COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT READINESS WORKSHOP

The goals of this workshop include the provision of:

- a forum for Sullivan County to respond to the expressed needs of municipalities and their respective communities
- a brief overview of "grant basics"
- information about potential funding opportunities for water infrastructure repair and improvement projects
- grant-readiness and project-readiness guidance, along with a suggested timeline for municipal planning

Eligibility Considerations
Identifying the General Area of Need

Public vs. Private (Municipal vs. Private Homeowners)
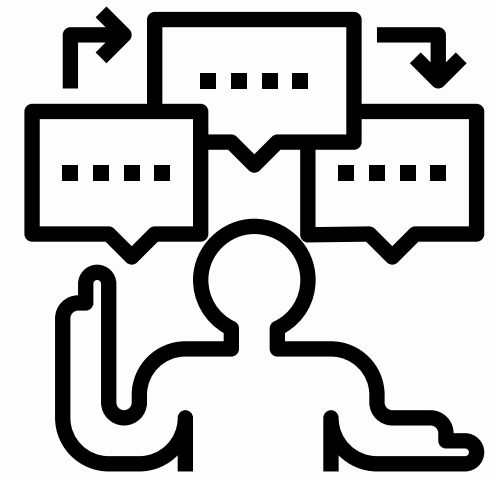
NYC Watershed vs. Non-NYC Watershed

Planning Vs. Implementation Funding Opportunities

Planning Vs. Implementation Funding Opportunities

A **planning grant** helps an individual or organization transform an idea into concrete plans, earliest phase of a project, may involve:

- Conducting surveys and research
- Creating a business or program plan
- Developing financial projections
- Identifying and establishing partnership

If you can name the problem, have a general idea of what you'd like to accomplish, but don't know how to get there or don't have a detailed scope or project laid out yet, then you want to look for a Planning Grant or a Technical Assistance Grant.

Planning Vs. Implementation Funding Opportunities

An **implementation grant** (sometimes called a construction grant) supports "shovel-ready" projects.

- You should apply for an implementation grant if you have:
- A thorough implementation plan for your project
- Researched financial projections and a line-item budget
- Expected program outcomes you're aiming for
- A process to measure results
- Strong partnerships
- Staff dedicated to monthly or quarterly grant reporting
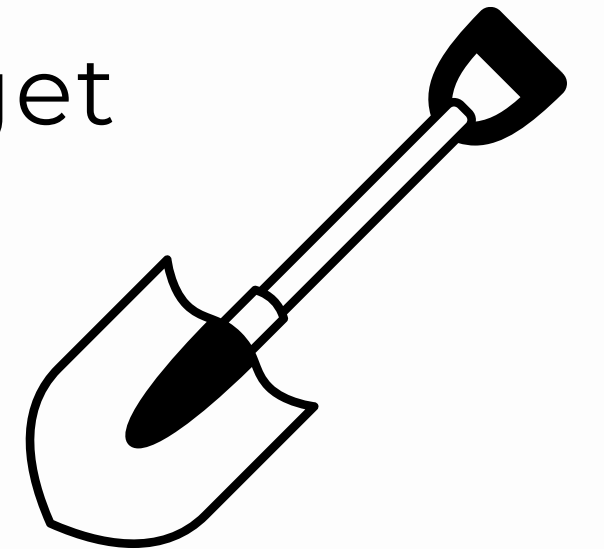
Types of Water Needs:

General Categories:

- Drinking Water

- Sewer/Wastewater

- Septic Systems

- Recreational Water Use

A municipality may have multiple needs across categories, and sometimes, one affects the other. Such complexities may indicate need for a planning study in an effort to gather necessary data.

A Quick Grants Overview

- Grant Process Overview
  - Types of Funding: Discretionary vs. Allocations
  - Grant Process Workflow
    - *Project Planning*
    - *NOFAs*
    - *Application Submission*
    - *Management*

- Federal and State Funding Agencies
  - Federal Grants
  - State Grants

- The Good, Bad, and the Ugly about Dealing with Grants
  - There's no such thing as "free money."
  - Grant work can be labor intensive and requires organization.
  - You need to be on top of procurement and reporting requirements.
  - In the end, it's rewarding because we better our communities.

Preparing for Potential Funding Opportunities

## What Funding Agencies Look For:

- "Ducks in a Row"

- Project Readiness *(may include engineering reports, environmental review documentation, letters of support, IMAs or MOUs, resolutions, adherence to program & procurement requirements (including MWBE, EEO and SDVOB guidelines)*

- Data, data, data! *Statistics should help build a case to demonstrate need.*

- Secured Funding (for match requirements/leveraged funding resources)

- Collaboration (look favorably upon inter-municipal partnerships/projects)

- Capacity/Preparedness: do you have the resources to follow through?

Becoming Project Ready

Don't let the tail wag the dog!

"The first rule in grantseeking is that you don't write a grant request without first completing a <u>comprehensive planning process</u> that involves the grant applicant or organization's key stakeholders."

~Dr. Beverly A. Browning, author of *Grant Writing for Dummies*
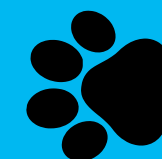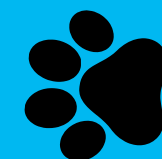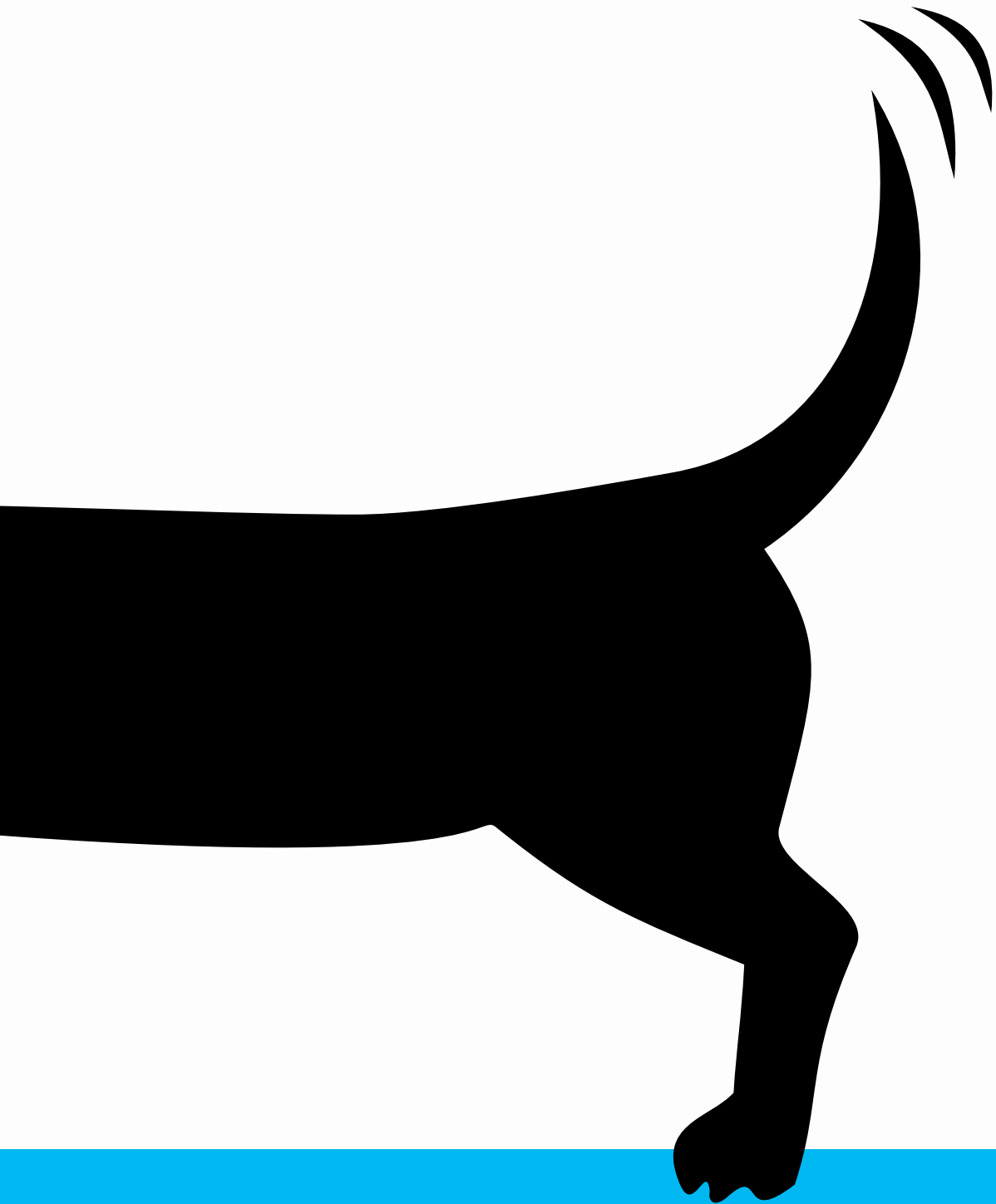
Next Steps

- Assemble your stakeholders - identify priorities and initiate project planning.

- Determine what outside assistance may be helpful and approach collaborating partners/agencies/experts. *Tap your resources!*

- Determine what kind of funding is necessary (planning vs. implementation).

- Discern if you have means for secured funding for match requirements/leveraged funding or resources.

- Coordinate a "Grants Team" *(Look for highly organized, detail-oriented individuals, ideally at least one should have background in finance/business).*

- Put some "grants training" in place.

- Make sure your organization is grant ready.

- Further develop the details of your project.

- Begin to seek out grant funding opportunities.

- Apply!
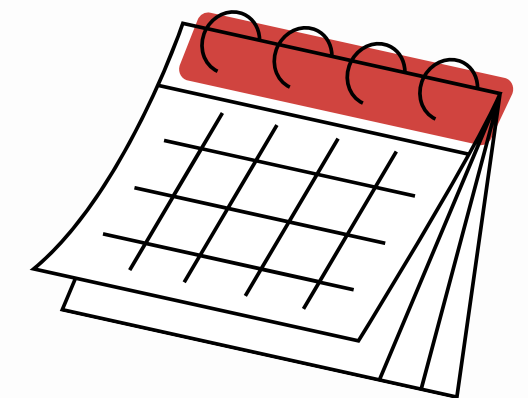
TO BE BEST PREPARED FOR NEXT YEAR'S OPPORTUNITIES, WE SUGGEST YOU BECOME PROJECT READY BY THE END OF DECEMBER.

A Word About Impaired Waters

Relative to County lakeside/ponded communities outside of the NYC watershed:

- Could failing septic systems be affecting the quality of recreational waters, leading to long-term, damaging economic impacts?

