



Grant Resources and Opportunities

January 2023

EDA Accepting Applications to Support Public Planning and Construction/Renovation Projects that Advance Job Creation and Economic Development

The Economic Development Administration is a federal agency that provides grant funds to support a range of construction and non-construction activities which will advance economic development and enhance the competitive environment in which jobs can be created and private investment leveraged. Public entities, or nonprofit entities working in collaboration with local governments, looking for support to construct or renovate public assets, or to conduct analysis or regional technical assistance programs with clear economic development outcomes should consider EDA's grant programs. EDA currently has a range of programs available. For further information, please go to <https://eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>.

North Carolina applicants are also encouraged to reach out to the NC EDA representative, Hillary Sherman at hsherman@eda.gov to discuss program requirements and processes and alignment with potential projects.

EDA Update on Disaster, Technology Hubs, and Recompetes Program Funding

The recently passed Omnibus included funding for counties that experienced a Major Disaster in 2020 or 2021 which subsequently received Presidential Declaration. EDA is working on

the development of a Notice of Funding Opportunity with more details – stay tuned for more information!

Additionally, the Omnibus included funding for the Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (“Tech Hubs”) and Recompetes Programs authorized as part of the recently released CHIPS Act. EDA is currently working on design and implementation of both programs. Further information will be forthcoming, but until then the appropriation language for both programs can provide insights to intent of this funding. The appropriation language for the Tech Hubs is available at

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title15-section3722a&num=0&edition=prelim> and the appropriation language for the Recompetes Program is available at <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title15-section3722b&num=0&edition=prelim>.

EPA Announces Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program

The US Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications from community-based nonprofit organizations for grant assistance to support projects that address local environmental or public health issues in a local community. Funding available is based on entity size, with up to \$150,000 grant awards envisioned for Community Based Organization



(CBO) projects where the CBO has 5 or fewer FTEs and up to \$500,000 for larger CBOs. Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59pm on April 10, 2023. To learn more, please go to: [The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program | US EPA](#).

EPA Invites Applications for Water Systems in Rural and Small Communities

The US Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications that support water systems in rural and small communities. Applications must be received by January 26, 2023. To learn more and apply, please go to: [View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV](#).

USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program Accepting Applications

The USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) program is currently accepting applications; this program provides a range of support to small businesses in rural communities, including technical assistance, training and other enterprise support. Grants generally range from \$10,000 to \$500,000 and there is no cost-share requirement. Applications must be submitted no later than **February 28, 2023 at 4:30pm local time**. To learn more and apply, please go to: [Rural Business Development Grants | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#).

USDOT Accepting Applications through RAISE Program

The USDOT is accepting applications under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program to support transportation projects that will improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity. Applicants must be public entities and projects focusing on areas of persistent poverty or historically disadvantaged communities are preferred. Applications must be received by February 28, 2023. To apply, please go to: [FY 2023 RAISE NOFO \(transportation.gov\)](#).

NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative

In an effort to keep kids safe while riding a bicycle, the Bicycle Helmet Initiative program distributes helmets to children of low-income families, and is open to both government and non-government agencies. The primary goal of the Bicycle Helmet Initiative is to reduce child/youth bicycle fatalities and serious injuries, including head trauma, in North Carolina. The application deadline is February 3, 2023. For more information, visit <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/BikePed/Pages/Bicycle-Helmet-Initiative.aspx>.

Lead for NC Accepting Applications until February 8th

The Lead for North Carolina program is currently taking applications from host governments to sponsor a Lead for NC Fellow next year. The program works to place "Fellows" in local governments throughout the



state in order to increase their capacity. The goal is to strengthen local governments, support local communities, and cultivate a new generation of public service leaders. If you have any interest in hosting a Lead for NC Fellow starting on August 1 this year, complete [this application](#) by February 8.

USDA Announces New Grants for Agriculture Innovation Centers

The US Department of Agriculture Rural Development is [accepting applications](#) for grants to establish and operate [Agriculture Innovation Centers](#) (AIC). AICs provide technical and business development assistance to agricultural producers seeking to market or produce value-added products.

What does this program do?

The purpose of this program is to establish and operate Agriculture Innovation Centers (Centers) that provide technical and business development assistance to Agricultural Producers seeking to engage in developing and marketing of Value-Added Agricultural Products.

Program Funding: \$8 million.

Maximum Grant Amount: \$1,000,000 (may be less at the discretion of the Agency).

Application Deadline. Completed applications for grants must be submitted electronically by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, March 6, 2023, through Grants.gov. Late applications are not eligible for funding under this notice and will not be evaluated. All components of the application must be submitted with the Grants.gov submission. The Agency will not accept additional information through other submission methods, such as email or courier delivery.

