

Funding Opportunity Update

RESOURCES FOR CLEAN AIR AGENCIES

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Here is 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 are your team and have experience in this kind of thing – please do not hesitate to ask.

National Association of Clean Air Agencies
Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local and State Agencies
September 10, 2020

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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

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 others, 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>, <http://www.pacenation.us/resources/all-programs/> and <http://www.showmepace.org/projects/>

U.S. 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 <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap/about>

U.S. Department of Transportation

*Federal Transit Administration Grant Program

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act includes funding for new competitive grant programs for buses and bus facilities, innovative transportation coordination, workforce training and public transportation research activities. See <https://www.transit.dot.gov/grants>

*Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) Pilot Program

Under the EPD Pilot Program, eligible projects are new fixed guideway capital projects, small start projects or core capacity improvement projects that have not entered into a full-funding grant agreement with the Federal Transit Administration. The projects must utilize public-private partnerships, be operated and maintained by employees of an existing public transportation provider and have a federal share not exceeding 25 percent of the project cost. Applications cannot be submitted through grants.gov but must be submitted electronically using the EPD application portal. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until up to eight grants are awarded, subject to funding availability. See <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/applying/notices-funding/expedited-project-delivery-pilot-program-notice-funding> and <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-07-28/pdf/2020-16342.pdf>

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>

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> and <http://hoglundcompanies.com/news/ic-bus-grant-program>

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

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>

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>