- Could impaired bodies of water have an effect on nearby drinking water sources?

- If the answer is yes, <u>*it's all about the data!*</u> *For a funding agency: no data, no money.*

- Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment (CSLAP)

  - *a volunteer lake monitoring program managed cooperatively by NYS DEC and Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA).*

  - *obtains data on harmful algal blooms, invasive species, water temperature, clarity, etc.*

  - *volunteers trained in approved sampling methods*

  - *certified labs used to analyze water samples & data interpreted by professionals*

  - *some of our lake communities already participate!*
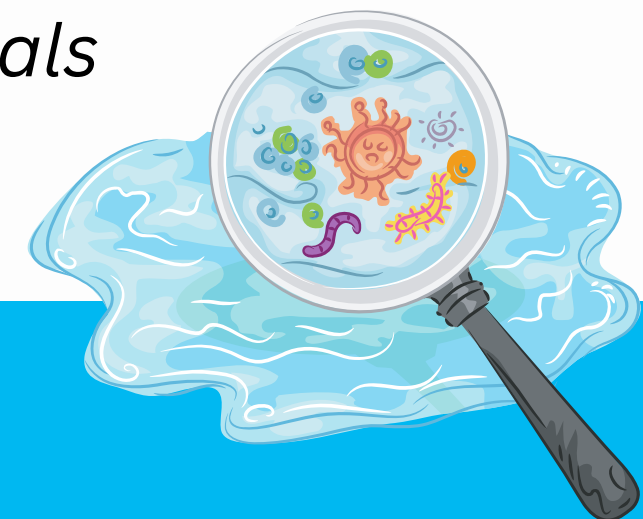
Potential Funding Sources

- What funding tends to be available vs. what is not
- A word on the Environmental Bond Act
- Potential Funding Resources
  - *Sullivan County Water Infrastructure Funding Resource Guide*
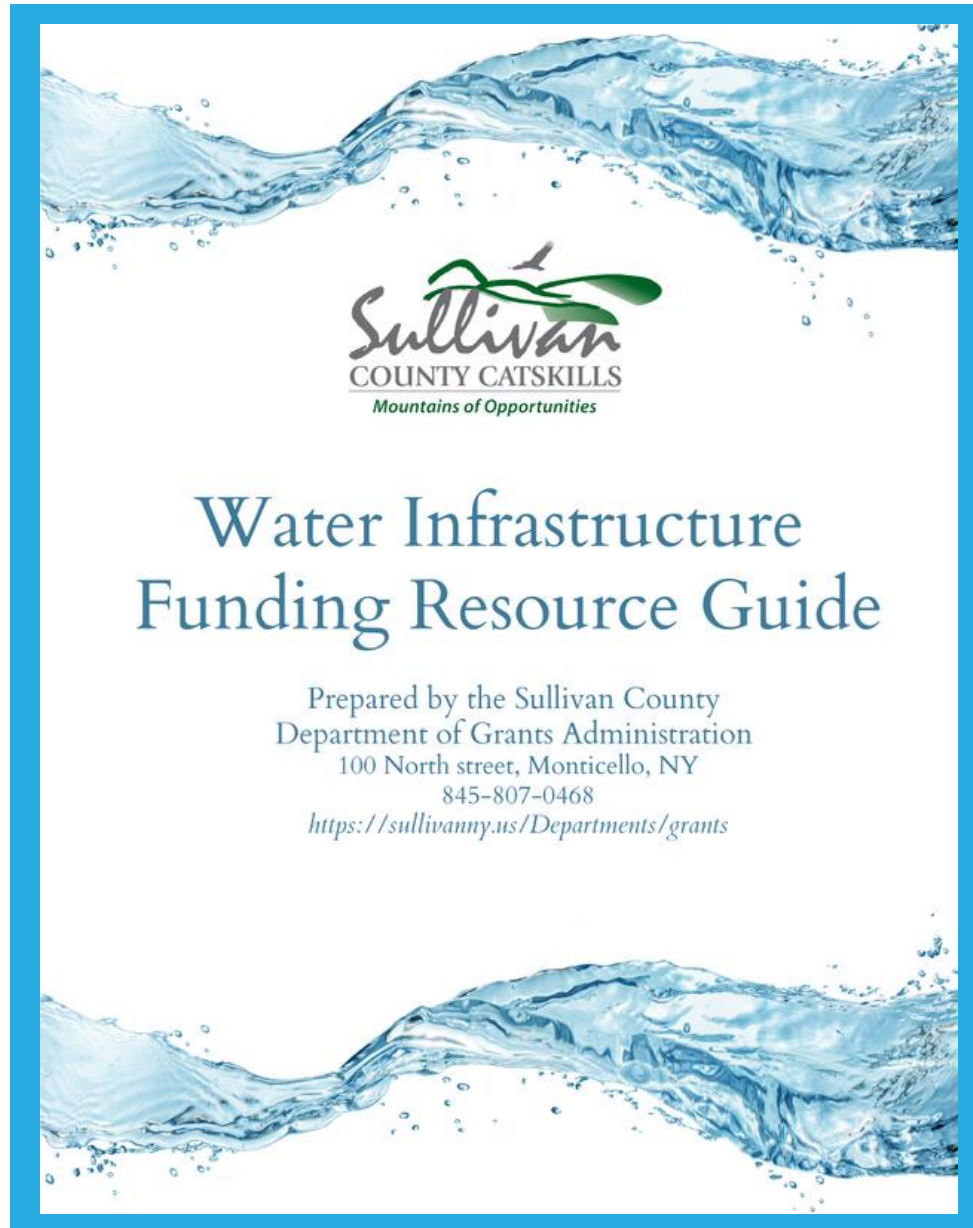
How Sullivan County Can Help

The Role of the Planning Division
- Exploring the possibility of a three-tiered approach
- Newsletter

The Role of Grants Administration
- Grant-Readiness Resources (in packet)
- https://sullivanny.us/Departments/grants
- 845-807-0468
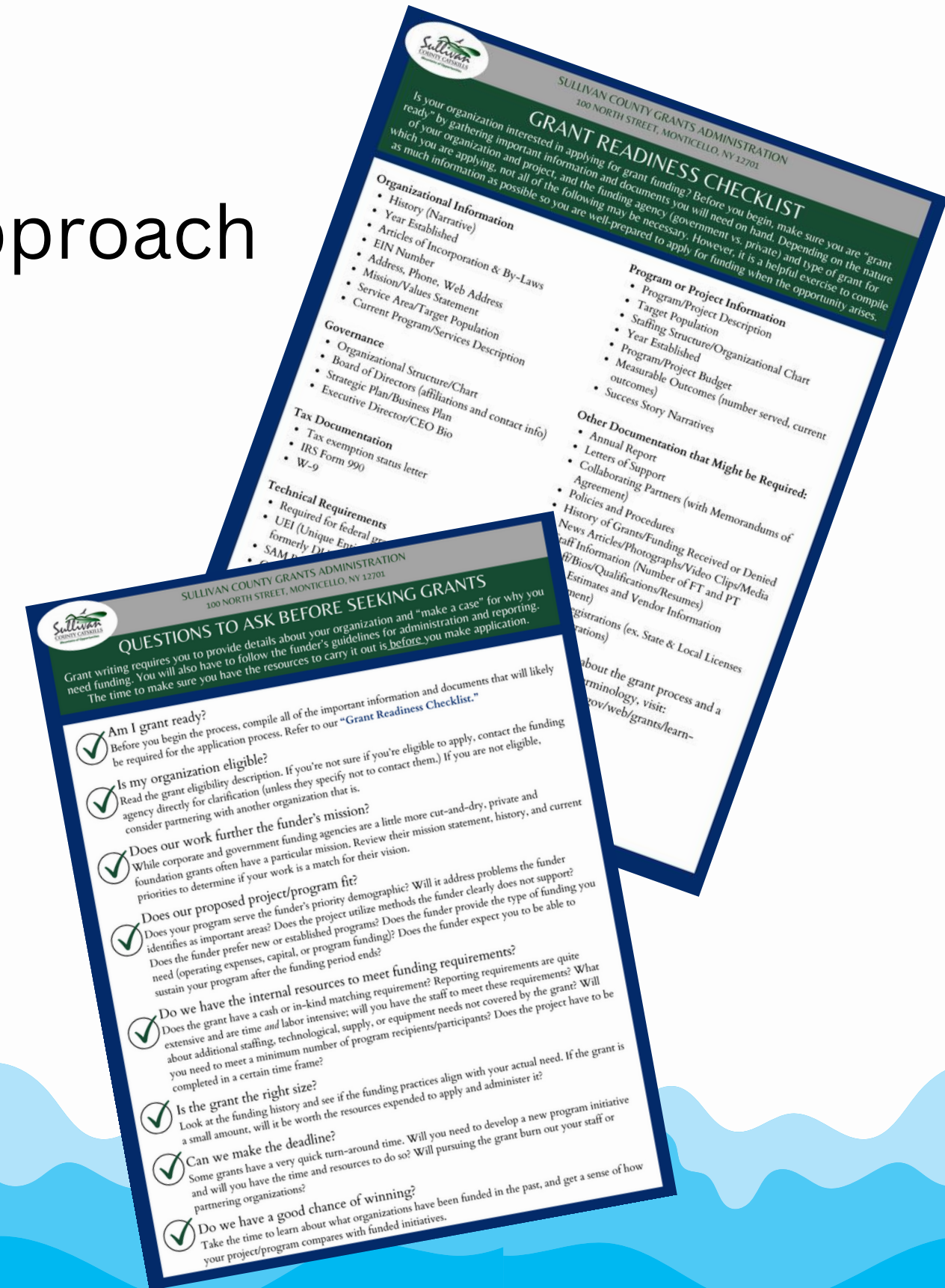
RESOURCES

For Expanding Knowledge...

For Technical Assistance...

Your Local Library

Grants.gov Learning Center

Hudson Valley Regional Council

Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center

Environmental Facilities Corp

SUNY Sullivan ed2go Grant Writing Course

Sullivan County

Department of Grants Administration

100 North Street

Monticello, NY 12701

845-807-0468

www.sullivanny.us/Departments/grants

Water Infrastructure Funding & Grant Resource Guide

Prepared by the Sullivan County
Department of Grants Administration
100 North Street, Monticello, NY
845-807-0468
https://sullivanny.us/Departments/grants

Grant Process Work Flow

Project Preparation

- Meet with stakeholders to determine need and develop project.
- Involve collaborating partners/agencies as needed.
- Define project objectives, budget, and outcomes.
- A "stitch in time saves nine." Having a project planned out in advance will save time when you're ready to actually put together an application.

