

Funding Opportunity Update

RESOURCES FOR CLEAN AIR AGENCIES

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Here's a roundup of current open opportunities that local and state agencies may wish to explore for project funding. If NACAA can be helpful in connecting with or applying for funding, we're your team and have experience in this kind of thing – please don't hesitate to ask.

National Association of Clean Air Agencies
Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local and State Agencies
February 28, 2019

* Denotes new opportunity since the last NACAA Grant and Funding Opportunities Newsletter

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

***Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program**

These grants are for projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions, particularly from fleets operating at or servicing goods movement facilities located in areas designated as having poor air quality. Further, priority for funding will be given to projects which result in outcomes that benefit affected communities, those that engage affected communities with respect to the design and performance of the project, and those which can demonstrate the ability to promote and continue efforts to reduce emissions after the project has ended. EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$40 million in DERA funding under this announcement. See <https://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants>

***National Environmental Information Exchange Network**

The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding for projects that develop the Network and enable timely, on-demand access to environmental data through innovative technologies, improved support systems, and expanded collaboration using shared tools and services. See <https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/fiscal-year-2019-national-environmental-information-exchange-network-grant>

Environmental Justice Small Grants

This grants program provides funding directly to community-based organizations for projects that help residents of underserved communities understand and address local environmental and public health issues. “Underserved community” refers to a community with environmental justice concerns and/or vulnerable populations, including minority, low income, rural, tribal, indigenous, and homeless populations that may be disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks. See <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program> and <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program-project-descriptions-2017>

Volkswagen Mitigation Trust

The U.S. government and VW resolved allegations that VW violated the Clean Air Act by selling diesel vehicles equipped with defeat devices. As part of this settlement, VW has provided significant funding into an Environmental Mitigation Trust. States will develop plans for the use of these funds, including grant programs for nitrogen oxide mitigation efforts. See www.vwclearinghouse.org

Department of Health and Human Services

Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP has provided assistance to families for costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises and weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs. See <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap/about>

IC Bus

Grants Toward the Purchase of Propane School Buses

This grant program offers qualifying school districts throughout the U.S. \$5,000 in grants per newly purchased propane-powered CE Series school buses. See <https://www.icbus.com/bus>

U.S. Department of Energy

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

PACE is an innovative mechanism for financing energy efficiency, solar and related improvements on private property. PACE programs allow local and state governments and other authorities, when authorized by state law, to fund the up-front cost of energy improvements on commercial and residential properties, which are paid back over time by the property owners. See <http://energy.gov/eere/slsc/property-assessed-clean-energy-programs> and <http://www.pacenation.us/resources/all-programs/>

SolSmart Technical Assistance – Nationally Distinguished, Locally Powered

SolSmart is a technical assistance program for local governments. The program is designed to drive greater solar deployment and help make it possible for more homes and businesses to access affordable and renewable solar energy to meet their electricity needs. SolSmart experts will design personalized action plans for communities that outline a path to designation as a SolSmart community, along with an approximate timeline. See <http://www.gosparc.org/>

U.S. Department of Transportation

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

This program provides formula grant funding to nonattainment and maintenance areas for ozone, carbon monoxide, and/or particulate matter. States that have no nonattainment or maintenance areas still receive a minimum amount of funding for air quality projects or other elements of flexible spending. See https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/

State of Good Repair Program

This program provides capital assistance for maintenance, replacement and rehabilitation projects of high-intensity fixed guideway and bus systems to help transit agencies maintain

assets in a state of good repair and to support the development and implementation of transit asset management plans. Eligible recipients are state and local governments in urbanized areas with fixed guideway and high intensity motorbus systems in revenue service for at least seven years. See <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/state-good-repair-grants-5337>

Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Finance (RRIF) Loans

Funds are used to acquire, improve or rehabilitate intermodal facilities, refinance outstanding debt and develop new intermodal facilities. Direct loans can fund up to 100 percent of a railroad project with repayment periods of up to 35 years and interest rates equal to the cost of borrowing to the government. Priority is given to projects that provide public benefits, including benefits to public safety, the environment (including air quality) and economic development. See <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/programs-services/rrif> and <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/programs-services/rrif/applicant-information>

Federal Aviation Administration, Voluntary Airport Low Emissions Program (VALE)

Some airports are included on a fairly short list of airports that are eligible to apply for funds for low emission vehicles, refueling and recharging stations, gate electrification and other airport air quality improvements. See <https://www.faa.gov/airports/environmental/vale/>

Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration

The Federal Highway Administration AID Demonstration provides incentive funding for any project activities eligible for assistance under title 23, U.S.C. in any phase of a highway transportation project between project planning and project delivery including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment and construction that address the program goals. See <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=288651> and <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/grants/>

Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act authorizes \$1.435 billion in capital over five years for the TIFIA credit assistance program; assistance supports critical infrastructure projects with national or regional significance. Letters of interest may be submitted by states and cities for direct loans, loan guarantees and standby lines of credit. Transit-oriented development (including pedestrian and cycle facilities) and other projects may be eligible for assistance. See <https://www.transportation.gov/tifia/notice-funding-availability>

U.S. Department of Education

*Green Apple Day of Service Mini Grants

Green Apple Day of Service celebrates the role schools play in preparing the next generation of leaders in sustainability. A school's event improves the learning environment while strengthening student civic leadership, environmental literacy and project management skills. Schools and the community leaders who support them can choose their own date for their project, and have access to mini grants and personalized guidance to help them make their projects a reality. See:

http://mygreenapple.org/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

National Park Service and Clean Cities

National Parks Initiative

This effort supports transportation projects that educate park visitors on the benefits of cutting petroleum use and vehicle emissions. Since 2010, 35 projects have deployed alternative fuel and fuel-efficient vehicles to the road, reduced vehicle idling and improved vehicle efficiency. See <https://cleancities.energy.gov/national-parks/>

Patagonia

Environmental Grants

This grant opportunity is available to organizations working to protect the environment. Projects must be action-oriented, build public involvement and support, be strategic, focus on root causes and accomplish specific goals and objectives. One proposal per group will be accepted each fiscal year (May 1-April 30) and the funding amount will range between \$5,000-\$20,000. See <http://www.patagonia.com/grant-guidelines.html>

Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Program

Environmental Education Grants

Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project that they help design to green their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood's environment. The projects partner students with their whole school, local businesses and/or community organizations and provide opportunities for student leadership. See https://www.plt.org/resources/greenworks-grants/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term

Captain Planet Foundation

EcoTech Grants

EcoTech grants are offered to engage children in inquiry-based, STEM-related projects (including air quality education) that leverage technology and/or use nature-based design to address environmental problems in local communities. EcoTech grants encourage educators and students to explore the role technology can play in designing and implementing solutions to some of our most pressing environmental challenges. Grants are available as cash of up to \$2,500 and support the purchase of materials and other project implementation costs. See https://captainplanetfoundation.org/grants/ecotech/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term

Ford Foundation

Funding to Fight Inequality

The Foundation supports projects that address inequality; projects should relate to themes including investing in and protecting vital public goods (may include air quality environmental justice-related projects). See <https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/our-grants/>

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF)

Orchard Donation Program

FTPF is a nonprofit charity dedicated to planting fruit trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities and improve the air, soil and water. FTPF programs strategically donate orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low income neighborhoods and Native American reservations. See <https://www.ftpf.org/apply>

People for Bikes

Community Grant Program

This grant program supports bicycle infrastructure projects that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. See <https://peopleforbikes.org/apply-now/>

CONTACT NACAA AT 202-624-7864 OR ONLINE AT WWW.4CLEANAIR.ORG