applications for eight individual competitions in FY22. Several of these competitions are relevant to four high-priority climate risk areas CPO is focusing on to improve science understanding and/or capabilities that result in user-driven outcomes: Coastal Inundation, Marine Ecosystems, Water Resources, and Extreme Heat.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **NPS Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant - \$150 million**

*Applications Due: September 24, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: States, whether on behalf of themselves or eligible urban jurisdictions, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands)*

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program is a competitive grant program. Its goal is to provide new or significantly improve recreation opportunities for economically-disadvantaged communities in larger urbanized areas (as designated by the Census Bureau) that are under-served in terms of parks and other outdoor recreation resources. The program enables urban communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors in economically underserved communities.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **New! USDA NRCS Racial Equity and Justice Conservation Cooperative Agreements - \$50 million**

*Applications Due: October 25, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)*

In this Request for Applications (RFA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) requests applications for four OPD priority areas through the Racial Equity and Justice Conservation Cooperative Agreements. The goal of this outreach is for NRCS in collaboration with partners to expand the delivery of conservation assistance to historically underserved farmers and ranchers, including socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning, tribal and veteran. Proposals should support activities that introduce the concepts of climate-smart agriculture and to assist producers with planning and implementation of conservation practices and principles.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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## **New! USDA REAP Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Program - \$100 thousand**

*Applications Due: February 1, 2022*

*Eligible Entities: State governments, local governments, county governments, city or township governments, and Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized).*

This program assists rural small businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits and providing Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA). Assistance provided must consist of: energy audits, renewable energy technical assistance, renewable energy site assessments.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

## No-Cost Technical Assistance Opportunities

### **New!** DOE Communities Local Energy Action Program (LEAP) Pilot

*Applications Due: December 17, 2021*

*Eligible Entities: Communities in the U.S., including tribal nations and territories and multi-stakeholder teams representing communities*

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) first-of-its-kind Communities: Local Energy Action Program (Communities LEAP) pilot initiative partners with communities across the nation to build community-driven action plans for clean energy-related economic development. Through Communities LEAP, DOE will provide support from the top experts in clean energy and economic development to 24-36 competitively selected communities while they develop action plans for clean energy transitions. This opportunity is specifically open to low-income, energy-burdened communities that are also experiencing environmental justice concerns, or direct economic impacts resulting from a shift away from historical reliance on fossil fuels.

DOE is hosting a webinar to provide more information on the Communities LEAP Program on September 28th from 3:30 - 5pm Eastern.

[Register for the webinar.](#)

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

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### **EPA Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities Program**

*Applications Due: Not Applicable*

*Eligible Entities: State, local and tribal governments*

EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Program helps communities, states, tribes and others understand risks associated with contaminated or potentially contaminated properties, called brownfields, and learn how to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse them. EPA funds three organizations—Kansas State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology and the Center

for Creative Land Recycling—to serve as independent sources of technical assistance. Each of these TABs has an extensive network of partners, contractors and other contacts that provides services across the country. They help communities tackle a variety of challenges related to identifying, assessing, cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields. The technical assistance comes at no cost to communities.

For more information, visit the [technical assistance description](#).

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## **On-Request Technical Assistance from DOE Office of Indian Energy**

*Applications Due: Not Applicable*

*Eligible Entities: Tribal governments*

The DOE Office of Indian Energy provides federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other organized tribal groups and communities, with technical assistance to advance tribal energy projects at no cost. Technical experts from DOE and its national laboratories, along with other partnering organizations, provide support to assist Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages with energy planning, housing and building energy efficiency, project development, policy and regulation, resilience, and village power.

For more information, visit the on-request [technical assistance description](#).

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## **DOE Clean Cities Coalition Network Technical Assistance**

*Applications Due: Not Applicable*

*Eligible Entities: Clean Cities Coalitions*

Clean Cities connects transportation stakeholders with objective information and experts to assist with alternative fuels, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies. Through these trusted, time-tested resources, Clean Cities has helped fleets and fuel providers deploy hundreds of thousands of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling stations that serve a growing market. Clean Cities continues to support the entry of new transportation technologies into the marketplace.

For more information, visit the [technical assistance description](#).

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# **Grant Writing Basics Blog Series**

Learn tips and advice for writing federal grant applications through the Grant Writing Basics Blog Series. The goal of the series is to provide the essential basics to begin writing on a solid foundation.

Topics covered include:

- How to Start Working on Future Funding Opportunities

- Demystifying Funding Opportunity Announcements
- Tips to Avoid Last Minute Problems
- Making Sure You Are Eligible before Writing

[Learn more](#)

## About this Newsletter



State and Local Climate  
and Energy Program

This newsletter is a service of U.S. EPA's [State and Local Climate and Energy Program](#). We offer expertise about implementing cost-effective energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate policies and programs to interested state, local, and tribal governments.

**Please send us your suggestions, comments, or questions!**

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