NOFA

- Be on the lookout for appropriate funding opportunities.
- When a Notification of Funding Availability in alignment with your project presents itself, read the eligibility requirements and guidelines carefully(once, twice, and three times over.)
- Review the NOFA early and often, and develop a timeline for preparing the application.

RESOLUTION?

- Check requirements related to resolutions required for governing bodies to make application. This may be required for municipalities, especially if entering into IMAs or MOUs, or if match funding is required.

APPLICATION & SUBMISSION

- Complete the grant application process.
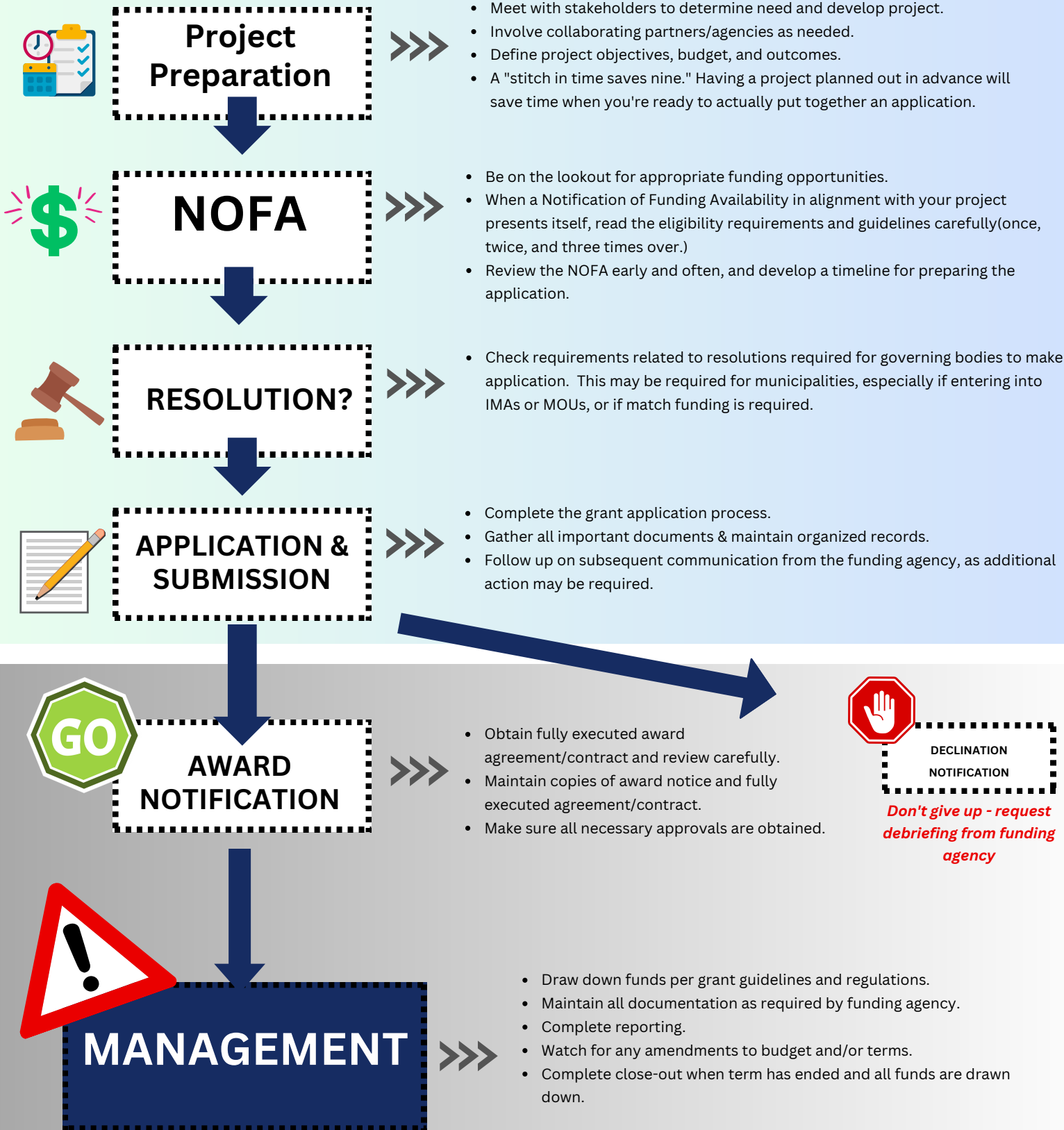- Gather all important documents & maintain organized records.
- Follow up on subsequent communication from the funding agency, as additional action may be required.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

- Obtain fully executed award agreement/contract and review carefully.
- Maintain copies of award notice and fully executed agreement/contract.
- Make sure all necessary approvals are obtained.

DECLINATION NOTIFICATION

Don't give up - request debriefing from funding agency

MANAGEMENT

- Draw down funds per grant guidelines and regulations.
- Maintain all documentation as required by funding agency.
- Complete reporting.
- Watch for any amendments to budget and/or terms.
- Complete close-out when term has ended and all funds are drawn down.

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE SEEKING GRANTS

Grant writing requires you to provide details about your organization and "make a case" for why you need funding. You will also have to follow the funder's guidelines for administration and reporting. The time to make sure you have the resources to carry it out is _before_ you make application.

Am I grant ready?
Before you begin the process, compile all of the important information and documents that will likely be required for the application process. Refer to our **"Grant Readiness Checklist."**

Is my organization eligible?
Read the grant eligibility description. If you're not sure if you're eligible to apply, contact the funding agency directly for clarification (unless they specify not to contact them.) If you are not eligible, consider partnering with another organization that is.

Does our work further the funder's mission?
While corporate and government funding agencies are a little more cut-and-dry, private and foundation grants often have a particular mission. Review their mission statement, history, and current priorities to determine if your work is a match for their vision.

Does our proposed project/program fit?
Does your program serve the funder's priority demographic? Will it address problems the funder identifies as important areas? Does the project utilize methods the funder clearly does not support? Does the funder prefer new or established programs? Does the funder provide the type of funding you need (operating expenses, capital, or program funding)? Does the funder expect you to be able to sustain your program after the funding period ends?

Do we have the internal resources to meet funding requirements?
Does the grant have a cash or in-kind matching requirement? Reporting requirements are quite extensive and are time _and_ labor intensive; will you have the staff to meet these requirements? What about additional staffing, technological, supply, or equipment needs not covered by the grant? Will you need to meet a minimum number of program recipients/participants? Does the project have to be completed in a certain time frame?

Is the grant the right size?
Look at the funding history and see if the funding practices align with your actual need. If the grant is a small amount, will it be worth the resources expended to apply and administer it?

Can we make the deadline?
Some grants have a very quick turn-around time. Will you need to develop a new program initiative and will you have the time and resources to do so? Will pursuing the grant burn out your staff or partnering organizations?

Do we have a good chance of winning?
Take the time to learn about what organizations have been funded in the past, and get a sense of how your project/program compares with funded initiatives.

GRANT READINESS CHECKLIST

Is your organization interested in applying for grant funding? Before you begin, make sure you are "grant ready" by gathering important information and documents you will need on hand. Depending on the nature of your organization and project, and the funding agency (government vs. private) and type of grant for which you are applying, not all of the following may be necessary. However, it is a helpful exercise to compile as much information as possible so you are well-prepared to apply for funding when the opportunity arises.

Organizational Information
- History (Narrative)
- Year Established
- Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws
- EIN Number
- Address, Phone, Web Address
- Mission/Values Statement
- Service Area/Target Population
- Current Program/Services Description

Governance
- Organizational Structure/Chart
- Board of Directors (affiliations and contact info)
- Strategic Plan/Business Plan
- Executive Director/CEO Bio

Tax Documentation
- Tax exemption status letter
- IRS Form 990
- W-9

Technical Requirements
- Required for federal grants
- UEI (Unique Entity Identifier or SAM, formerly DUNS number)
- SAM Registration
- Grants.gov Registration

Financial Information
- Annual Operating Budget
- Year-End Financial Statements
- Audit, if applicable
- Sources of Funding

Program or Project Information
- Program/Project Description
- Target Population
- Staffing Structure/Organizational Chart
- Year Established
- Program/Project Budget
- Measurable Outcomes (number served, current outcomes)
- Success Story Narratives

Other Documentation that Might be Required:
- Annual Report
- Letters of Support
- Collaborating Partners (with Memorandums of Agreement)
- Policies and Procedures
- History of Grants/Funding Received or Denied
- News Articles/Photographs/Video Clips/Media
- Staff Information (Number of FT and PT Staff/Bios/Qualifications/Resumes)
- Cost Estimates and Vendor Information (equipment)
- Other Registrations (ex. State & Local Licenses and Registrations)

For information about the grant process and a glossary of grant terminology, visit: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants.html

Potential Funding Resources for
Water Infrastructure Improvement Projects

New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYS EFC) – some of these programs are available through the CFA (see page 2) due end of July every year.

- *Water Infrastructure Improvement & Intermunicipal Grants* - fund wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects in order to reduce water pollution, and safeguard vital drinking water supplies from emerging contaminants and toxic chemicals. https://efc.ny.gov/wiia

- *Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant* – funding for initial planning for engineering report, so municipalities can better prepare to seek financing to help them complete their wastewater, sewer and water quality projects. https://efc.ny.gov/EPG

- *Green Innovation Grant Program* - funding for projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of climate change utilizing the following green practices: green stormwater infrastructure, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and environmental innovation. https://efc.ny.gov/gigp

- *Communities Assistance Program* - low-cost capital, grants, and expert technical assistance to help municipalities undertake critical water infrastructure projects. https://efc.ny.gov/CAT

- *Asset Management Program*-a process that municipalities can use to effectively manage infrastructure investments, including procedures to inventory, assess, and track infrastructure throughout its lifecycle, improving its longevity and supporting municipal planning. https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/101412.html

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) – typically through the CFA (see page 2) due end of July every year.
 General Information: https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/grants.html

- *Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program*- funds projects that directly improve water quality or aquatic habitat, promote flood risk reduction, restoration, and enhanced flood and climate resiliency, or protect a drinking water source. https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html

- *Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant* - funds planning reports for nonpoint source water quality improvement projects and mapping of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). The program aims to prepare nonpoint source projects for construction and application for implementation funding, and to encourage and support cooperation among regulated MS4s to complete mapping of their stormwater system. https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/116725.html

- *Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)*-is a locally led, state-supported program that empowers municipalities to improve and protect their public water sources and surrounding environment. Communities accepted into the program are provided free technical assistance to develop their own unique DWSP2 plan, leading to steps the municipality can take to protect their drinking water sources. For more information and to complete an Interest Form, visit: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/115250.html