Non-Disaster Grant – Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC)

BRIC is now a \$2.3B annual funding opportunity and now is the time to start identifying hazard mitigation projects in your community for 2023. The first step in receiving funding for your community's infrastructure needs is submitting a letter of intent (LOI) in the [EMGrants](#) system. Instructions and guidelines for the LOI submission are available [BRIC/FMA 2022 LOI Submission Guidelines](#). [For more information and a timeline click here.](#)

NCDOT Carbon Reduction Program

NCDOT's Transportation Planning Division has issued a call for projects in the Carbon Reduction Program. There is approximately \$19 million to spend on these projects across rural communities in the state for the first two years of the program. While many of the details are being worked out, we can provide the following summary:

1. Projects will be locally administered, meaning whichever community receives the funds is responsible for the delivery of the project.
2. RPO staff is discussing with NCDOT Divisions in the region to understand their willingness to administer these projects. It should be noted that if the Division agrees to administer the project, there is a 10% cost increase for that service. If the Division contracts that service, it is safe to assume a 25% cost increase.



3. These are federal funds, so once the funding is received and signed by the local entity, that entity is on the hook for the local match.
4. Communities interested in these funds should be cautious about inaccurate cost estimates. They will only receive the 80% reimbursement for the funds allocated in their application, any spending at any capacity over the initial amount is the responsibility of the locality (at 100%).
5. Communities should send project ideas to their RPO staff **ASAP** so we can send it up the chain for pre-approval. Even if you believe your project may not qualify, go ahead and send it to your RPO staff to see if it will be approved. Staff will send the project concept to TPD, who will clear it with FHWA, at which time the RPO staff will notify the applicant if the project is eligible.
6. Each RPO has 4 submittal slots for communities between 5,000 and 49,999 in population, and 8 submittal slots for communities under 4,999 in population.

Formal applications are due for this program on **March 17th of 2023**, HOWEVER, RPO staff asks that you send project ideas to us by the end of the calendar year so we can get them pre-approved.

Recreational Trails Program Grant

The North Carolina Recreational Trails Program is accepting applications to support shovel-ready trail projects that are ready for construction. Applications are due February 17, 2023. To learn more, please go to <https://trails.nc.gov/trail-grants/apply-grant>.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Non-Infrastructure Program

The **NC Department of Transportation** is accepting applications from local governments, regional transportation entities, school districts, nonprofits, and tribal governments for *projects that enhance bicycle safety and pedestrian injuries and fatalities under the Safe Routes to School Grant Program*.

Applications must be received by February 6 to be considered. To learn more and apply, visit <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/BikePed/Pages/Non-Infrastructure-Alternatives-Program.aspx>.

National Endowment for the Arts – Grants for Art Projects

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is proud to support the nation's arts sector with grant opportunities so that together we can help everyone live more artful lives. The arts contribute to our individual well-being, the well-being of our communities, and to our local economies. The arts are also crucial to helping us make sense of our circumstances from different perspectives as we emerge from the pandemic and plan for the future. Grants for Arts Projects is our largest grants program for organizations, providing comprehensive and expansive funding opportunities for communities. Through project-based funding, the program supports opportunities for public engagement with the



arts and arts education, for the integration of the arts with strategies promoting the health and well-being of people and communities, and for the improvement of overall capacity and capabilities within the arts sector. We welcome applications from a variety of eligible organizations, including first-time applicants; from organizations serving communities of all sizes, including rural and urban areas; and from organizations with small, medium, or large operating budgets. An organization may submit only one application under these FY2024 Grants for Arts Projects guidelines.

Designated local arts agencies eligible to subgrant may request from \$30,000 to \$150,000 for sub granting programs in the Local Arts Agencies discipline. A minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount is required.

For more information, visit <https://www.arts.gov/grants/grants-for-arts-projects>.

National Endowment for the Arts – Challenge America

Challenge America offers support primarily to small organizations for projects in all artistic disciplines that extend the reach of the arts to groups/communities with rich and dynamic artistic and cultural contributions to share that are underserved. The program is rooted in principles that include, but are not limited to, our recognition that:

1. Some groups/communities and some geographic areas with rich cultural identities have limited grant funding opportunities, and/or have been historically underserved by national arts funding;
2. Some small organizations may face barriers to accessing grant funding; and
3. Some applicants to the NEA may benefit from enhanced technical assistance resources.

Challenge America seeks to address these potential barriers for organizations seeking funding. The program features an abbreviated application, a standardized \$10,000 grant amount, and a robust structure of technical assistance to facilitate entry to NEA funding opportunities. This category may be a good entry point for organizations that are new to applying for federal funding.

For more information, visit <https://www.arts.gov/grants/challenge-america>.