

# Funding Opportunity Update

## RESOURCES FOR CLEAN AIR AGENCIES

For more information, contact Mary Sullivan Douglas, [mdouglas@4cleanair.org](mailto:mdouglas@4cleanair.org), or Miles Keogh, [mkeogh@4cleanair.org](mailto:mkeogh@4cleanair.org), 202-624-7864

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!

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**National Association of Clean Air Agencies**  
**Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local and State Agencies**  
**June 28, 2018**

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

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

#### **\*Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Loans**

Approximately \$5.5 billion is available for loans that could finance over \$11 billion in water infrastructure projects. Certain projects may generate air quality benefits/reduce air emissions, such as projects that result in energy savings and some green infrastructure projects. See <https://www.epa.gov/wifia>

#### **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](http://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**

### **\*Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program**

The BUILD program supports investments in surface transportation infrastructure, especially those that would provide long-term benefits in safety, partnership, innovation, quality of life, state of good repair, economic competitiveness and environmental protection (including how the project may reduce air pollution and energy use through congestion mitigation strategies). Grants can be provided to any public entity, including local governments, counties, port authorities, tribal governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Approximately \$1.5 billion is available. See <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>

### **\*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>

### **\*Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning**

This program funds comprehensive planning that supports economic development, ridership, multimodal connectivity and accessibility, increased transit access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic and mixed-use development near transit stations. The program also encourages identification of infrastructure needs and engagement with the private sector. Projects should cover an entire transit capital project corridor rather than planning for individual station areas or only a small section of the corridor. Individual awards range from \$250,000 - \$2 million. See

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=305503> and <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices>.

#### 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>

### **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](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 expenses.

See

[https://captainplanetfoundation.org/grants/ecotech/?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term](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 <http://www.ftpf.org/apply.htm>

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