- *The Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act* - For a *comprehensive* listing of funding opportunities, refer to the New York State and Federal Funding Opportunities Overview (May 2023): https://www.dec.ny.gov/about/127772.html

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)

- *Catalyst Program* –funds economic development and infrastructure projects throughout designated counties in its four-state service area, of which County of Sullivan, NY is a part. Letters of Interest due April 1, application due in June. https://www.nbrc.gov/content/Catalyst

CFA - Regional Economic Development Council Consolidated Funding Application

- Multiple opportunities to apply for funding from the DEC, EFC, ESD, etc. Typically opens in May and due the end of July of each year, sign up for notifications and watch for meeting notices. Meeting agendas include helpful information about available resources and REDC priorities. REDC website: https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-hudson

USDA Rural Development

- *Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs (WEP)*-provides funding for the construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less, and funding to organizations that provide technical assistance and training to rural communities in relation to their water and waste activities. https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs

USDA Rural Development Programs Worth Noting:

- *Water and Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants*- state/local governments/non-profits, for populations of 10,000 or fewer, applications accepted year-round. https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-predevelopment-planning-grants

- *Special Evaluation and Assistance for Rural Communities and Household Grants* - state/local governments/non-profits, for populations of 2,500 or fewer, applications accepted year-round. https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/search-special-evaluation-assistance-rural-communities-and-households-grant

- *Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants* - nonprofits with technical background, in areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or fewer *(*applications open October 1-December 31st every year) https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-technical-assistance-training-grants

US EPA - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Resources for Clean Water - EPA and other organizations provide funding to improve water and wastewater systems in small and rural communities. In addition, EPA and its partners have developed many tools and resources for planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining wastewater infrastructure.

- *Funding Resources for Small and Rural Wastewater Systems* - https://www.epa.gov/small-and-rural-wastewater-systems/funding-sources-small-and-rural-wastewater-systems

- *Tools, Training, and Technical Assistance for Small and Rural Wastewater Systems* - https://www.epa.gov/small-and-rural-wastewater-systems/tools-training-and-technical-assistance-small-and-rural

Bookmark and check all of the program websites periodically, in order to stay tuned for updates, notification of funding opportunities, and new program guidelines and deadlines.

Other Water–Related Resources

NY State Department of Health Drinking Water Protection Program - resources for management and protection of NY public drinking water systems, reduction of exposure to contaminents, & safeguarding wells/ septic systems.
https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/

US Water Alliance "The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure" Report - by the American Society of Civil Engineers and Value of Water Campaign
https://uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/publications/VOW%20Economic%20Paper_1.pdf

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Resources for Stakeholders *Inside* the NYC Watershed

- *New York Department of State NYC City Watershed Program* - https://dos.ny.gov/new-york-city-watershed-program

- *Catskill Watershed Corporation Septic Repair and Replacement Program*- https://cwconline.org/programs/septic-repair-and-replacement/

- *Watershed Agricultural Council NYC Watershed Boundary Map* - https://www.nycwatershed.org/nyc-watershed-boundary-map

- *NYC Environmental Protection Agency* (website includes information about Assistance for Homeowners and Landowners and Programs for Communities and Businesses) - https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/environment/about-the-watershed.page

Resources for Stakeholders *Outside* the NYC Watershed

- *NYS Septic System Replacement Fund* – OF NOTE: Sullivan County is currently <u>not</u> eligible based on 303(d) list of impaired waters, revised every three years - https://efc.ny.gov/septic-replacement

- *NYS 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters* - https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/31290.html

- *DEC CSLAP Initiative (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program)* - https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81576.html

- *CALM (Consolidated Assessment and Listing) Methodology* – https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/calm.pdf

- *New York State Federation of Lake Associations* - https://nysfola.org/

Technical Assistance

In addition to aforementioned initiatives offered through the DEC Environmental Facilities Corporation, the Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) is the recipient of grant funding to assist with Water Quality Planning in the region through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Federal Clean Water Act program. Through this funding, HVRC provides education and outreach to local municipalities with respect to water quality planning and storm water management. Contact Lauren Bunce Lauren Bunce, Water Resources Coordinator, 845-564-4075 or lbunce@hudsonvalleyrc.org.

Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC) *facilitates the development of sustainable and resilient communities throughout US EPA Region 2 (includes New York). SU-EFC enhances the administrative and financial capacities of state and local government officials, nonprofit organizations, and private sectors to make change toward improved environmental infrastructure and quality of life. For information, visit https://efc.syr.edu/assistance/*

EFC's Community Assistance Teams *host regional events and connect communities with experts who can help them undertake their critical water infrastructure projects. These Teams provide on-site or virtual consultations to help communities across the state jump start planning, submit funding applications, and see their projects through to completion.*

If you have questions about whether your project is eligible for a particular grant, contact the program rep. They are typically helpful, and may provide some tips.

Questions?

Contact the Sullivan County Division of Planning, Community Development and Environmental Management 845-807-0527 or the Department of Grants Administration at 845-807-0468.

Preparing a Winning Grant Proposal

Department of Grants Administration
100 North Street
Monticello, NY 12701

https://sullivanny.us/Departments/grants

PREPARING A WINNING GRANT PROPOSAL

A standard grant proposal should include these sections:

- **Summary**
- **Introduction to the Applicant Organization**
- **Problem or Needs Statement**
- **Objective**
- **Method**
- **Evaluation Plan**
- **Future Funding**
- **Budget**

Summary
- Keep it short. If proposal is single spaced, make it a ½ page; if double spaced, make it a full page;
- Include all elements of the proposal;
- Keep it interesting and deal with most compelling issue first; and
- Include what you're asking for within the summary.

Introduction to the Applicant Organization
- Address the organization's credibility and history.
- Rise above the competition.

NOTE: The reviewer will expect to see the following information about your organization:
- Mission Statement or Goal
- How long in operation
- Performance history aka your track record
- Other funding sources currently being utilized by the applicant organization
- The number of clients served
- The number of clients that will benefit from this project
- Accreditations
- Uniqueness

Problem, Objective & Method

Problem:

- State why the organization is concerned about the problem identified;
- Address the – who, how many, where and what issues;
- Use research–based data to make the case for what is causing the problem;
- Discuss what will happen if your organization does not act to address the problem;
- Support the existence of the problem with statistics, quotes and analysis.

Objective:

- Include information about what changes you want to see;
- The objectives should state who or what will be changed, in what direction, by how much and in what time frame;
- The objectives should be measurable, specific, achievable, time specific and relevant; There are three types of objectives:
    1. **Proven Process** – already works- want to do more of it.
    2. **Outcome** – measuring the change in the incidence of problem.
    3. **Indicator**- measuring signs that the incidence of the problem is likely to decline (research-based).

- You may have more than one objective for a single problem;
- Conduct a trial run of your objective to see what your results would be.

Method:

- Address the processes you will be using to meet the objectives;
- Clearly state *who* will do *what* and *when*;
- Address other options considered and make sure that your methods for meeting the objective are research based;
- Chart out your methods. Chart format could consist of the activity, timeframe, person / party responsible for carrying out the method, identification of the partners, where the method will be carried out and the costs involved;
- Organize your methods – chronologically, by target group, thematically, geographically and /or by objective; and
- Be specific about why the work will be done in a specific way, what challenges you expect and your strategy for dealing with those challenges.

Evaluation Plan

- Having an evaluation plan will help to ensure you are meeting the proposed program objectives; and
- It should be developed using research-based, proven plans of evaluation. Increasingly, funders want to see that you are making good use of the funds provided and that you are paying attention to future program development needs.

Future Funding

- What funds will you use to continue the program after the grant ends? (Funders are interested in funding programs that show longevity.)
- Who else is contributing to the project or program?
- Is the funding secured?

Budget

- The total budget for the project is made up of the amount of money requested and the amount being used from other sources;
- Include all line items and budget realistically;
- Refrain from rounding off to the nearest $10K and do not include cents in your figures;
- Involve fiscal staff in the budget process;
- Do *not* include a budget line item for "Miscellaneous"; and
- When drafting the budget justification, explain in brief how the calculations were arrived at. You can use bullet style in the budget justification.

Questions?

Contact the Department of Grants Administration at 845-807-0468.

Additional Points About How to Develop a Problem / Need Statement

The "Problem / Need Statement" delineates the problem within the community to be addressed. Data is provided to substantiate the need and a human interest story can be included to make the issue more personal.

- The statement is used to educate the funder about the community problem or need the organization seeks to address. The statement will enable a reviewer to learn more about the issues by its presentation of the facts and of the evidence that supports the need for the project.   This section of the grant proposal also establishes that the applicant understands the problem / need and therefore will be able to appropriately address it. The information used to support the case can come from authorities in the field, as well as from your own experience.
- The statement of need should be succinct, yet persuasive.

The Function & Importance of the Problem / Need Statement

The function of the statement is to discuss the problem/need in a way that makes the funder want to help with it.

- <u>Problem</u>: a community or external constituency need;
- <u>Action:</u> what your organization proposes to do to address the problem; and
- <u>Solution:</u> the positive outcome that results from the action effecting change on the problem;
- Problem + Action = Solution;

The statement demonstrates to the funder that there is a problem /need that is important and urgent. This statement must relate both to your organization's mission statement and to the funder's priorities.

Problem / Need Statement Should Include the Following Information:

- **Description of the problem /need:** What is the problem / need? Who? What? Where? When? Why?

- **Recognition of the problem / need:** Why is it a problem /need? Who else sees it as a problem /need? What are the views of community stakeholders about this problem / need?

- **Need for resolution of the problem /need:** What will happen to the population served and to the community if the problem / need is not resolved? Is there a cost to society?

- **Hurdles that need to be overcome before the problem /need is solved:** Clearly identify the challenges involved in addressing the problem /need. Describe the gap between what exists now and what ought to be. What has prevented resolution of the problem /need?

- **Urgency required to address problem / need:** Why does it need to be addressed now? What is currently being done about the problem /need?

- **Human interest story:** Provide a real example of how the problem is affecting someone's life and how the proposed program will impact his/her life. Make it real.

Pitfalls to Avoid in Developing a Problem Statement:

- Leaving out information asked for in the Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Proposing a project that is outside the scope of the RFP
- Using outdated or unsubstantiated information
- Providing insufficient data or too much statistical information
- Including unfamiliar concepts or terms
- Long, convoluted sentences

General Tips for Writing a Grant Application

Use strong words for a lively proposal that stands out from others.
A good source for examples of creative wording is the book *Spunk & Bite: A Writer's Guide to Bold, Contemporary Style* by Arthur Plotnik.

Examples of weighty words:
- *Innovative, ground-breaking, pioneering* instead of *new*
- *Impoverished, poverty-stricken, needy* instead of *poor*

Make the language tight—pare down and condense — more is not necessarily better, especially if there are page limits!

NOTE: The bottom line is that in order to develop a program that will be funded; the program must seek to solve the problem or address the need that both your organization and the funder are interested in and the project must generate results that are measurable.

Give the reviewer hope.
The picture you paint should not be so grim that the solution appears hopeless. If you do that, the funder will wonder whether an investment in your solution would be worthwhile. Here's an example of a solid statement of need that is hopeful:

"Breast cancer kills. But statistics prove that regular check-ups catch most breast cancer in the early stages, reducing the likelihood of death. Hence, a program to encourage preventive check-ups will reduce the risk of death due to breast cancer."

Decide whether you can demonstrate that your project / program addresses the need differently or better than others that preceded it.
It is often difficult to describe the need for your project / program without being critical of the competition. Being critical of others will not be well received by the funder. It may cause the funder to look more carefully at your own project / program to see why you felt you had to build your case by demeaning others. The funder may have invested in these other projects or may begin to consider them, now that you have brought them to the funder's attention. If possible, you should make it clear that you are cognizant of, and on good terms with, others doing work in your field.

Avoid circular reasoning.
When you use circular reasoning, you would typically present the absence of your solution as the actual problem. Then your solution is offered as the way to solve the problem.

For example, the circular reasoning for building a community swimming pool might go like this: *"The problem is that we have no pool in our community. Building a pool will solve the problem."* A more persuasive case would show what a pool has meant to a neighboring community, permitting it to offer recreation, exercise, and physical therapy programs. The statement might refer to a survey that underscores the target audience's planned usage of the facility and conclude with the connection between the proposed usage and potential benefits to enhance life in the community.

Using Data and Statistics
The role of data and statistics is to back up the issue that you are addressing, by utilizing reliable information sources. The data you use should be as current as possible and it should be unbiased. In order to make sure that you are using unbiased data, you need to be aware of who did the research and who funded it. In addition, use authoritative data that is considered reputable by others. Data functions to describe, compare, trend, predict and explain.

Decide which facts or statistics best support the project.
Be sure the data you present is accurate. There are few things more embarrassing than to have the funder tell you that your information is out of date or incorrect. Information that is too generic or broad will not help you develop a winning argument for your project. Similarly, using information that does not relate to your organization or to the project you are presenting will cause the funder to question the entire proposal.

Data Searches and Useful Web Sites for Accessing Data / Statistics

Demographic information clearinghouses, federal agencies, state agencies, foundations and other nonprofits, databases, scholarly journals and articles, and industry publications are key resources for gathering statistics and data. While this list is not comprehensive, these sources are a good starting point.

US Census Website   www.census.gov

Of particular interest is information about Sullivan County and its communities that is available through the US Census web site. A good starting point is to go to *Sullivan County QuickFacts at http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36105.html* . You can also find a Fact Sheet for the city/town name or zip code that you are focusing on. The Fact Sheet will provide information such as population, median household income, number of individuals speaking languages other than English at home, poverty levels, etc. National comparisons are also available on the Fact Sheet. You can print a Fact Sheet out for New York which will allow you to compare your community to the state as a whole.

American Fact Finder   http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

This is another handy tool to provide you with statistics. The data is compiled from several censuses and from a number of separate surveys such as the American Community Survey and the American Housing Survey. You can obtain data at the state, county, municipality, town, zip code, census tract, and block group level. Reference maps are available so you can pinpoint the exact locations for which you need data. Information can be downloaded into Excel files.

FedStats & Federal Agency Websites   www.fedstats.gov

Search by *keyword or topic* and this site will link you to federal agencies who maintain those statistics. Search by *location* and you will pull up a fact sheet for that location (also available on the Census website). You can also search by agency. Many federal agencies maintain a lot of research information online.

A few examples include:

- <u>Bureau of Labor Statistics</u>: *www.bls.gov*. This is often fastest way to find information at the national, state, or local level is (click on —Local Unemployment Rates on the right and scroll down to find NY information);
- <u>USDA Economic Research Service:</u> *www.ers.usda.gov* (Try —Publica ons or —Data Sources);
- <u>Department of Health & Human Services</u>: *www.hhs.gov/reference/;*
- <u>HHS Reference Collection</u>: *http://datacenter.kidscount.org/*; and
- <u>Administration for Children and Families</u>: *www.acf.hhs.gov*

NYS Agency Websites   https://www.ny.gov/agencies

 Websites from various agencies in New York State offer a wealth of information. Locate all New York State agencies, including the NYS Department of Health and NYS Office for the Aging.

Demographics Now   www.freedemographics.com

This is a free information service. Basic demographic data including income and employment statistics can be found on the website. You can search by the entire US, State, County, Census Tract, Block Group, US Places, ZIP Codes, etc. Information can be downloaded.

United for ALICE   https://www.unitedforalice.org/state-overview/new-york

ALICE stands for *Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed*. The Research Center-New York provides a source for exploring the latest ALICE data on this growing population of individuals in our state.

NEW YORK STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES OVERVIEW

For Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Other Natural Resource Protection Projects

MAY 2023

Federal Funding Opportunities to Maximize the Impact of Environmental Bond Act Funds

The below list includes, but is not limited to, potential federal funding sources that could be of interest to eligible municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, and other partners for climate change, environmental justice, and other natural resource protection projects. They are examples of funding sources that will complement or be leveraged to enhance Bond Act funds to further achieve beneficial environmental impacts across New York.

Climate Change Mitigation

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- ❖ Grid Resilience Innovation Program (GRIP): Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding is available from FY22-FY26 to enhance grid flexibility and improve the resilience of the nation's power grid against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change. Ten billion dollars will be available over the next five fiscal years with three distinct categories of funding: Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid, Smart Grid Grants, and the Grid Innovation Program. Applicants will be required to match 50-100% of the granted amount. Letter of interest, then invitation to apply required. Funding Opportunity Announcements issued in the winter.

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
- ❖ Carbon Reduction Program (CRP): A program designed for states to fund projects that are designed to reduce transportation emissions (CO_2). CRP will fund a wide range of projects designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road highway sources—from installing infrastructure to support the electrification of freight vehicles or personal cars, to constructing Bus Rapid Transit corridors, to facilitating micro-mobility and biking. A state may elect to transfer up to 50% of CRP funds to any other apportionment of the state. CRP funding is available from FY22-FY26. A match of 20% is required.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- ❖ **Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program (EJG2G):** Provides funding at the state, local, territorial, and tribal levels to support government activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms. There is no non-federal match requirement. Awards are typically $1 million. Request for applications issued in the winter.
- ❖ **Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Program (EJCPS):** Provides funding directly to community-based organizations to address environmental injustices. The program anticipates making 50 awards of approximately $500,000 each. No non-federal match requirement. Request for applications issued in the winter.
- ❖ **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF):** This program is a $27-billion investment to mobilize financing and private capital to combat the climate crisis and deliver lower energy costs to communities, particularly the communities which have been historically left behind. The objectives of GGRF include reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs) and other air pollutants, delivering these benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities, and mobilizing finance and private capital to stimulate additional deployment of GHG and air pollution reducing projects.
    - ❖ **National Clean Investment Fund:** This $14 billion competition will fund 2-3 nonprofits that will partner with private capital providers to deliver on the objectives of the GGRF.
    - ❖ **Clean Communities Investment Accelerator:** A $6 billion competition will fund 2-7 hub nonprofits with the plans and capabilities to rapidly build the clean financing capacity of specific networks of public, quasi-public, and non-profit community lenders to ensure that households, small businesses, schools,

and community institutions in low-income and disadvantaged communities have access to financing for cost-saving and pollution-reducing clean technology projects.

  ❖ **Solar for All:** A $7 billion competition that will provide up to 60 grants to states, tribal governments, municipalities, and nonprofits to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities to enable access to affordable, resilient, and clean solar energy.

❖ **Environmental Justice Grant Programs for Pollution Prevention:** Availability of $16 million for two new grant opportunities to support states and tribes in providing technical assistance to businesses seeking to develop and adopt pollution prevention (P2) practices that advance environmental justice in underserved communities. Individual grant awards may range from $100,000 to $800,000 for the funding period, or up to $1.2 million for multistate or multitribal projects.

  ❖ **The Pollution Prevention Grant:** Environmental Justice in Communities: New P2 grant opportunity to support technical assistance for businesses to specifically target and improve human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities. Additional information is available at grants.gov under Funding Opportunity Announcement EPA-I-OCSPP-OPPT FY2023-001. Applications are due Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

  ❖ **The Pollution Prevention Grant:** Environmental Justice Through Safer and More Sustainable Products: Supports P2 technical assistance to businesses to increase the supply, demand, and use of safer and more sustainable products, such as those that are certified by EPA's Safer Choice program, or those that conform to EPA's Recommendations for Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing. Additional information is available at grants.gov under Funding Opportunity Announcement EPA-I-OCSPP-OPPT-FY2023-002. Applications are due Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

❖ **EPA Clean School Bus Program:** With funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA's new Clean School Bus Program provides $5 billion over five years (FY 2022-2026) to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. EPA solicited rebate applications and awarded $500 million through the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates for zero-emission and low-emission school bus rebates as the first funding opportunity. EPA anticipates awarding approximately $400 million in competitive grant funding under the 2023 Clean School Bus Grant funding opportunity.

Restoration & Flood Risk Reduction

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
❖ **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC):** In FY22, $2.295 billion in funding was provided for capacity building, mitigation, and management activities. States, territories, and federally recognized tribal governments are eligible. Total capability and capacity building (C&CB) awards per state or tribal government cannot exceed $2 million. Maximum award for implementation is $50 million. Non-federal match of 25% for typical projects but can be as low as 10% for economically disadvantaged rural communities and federally recognized tribal governments. No match required for C&CB activities. Notice of Funding Opportunity released in the fall.

❖ **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA):** Funds available to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Buyouts are an eligible activity. Applicants are required to develop and adapt hazard mitigation plans that can reduce loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters. Generally, a match of 25% is required; however, projects that meet the threshold for Severe Repetitive Loss do not have this requirement.

❖ **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):** Funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces or mitigates future disaster losses in their communities. This funding is available after a presidentially declared disaster and varies in size per disaster. Non-federal match of 25% is required. Application periods vary by disaster.

❖ **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM):** Congressionally directed funding for local governments, tribes, and states to plan for and implement sustainable cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and

property from future natural hazards. PDM funds are available for 75% of the total project cost; however, small and impoverished communities are eligible for up to a 90% cost share. Average award is $2 million.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
- ❖ **National Coastal Resiliency Fund (NCRF):** In 2022, $140 million in funding was awarded to restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. Non-profits, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, or commercial (for-profit) organizations are eligible. Project categories include Community Capacity Building & Planning, Site Assessment & Preliminary Design, Final Design and Permitting, and Implementation. Typical awards are $100,000-$1 million for planning and up to $10 million for implementation. Match is encouraged, but not required. Request for pre-proposals in the winter.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- ❖ **Climate Adaptation Partnership Program (CAP) / Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA):** Funded by five-year cooperative agreements, the work is accomplished by teams of research institutions, nonprofit organizations, and state/local/tribal governments in multistate regions. It is an applied research and engagement program that expands society's regional capacity to adapt to climate impacts in the U.S. Maximum award is $500,000. No non-federal match required. Notice of Funding Opportunity issued in the winter.
- ❖ **National Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM):** Funded by $207 million in BIL funds over five years, with $44 million in funds leveraged from the Inflation Reduction Act. Program protects and restores ecologically significant habitats and conserves lands that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilient to natural hazards. Eligible uses include habitat restoration; habitat restoration planning, engineering, and design; and ecosystem conservation. Forty million dollars per year in competitive funds, with awards from $200,000-$6 million. Up to $300,000 per year in non-competitive capacity building funds per coastal zone management (CZM) program. CZM programs must serve as primary applicant but may pass through funds to other non-federal public partners. Projects in CZM boundary or coastal county. Match is encouraged, but not required. Request for applications in summer.
- ❖ **National Estuarine Research Reserve System:** Funded by $77 million, available for the next five years. National Estuarine Research Reserves are the primary applicants; however, funding can be passed through with non-federal partners. Award amounts vary according to category from $200,000-$4 million. Applications do not require a match. The goal of this program is to protect and restore ecologically significant habitats, including conserving lands to help communities become more resilient to natural hazards. Request for applications in summer.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- ❖ **Planning Assistance to States (PAS):** Federal funding to states, local governments, other non-federal entities, and eligible Native American tribes for technical assistance and comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, management, and conservation of the water and related resources of drainage basins, watersheds, or ecosystems located within states. Five million dollars in funding is available every two years per award through the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). Planning activities and technical assistance require a 50% non-federal match, although this requirement is waived for federally-recognized tribes and U.S. territories.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- ❖ **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP):** Funding for technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters that impair a watershed. Project sponsors may be a state or political subdivision thereof, qualified Native American tribe or tribal organization, or unit of local government. Eligible activities include removing debris, reshaping and protecting eroded streambanks, correcting damaged or destroyed drainage facilities, establishing vegetative cover, repairing levees and structures, repairing conservation practices, and buyouts. NCRS may provide project sponsors up to 75% of fair market value based on property appraisal, relocation costs,

or site restoration costs. Non-federal match is required, with 25% for typical construction projects and 10% for limited resource areas. No match is required for engineering or technical assistance.

❖ **Watershed Rehabilitation (REHAB):** $2.2 billion in funding for project sponsors to rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life or no longer meet federal or state safety criteria or performance standards. The program funds the building or augmentation of existing water supplies based on water supply demands. A 35% match is required for rehabilitation. No match required for engineering or technical assistance.

❖ **Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (WFPO):** Funding to be carried out jointly by local, state, and federal agencies or political subdivisions to address resource concerns due to erosion, floodwater, and sediment, and provide for improved utilization of the land and water resources. Program offers technical and financial assistance to states, local governments, and tribes to plan and implement watershed project plans for: Flood Prevention, Watershed Protection, Public Recreation, Public Fish and Wildlife, Agricultural Water Management, Municipal and Industrial Water Supply, Water Quality Management, and Watershed Structure Rehabilitation. Federal assistance is available for engineering and construction costs of flood control measures, conservation practices for water quality and erosion and sediment control, and for agricultural or municipal and industrial water supplies and recreation facilities. Projects are planned and carried out jointly by local, state, and federal agencies with support of community landowners and citizens in the watersheds. Entities of state and local government or a tribe may apply for USDA assistance. Match requirements vary by project type.

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

❖ **Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Climate Resiliency:** Funding for Federally Recognized Tribal Nations and Alaska Village Natives through technical and financial assistance to enable climate preparedness and resilience in all Indian Affairs programs. Funding is available for projects and initiatives that address and strengthen climate resilience and adaptation, ocean and coastal management, community-driven relocation and protect-in-place activities, and internships and youth engagement. There are 13 categories of funding, with award amounts ranging from $10,000-$3 million. BIL will provide $466 million over the next five years. Application due in the summer.

❖ **Ecosystem Restoration and Resilience:** $1.4 billion in BIL funds for this program. The investment includes $400 million to states, tribes, and territories to participate in voluntary efforts for resilience and restoration of America's lands, including funding for stewardship contracts, ecosystem restoration projects, invasive species detection and prevention, and native vegetation restoration efforts. One hundred million dollars is also set aside to address invasive species. Awards to this date have ranged from $100,000-$6 million.

Water Quality Improvement & Resilient Infrastructure

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

❖ **State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs:** Interest-free and low-interest financial assistance, and additional subsidy, in the form of grants or principal forgiveness, to support a variety of eligible water quality improvement and public health projects. The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH).

   o **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program:** Also known as the "base CWSRF" program. Financial assistance for the planning, design, and construction of publicly owned treatment works projects; stormwater and non-point source (NPS) projects; national estuary projects; construction, repair, or replacement of decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat municipal wastewater or domestic sewage; or emerging contaminants. Projects are ranked using a project priority score system and a project's rank relative to other projects in its category determines the type of financial assistance available for the project.

   o **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program:** Also known as the "base DWSRF" program. Financial assistance for the planning, design, construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities, equipment, sites or buildings for the supply, control, treatment, distribution, and transport of drinking water. Drinking water systems that are eligible for project

funding are community water systems, both municipally and privately owned, and non-profit, non-community water systems. Projects are ranked using a project priority score system and a project's rank relative to other projects determines the type of financial assistance available for the project.

- o **SRF Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding:** Financing and grants available in federal fiscal years 2022 through 2026 for municipal water infrastructure projects. Projects must be eligible projects under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Projects must be listed on the Annual List in the CWSRF or DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) and will be awarded in priority score order until available funds are exhausted. Funding pools available through the BIL include:
  - **CWSRF General Supplemental (CW BIL GS):** Funding for all CWSRF-eligible projects for planning, design, and construction of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Eligible projects that serve hardship communities, as defined by EFC's Hardship Policy, may be eligible for 50% grant up to a maximum amount of $25 million. The remaining project cost can be funded with CWSRF Base or BIL GS financing or other sources of funds.
  - **CWSRF Emerging Contaminants (CW BIL EC):** Funding is available for CWSRF-eligible projects whose primary purpose is to address emerging contaminants that are manufactured or naturally occurring physical, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, which are known or anticipated in the environment, that may pose newly identified or re-emerging risks to human health, aquatic life, or the environment. Examples include, but are not limited to, groundwater or surface water contamination caused by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and micro/nanoplastics. Eligible projects that serve disadvantaged communities may be awarded 100% grant up to a maximum amount of $25 million. The remaining project cost, or project scope not related to the emerging contaminants, can be funded with CWSRF Base or CW BIL GS funds or other sources of funds.
  - **DWSRF General Supplemental (DW BIL GS):** Funding for all DWSRF-eligible projects for planning, design, and construction of drinking water infrastructure. Eligible projects that serve disadvantaged communities may be awarded 70% grant up to $5 million. The remaining project cost can be funded with BIL GS financing or other sources of funds.
  - **DWSRF Emerging Contaminants (DW BIL EC):** Funding is available for DWSRF eligible projects that address emerging contaminants identified on the EPA's Contaminant Candidate List (CCL). Projects that address perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) will be prioritized. Eligible projects that serve disadvantaged communities may be awarded 100% grant up to a maximum amount of $5 million. Eligible projects that serve non-disadvantaged communities may be awarded 70% grant up to a maximum amount of $5 million. The remaining project cost can be funded with DWSRF Base or BIL GS financing or other sources of funds.
  - **DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement (DW LSLR):** Funding is available for DWSRF-eligible projects that replace lead service lines (LSL) or activities directly connected to the identification, planning, design, and replacement of lead service lines. LSL replacement projects that serve disadvantaged communities may be awarded 70% grant up to a maximum amount of $10 million. LSL inventory projects that serve disadvantaged communities may be awarded 100% grant up to a maximum amount of $2 million. The remaining project cost can be funded with DWSRF Base or DW BIL GS financing or other sources of funds. Projects that do not meet the DWSRF's hardship eligibility criteria are eligible for BIL-LSLR interest-free financing only.

- ❖ **Brownfields Programs:** Direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, environmental job training, technical assistance, training, and research. The only entities not eligible to apply are for-profit organizations and individuals, and 501(c)(4) non-profit organizations.
- ❖ **Assessment Grants:** Funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach. Applicants may request up to $500,000. Request for applications in the fall.
- ❖ **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants:** Up to $1 million to capitalize loans used to address brownfield sites contaminated by hazardous substances. Funding requests are due in the spring.
- ❖ **Cleanup Grants:** Funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the applicant. Applicants may request up to $2 million. Applications due in the fall.
- ❖ **Multipurpose (MP) Grants:** Funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites in a target area. Activities include, but are not limited to, developing inventories of brownfield sites, prioritizing those sites, community engagement activities, environmental site assessments, or carrying out cleanup activities. Up to $800,000. Applications due in the fall.

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
- ❖ **National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grants (Culvert AOP):** This program provides funding to replace, remove, and repair culverts or weirs that would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish species. Awards are expected to range from $100,000-$2 million. Non-federal match requirement is 20%, except for tribes which require no match. Funding notice issued in the winter.
- ❖ **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary:** Available FY22-FY26 to states (or a political subdivision of a state), metropolitan planning organization; local government; special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function; tribe; federal land management agency to support planning, resilience improvements, community resilience, and evacuation routes; and at-risk coastal infrastructure. No match required for planning. No maximum award. Minimum of $100,000 for planning awards. Minimum of $500,000 for Resilience Improvement, Community Resilience & Evacuation Route, and At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure awards. Funding notice issued in the spring.
- ❖ **Rebuilding American Infrastructure through Sustainability and Equity Program (RAISE):** Funding for states, local governments, tribes, and political subdivisions to support surface transportation projects that enhance safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility, and community connectivity. Additionally, the program is seeking to strengthen infrastructure resilience to hazards such as climate change. The non-federal match requirement is no more than 20% for most projects, although no match is required for projects in disadvantaged areas. Notice of Funding Opportunity issued in the winter.
- ❖ **Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP):** Available from FY22-FY26, funding to reconnect communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. RCP funds both planning and capital construction activities. Awards are expected to range from $100,000-$2 million.
- ❖ **Healthy Streets Program:** Establishes a new discretionary grant program to expand the use of cool pavement and porous pavement and expand tree cover. Goals of the program are to mitigate urban heat islands, improve air quality, reduce the extent of impervious surfaces, reduce stormwater run-off and flood risks, and reduce heat impacts to infrastructure and road users. Funding is $500 million over five years. Federal share is 80% unless a community can prove a hardship that qualifies them for 100%. Maximum grant award is $15 million.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- ❖ **Thriving Communities Technical Assistance (TCTA):** In partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, Commerce, and Agriculture; General Services Administration; and Environmental Protection Agency, the program will help local governments ensure housing needs are considered as part of their larger infrastructure investment plans while also supporting equitable development in disadvantaged communities. TCTA does not provide direct funding. Local governments are eligible and can request TCTA by filling out an online form with descriptions of the projects that would benefit from TCTA, demographic and geographic information of project beneficiaries, and other justifications on how the applicant can stand to benefit from the TCTA provided.

Open Space Land Conservation & Recreation

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
- ❖ **Acres for America Program:** Land conservation program established to provide urgently needed funding for projects that conserve important large-scale habitats for fish, wildlife, and plants through voluntary land acquisitions and perpetual conservation easements. Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions. Up to $4 million will be available and is expected to fund 4-8 projects. All grant awards require a 1:1 match of NFWF funds. Requests for pre-proposals due in the spring.
- ❖ **America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC):** Funding to conserve, connect, and restore the lands, waters, and wildlife. States, U.S. territories, and federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply. The ATBC seeks to fund projects across the following themes: conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands, and watersheds; conserving and restoring forests, grasslands, and important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks; connecting and reconnecting wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds, and seascapes; improving ecosystem and community resilience to flooding, drought, and other climate-related threats; expanding access to the outdoors, particularly in underserved communities. There is $116 million available for projects. Implementation grants are expected to be $1 million-$5 million; Planning grants expected to be $200,000-$2 million. Requests for pre-proposals due in the spring.

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- ❖ **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** Congressionally-authorized funding to states and local governments for the acquisition of land, and interest in land, for the benefit of public lands and waters for all present and future generations. The funding is used to support specific conservation, recreation, and other projects to enhance public access to and management of public land, waters, and resources.
- ❖ **National Fish Passage Program (NFPP):** Funding for states, tribes, local governments, and non-profits, to help conserve vulnerable species while building safer infrastructure for communities and improving climate resilience. A match is not required but encouraged. The maximum award for this program is $2 million, and the minimum is $100,000. Applications are due in the winter.
- ❖ **Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR):** This funding source incorporates grant programs that distribute millions of dollars annually to state agencies and tribes to manage fish, wildlife, and habitats, evaluate and enhance species of greatest conservation need, and provide recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, shooting, and boating. Programs incorporated into the WSRF include Wildlife Restoration, National Coastal Wetlands Restoration, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, Sport Fish Restoration, Clean Vessel Act, Boating Infrastructure, and Multistate Conservation.
- ❖ **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF):** Funding to states and territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands. A 25% non-federal match is required for states and territories.
  - ❖ **Traditional Conservation Grants:** Supports the development and implementation of state programs to conserve and monitor resident listed, candidate, and at-risk species. Eligible activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.
  - ❖ **Conservation Planning Assistance Grants:** Provides funding to state to develop Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), Safe Harbor Agreements (SHAs), and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs). Funding may be used to support development and planning activities such as document preparation, public outreach, baseline species surveys, habitat assessments, and inventories.

Recent Federal Funding Announcements and Guides

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Resources
- ❖ Building a Better America: A Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments, and Other Partners: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA-V2.pdf
- ❖ Building a Better America: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/BIL-Rural-Playbook-.pdf
- ❖ Building a Better America: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Technical Assistance Guide: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Infrastructure-Technical-Assistance-Guide_FINAL2.pdf
- ❖ Building a Better America: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Tribal Playbook: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-Tribal-Playbook-053122-.pdf
- ❖ Advancing Equitable Workforce Development for Infrastructure Jobs: A Guide to Selected Federal Resources: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Advancing-Equitable-Workforce-Development-for-Infrastructure-Jobs_110122.pdf
- ❖ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Maps Dashboard: https://d2d.gsa.gov/report/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-bil-maps-dashboard
- ❖ Building a Better America: Open and Upcoming Infrastructure Funding Opportunities: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Open-and-Upcoming-Infrastructure-Funding-Opportunities-Feb-6-2023-VF.pdf

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Resources
- ❖ Building a Clean Energy Economy: A Guidebook to the Inflation Reduction Act's Investments in Clean Energy and Climate Action: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Guidebook.pdf
- ❖ Guidebook to the Inflation Reduction Act's Investments in Clean Energy and Climate Action in Indian Country: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Tribal-Guidebook.pdf
    - ❖ Energy Community Tax Credit Bonus: https://energycommunities.gov/energy-community-tax-credit-bonus/
    - ❖ Energy Community Bonus Credit Amounts under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-23-29.pdf

Do you know someone who would like to receive more news and announcements from the White House Council on Environmental Quality? Please have them sign up using the form found at:
https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/a8FuL7e?source_id=7ec88ad6-5767-442f-86e6-4814c44acf2b&source_type=em&c=VPEjlpkEXXxauhgBcSKpwv2Ljw3H4IavipnVU88BMR6Q1bvYjpd4bQ==

New York State Funding Opportunities

The below list includes, but is not limited to, potential state funding sources that could be of interest to eligible municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, and other partners for climate change, environmental justice, and other natural resource protection projects. They are examples of funding sources that will complement or be leveraged to enhance Bond Act funds to further achieve beneficial environmental impacts across New York.

Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding:

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) provides low-cost capital, grants and expert technical assistance to help communities throughout New York State to undertake critical water quality infrastructure projects. A primary goal is to ensure that these projects remain affordable while safeguarding essential water resources. We support this mission by consistently using an innovative approach to developing and advancing new financing strategies to maximize the funding that can be made available to clients, aiding compliance with federal and state requirements, and promoting green infrastructure practices. For an overview of EFC's technical assistance, financing programs, and grants, visit: https://efc.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/05/efc-program-guide.pdf. Examples of funding opportunities include:

- ❖ Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) and Intermunicipal Grant (IMG) Programs
  - EFC is currently accepting applications for $425 million in state grants for critical water infrastructure projects that protect public health and the environment. Of the $425 million currently available, $200 million is being made available with the first investments under the Bond Act. Grant applications are due by July 28, 2023. For more information, visit: www.efc.ny.gov.
- ❖ Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) and Engineering Planning Grants (EPG)
  - The application period is open for the GIGP and EPG through Round 13 of the NYS Consolidated Funding Application.
    - There is $15 million available for GIGP projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of climate change through the implementation of one or more of the following green practices: green stormwater infrastructure, energy efficiency, water efficiency and environmental innovation.
    - There is $3 million available through EPG to help municipalities jump start initial planning for clean water projects. Grants of up to $100,000 are available to municipalities to help fund an engineering report so they are better prepared to seek financing to help them complete their wastewater, sewer and water quality projects.

New York State Environmental Protection Fund:

New York State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is a source of funding for capital projects that protect the environment and enhance communities. Capital projects are usually large projects that purchase land or construct facilities. Most projects that receive grants of EPF money combine it with other funding sources that require matching funds. Some examples of projects using EPF money are:

- o Purchasing land for the New York State Forest Preserve
- o Restoring historic sites
- o Conserving farmland
- o Restoring habitat
- o Controlling invasive species
- o Upgrading municipal sewage treatment plants

- Cleaning up waterfront property and creating a public park
- Helping business develop ways to recycle material

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC's) general grants page identifies many of the EPF-funded grant programs available for prospective applicants to review: https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/grants.html

Competitive grants for environmental protection and improvement are available for municipalities, community organizations, not-for-profit organizations, and others. For more information about specific eligibility requirements, enrollment periods, eligible activities, and FAQs for the grant listed, click on the name of the grant program in which you are in on DEC's grants page.

Those interested in funding opportunities can register for the New York State Contract Reporter: https://www.nyscr.ny.gov/. Another resource is the Consolidated Funding Application website: https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/

Examples of Funding Opportunities:

❖ **Water Protection Grants:** Funding for projects that protect and improve New York's water resources
  - Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program
  - NYS DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant (EPG)
  - Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Control and Abatement Program
  - Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant
  - The Hudson River Estuary (Muni, not-for-profit, other)
  - Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) program (Muni)
  - Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant (IMG) program (Muni)
  - Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) (Muni, Private Entities, State Agencies, Soil and Water Conservation Districts)
  - Septic System Replacement Program (Participating New York State counties)

❖ **Environmental Cleanup Grants:** Funding for projects that facilitate the cleanup of contaminated areas and/or aid communities affected by environmental contamination
  - Technical Assistance Grants (not-for-profit)
  - Brownfield Opportunity Areas – Department of State (Muni, not-for-profit)

❖ **Wildlife Protection Grant Programs:** Funding for projects that improve and protect wildlife habitats and/or provide public access for wildlife-related recreation.
  - The Hudson River Estuary Program (Muni, not-for-profit, other)

❖ **Land and Forest Protection Grants:** Funding for projects that protect state, privately-owned lands and forests, and trees for the public benefit.
  - Community Forest Conservation Grants (Muni)
  - Regenerate NY Cost-Share Grants for Private Landowners (other)
  - Adirondack and Catskill Parks Community Smart Growth (Muni, not-for-profit)
  - The Hudson River Estuary Program (Muni, not-for-profit, other)
  - Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trusts (not-for-profit)
  - New York State Conservation Partnership Program Grants (not-for-profit)
  - Urban and Community Forestry (Muni, not-for-profit, other)

❖ **Environmental Justice Grants:** Funding for community-based research and education projects that address multiple environmental harms and risks.
  - Environmental Justice Community Impact Grant (not-for-profit)

- ❖ **Climate Change Grants:** Funding for projects that help communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for a changing climate.
    - ▪ [Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Clean Vehicle Rebate Program](#) (Muni)
    - ▪ [Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure Grant Program](#) (Muni)
    - ▪ [Climate Smart Communities Grants](#) (Muni)
    - ▪ [Climate Resilient Farming Program](#) (other)

- ❖ **Solid and Hazardous Waste Grants:** Funding for municipal projects that improve solid waste management strategies:
    - ▪ Municipal Waste Reduction, Recycling (Muni):
        - • [Waste Reduction/Prevention Projects](#)
        - • [Recycling Capital Projects (equipment and facilities)](#)
        - • [Recycling Coordination and Education Projects](#)
        - • [Household Hazardous Waste Projects](#)
        - • [Municipal Landfill Closure Projects](#)
        - • [Municipal Landfill Gas Management Projects](#)
    - ▪ Household Hazardous Waste Disposal (Muni)
    - ▪ Solid Waste Municipal Landfill Closure (Muni)
    - ▪ Municipal Landfill Gas Management (Muni)
- ❖ **Food Waste Reduction, Food Donation, and Food Scraps Recycling Grants**
    - ▪ [Municipal Funding for Food Scraps Recycling Initiatives](#) (Muni)
    - ▪ [Food Waste Reduction & Diversion Reimbursement Program](#) (not-for-profit, other)

- ❖ **Great Lakes Grants**
    - ▪ New York State's Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program is funded under the Environmental Projection Fund and administered in partnership with New York Sea Grant (NYSG) via MOU. This grant program directly supports implementation of New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda across multiple categories (water protection, lands and forests, habitat, climate change, etc.).
        - • NYSG's webpage link: https://seagrant.sunysb.edu/articles/t/new-york-s-great-lakes-basin-small-grants-program-home
        - • StoryMap site: https://small-grants-program-ccegeomaps.hub.arcgis.com/pages/apply-for-funding
        - • An additional list of current state and federal Great Lakes Restoration funding opportunities is available at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/glfunding.pdf.

Clean Energy Funding:

Dedicated funding sources such as the Clean Energy Fund and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative provide support for New York State's efforts to build an inclusive clean energy economy, accelerate the transition from fossil natural gas, and foster healthy and resilient communities. Transitioning to a clean energy economy requires constant and dedicated focus, working in concert with communities, residents, and businesses to take action on energy choices, energy efficiency, climate, and resilience.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority website details available funding opportunities to support the clean energy transition: https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs

Examples of funding opportunities and resources include:

- ❖ **Clean Resilient Buildings and Clean Transportation**
    - ▪ **P-12 Clean Green Schools Initiative (CGSI)**: Helps under-resourced public schools enhance their sustainability practices by reducing school energy loads, decarbonizing their building portfolio, improving indoor air quality and providing clean energy educational opportunities. Through this program schools are eligible for 'Clean Transportation Studies' which can help districts develop transition plans to electrify their

vehicle fleet. The program can cover up to 100% of the study, depending on whether they are designated as High-Need by the New York State Education Department or located in a disadvantaged community.

- **FlexTech Program:** The FlexTech program shares the cost to produce an objective, site-specific, and targeted study on how best to implement clean energy and/or energy efficiency technologies. This program is available for bus contractors as well. FlexTech covers up to 75% of the cost of 'Clean Transportation Studies' for schools, and up to 50% for contractors.
- **New York Truck Voucher Incentive Program (NYTVIP)**: This program helps make it easier for fleets to adopt zero-emission vehicle technologies while removing the oldest, dirtiest diesel engines from New York roads through vouchers, or discounts to purchase or lease medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission battery electric or hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles.
- **Clean Green Campuses:** Provides support, resources, and recognition for colleges and universities in New York State that implement clean energy projects and principles on their campuses, in their classrooms, and in their surrounding communities.

❖ **Community and Consumer**
- **Clean Energy Communities:** Supports and recognizes local government leaders across the state by providing grants to eligible municipalities to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development projects in communities.
- **Regional Clean Energy Hubs:** Hubs are teams of trusted, knowledgeable, community-based organizations that provide information to individuals, small businesses, and affordable housing owners about the benefits of the clean energy economy, ways to reduce energy use and costs, and how to make more informed energy decisions.
- **New York Energy Advisor:** Helps income-eligible New Yorkers and affordable housing owners spend less on energy and create healthier and more comfortable spaces. This online resource connects residents with energy-saving programs and resources in New York State.

Homes & Community Renewal Funding:

❖ **Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG):**
- The New York State Community Development Block Grant program provides resources to cities, towns, and villages with populations under 50,000 and counties with an area population under 200,000.
- CDBG funding is available to support creation of affordable housing and suitable living environments, as well as expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income. HCR releases CDBG funding for housing activities (owner occupied rehab, manufactured housing replacement, residential water/sewer laterals) in an annual competitive funding round. CDBG funding is also available for public infrastructure improvements, public facilities and planning through the state's annual Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process.
- Awards range in size from $50,000 to $1,750,000. Applications for funding in the 2023 CFA round are due by July 28, 2023. For more information, refer to the following webpage on the Homes and Community Renewal website - https://hcr.ny.gov/community-development-block-grant.

❖ **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**
- The NYS Weatherization Assistance Program is the largest residential energy conservation program in the country, serving all 62 counties in New York State. NYS WAP assists income-eligible homeowners and renters by reducing heating and cooling costs through energy-conservation measures, while also addressing health and safety issues in their homes.
- The scope of NYS WAP services provided are prioritized relative to their effectiveness to reduce the amount of energy needed to heat and cool homes, supply hot water, and provide lighting, thus reducing energy consumption while minimizing the impact of higher fuel costs on low-income families now and in the future.
- Both privately owned single-family and multi-family buildings are assisted, including qualified multi-family properties that may be owned and/or managed by affordable housing developers or agencies.

- For information on qualifying buildings considered 'multi-family', please see the most current NYS WAP State Plan (V.1.2 Building Eligibility; Eligible structures), posted to [Become a Weatherization Provider | Homes and Community Renewal (ny.gov)](). Applications to the NYS WAP program are accepted on a rolling basis submitted to the local WAP provider(s) assigned to the designated service areas.
- Program services are delivered through NYS Homes and Community Renewal's (HCR) statewide network of [local service providers]() who may use their own trained, certified crews or hire local private contractors to perform the work. Individual project allocations are sized to cover the scope of work identified by the local WAP provider as a result of an on-site energy audit of the building. Funds are provided directly to qualified contractors to perform improvements through the local WAP provider. Homeowners, affordable housing developers, property managers, and other housing and community development agencies are encouraged to contact their local NYS WAP provider for more information.
- Households with incomes at or below 60% of state median income are eligible for assistance. The program services available to both homeowners and renters are provided with priority given to senior citizens, families with children, and persons with disabilities. Weatherization is structured as a direct install program for building owners. For more information, refer to the following webpage on the Homes and Community Renewal website - https://hcr.ny.gov/weatherization.

❖ **Climate Friendly Homes Fund (CFHF)**
- The new Climate Friendly Homes Fund will provide small multifamily properties, between 5-50 units, access to funds to support electrification measures.
- With $250 million in New York State funding, CPC and New York State Homes and Community Renewal aim to finance electrification retrofits in at least 10,000 units of multifamily housing that serve economically disadvantaged communities. These funds will empower small building owners move towards decarbonization by retrofitting heating and hot water systems with high efficiency electric systems. CHFH funding is designed to support the identification and execution of these scopes of work.
- The program will be deployed by the awarded Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), The Community Preservation Corporation (CPC). CFHF will provide up to $25,000 per unit for Multifamily projects between 5 and 50 units in the form of soft subsidy to eligible projects.
- The funds will be available to regulated affordable housing and unregulated affordable housing. Where buildings are not subject to an existing regulatory agreement with a public agency, properties must be located in a Low-Moderate Income Qualified Census Tract as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or located in a Disadvantaged Community as defined in the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.
- Interested owners and development teams should engage directly with CPC for program applications, additional program details, and updates. Applications for Climate Friendly Homes Fund will be available on The Community Preservation Corporations' website. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. For more information and to apply for CFHF, refer to the CPC website - https://communityp.com/climate-friendly-homes-fund/.

❖ **Clean Energy Initiative (CEI)**
- HCR's Clean Energy Incentives for High Performance Projects ("CEI") is open to new construction, adaptive reuse, and existing building renovations. Projects will be selected from both the 4% Bond Finance and 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) programs per the eligibility criteria defined in a set of CEI term sheets published to HCR's website, found on the respective links below.
- Generally, the CEI program is designed to fund HCR's "Stretch" sustainability goals, outlined in the recently released Sustainability Guidelines. For new construction, for example, this equates to all electric and passive house levels of performance.
- If selected for clean energy funding, 4% projects will be notified through a conditional award letter contingent upon final approval of project financing; 9% LIHTC projects will be notified at the same time as the RFP funding award announcements.
- In addition to receiving clean energy funding based on construction type to offset the incremental costs associated with achieving the designed building performance, awarded CEI projects will receive support from a designated Technical Assistance Provider to assist with the enhanced design efforts, at no additional

cost to the project. After the award is made, the Technical Assistance Provider will guide the project's development team and energy efficiency consultant through finalizing the construction documents and through to construction completion, ensuring CEI compliance and providing additional support to the Development Teams as they navigate high-performance building design and construction.
- Recipients of CEI funds are not eligible to receive funding from NYSERDA, with an exception for their RTEM, NYSun/solar programs, and the Utilities Clean Heat Program. All CEI recipients must show proof of paying into the Systems Benefit Charge (SBC) through their local utility provider.
- Award size varies by construction types but ranges on the low end from $5,500/unit for new construction and up to $25,000/unit for existing buildings. Applications are integrated into the larger financing applications for the 4% and 9% programs. For more information, refer to the following webpage on the Homes and Community Renewal website - https://hcr.ny.gov/clean-energy-initiative.

❖ **Resilient Retrofits**
- Through Resilient Retrofits, low-interest loans are being made available for home flood proofing and climate resiliency upgrades.
- Homeowners meeting income eligibility requirements and living in the 500-year floodplain can receive loans of up to $50,000 for flood mitigation and energy efficiency improvements.
- The nonprofit housing and community development organization Home HeadQuarters is providing income-eligible homeowners in Erie County who live within the 500-year floodplain loans of up to $50,000 at 1% interest to address flood risks and improve energy efficiency in the home.
- Funds must be used to conduct at least one flood mitigation activity, such as moving mechanicals above the flood line or installing flood vents as part of their overall home project. Funding can also cover improvements such as installing a new hot water tank or new energy-efficient appliances.
- The $10 million loan fund through New York State Homes and Community Renewal helps New York homeowners protect their homes in response to climate change and increased flooding events. Applications maybe received on an on-going basis. For more information, refer to the following webpage on the Home HeadQuarters website - https://www.homehq.org/nys-resilient-retrofits.

NEW YORK STATE

Clean Water,
Clean Air & Green Jobs
Environmental Bond Act