

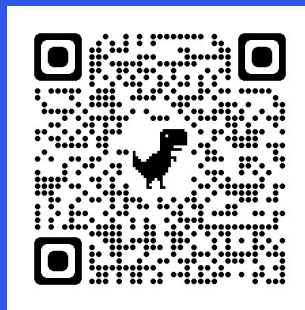
APRIL 2024 GRANT RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



ECC TO OFFER GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP ON APRIL 30th AND MAY 1st:

Once again ECC Community Planner and Grant Writer/Administrator, Holly Lippitt, will offer the 2-day Grant Writing Workshop in the ECC Board Room on Tuesday, April 30th and Wednesday, May 1st from 9:00-4:30. We look forward to continuing to teach grant writing skills and assist with the creation of individual grant applications for members within our region. More information will be forthcoming concerning registration, although space will be limited to 35 individuals. To register, click here <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/tgbunch>. For

questions, feel free to contact Holly Lippitt at hlippitt@eccog.org.



DIVISION OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE: SPRING 2024 PROJECT FUNDING ROUND, FEB. 27– APRIL 30. Applications for loan and grant funding for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater (construction only) projects **must be received by the Division no later than 5:00 PM on Tues., April 30, 2024.**

Applications for drinking water and wastewater construction projects will be considered for funding from the

Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure program, the State Revolving Funds, including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds, the State Reserves, and the Viable Utility Reserve. VUR grants are available to local government units designated as distressed by the State Water Infrastructure Authority and Local Government Commission. Grant funding may be available for Asset Inventory and Assessment grants and Merger/Regionalization Feasibility grants. Local government units and non-profit water/wastewater corporations (and investor-owned drinking water utilities for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund) may apply for funding.

Applications for stormwater construction projects will be considered for funding from the Local Assistance for Stormwater Infrastructure Investments (LASII) fund. Grant funding will be available to cities and counties, and regional Councils of Government and non-profit entities partnering with cities and counties, to improve or create infrastructure for controlling stormwater quantity and quality. Funding is offered only for stormwater construction projects. Funding is NOT offered for stormwater planning projects or to develop/implement a new stormwater utility. Stormwater construction grants are limited to \$5 M per applicant or up to \$7.5 M total are available, if 2 or more units of local government are collaborating on 1 project.

To access the application and additional resources, visit

<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/application-forms-and-additional-resources>. The recorded trainings also can be found at

<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/application-training>. Training covers information on funding programs, application package completion, Priority Rating Systems, funding timelines, and includes instructions on how to apply for Lead Service Line Replacement/Inventory funding. A primer for utilities, designated as Distressed, was also provided in the training sessions. Contact Cathy Akroyd at (919) 622-0053 or cathyakroyd@deq.nc.gov.



On March 28, DOT released the following announcement at,

<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/biden-harris-administration-opens-applications-more-5-billion-funding-significant>,

that published NOFO pertains to, [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant - Notice of Funding Opportunity | US Department of Transportation](#) for approximately \$5.1 B in funding for projects of regional or national significance for 3 major discretionary grant programs. The application process for the programs (the

MEGA, <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mega-grant-program>, INFRA,

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/infra-grant-program>,

and Rural, <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/rural-surface-transportation-grant-program>), have been streamlined into the single Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG).

In the first 2 years of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, DOT has provided nearly \$8 B in grants to communities through the MPDG program to help rebuild the nation's infrastructure, create good-paying jobs, increase manufacturing capacity and innovation, and create a clean-energy economy to combat climate change and ensure our communities are resilient. Eligible applicants and eligible project types vary by program. [Applications are due on May 6, 2024, on grants.gov.](#)

[THE SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL \(ss4a\) DISCRETIONARY GRANT](#), visit,

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>, is accepting applications in response to its Fiscal Year

2024 NOFO at, <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/fy24-nofo>. The FY 2024 SS4A NOFO

has multiple application deadlines depending on the grant type. [Implementation Grant applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Planning and Demonstration Grant applicants have 2 remaining deadlines: May 16 and August 29, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. ET.](#) A

number of webinars have been held to provide more information; the presentation slides and webinar recordings are posted on the SS4A Webinar Series page visit,

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A/webinars>.



[NCDEQ LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT FUNDING](#): Applications for these Lead Service Line Replacement funds are open year-round and will be awarded in State Water Infrastructure Authority meetings (generally - April, Sept., Dec., 2024 and Feb., 2025). The 1st year of Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) funding was administered according to the **Intended Use Plan** for 'FY 2022 BIL DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement and grant

awards given to the Town of Walstonburg, Onslow Water and Sewer Authority, and the City of Kinston on Sept. 19, 2023.

For NCDEQ Lead Service Line Replacement Funding grant applications and additional resources visit, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/application-forms-and-additional-resources>. Since applications for these Lead Service Line Replacement funds are accepted year-round, applications will be reviewed on June 7 and in Aug. 2024; awards are made 1 month later. Contacts include: David Giachini at (919) 707-9191 or David.Giachini@deq.nc.gov, Amanjit Paintal at (919) 707-905 or Amanjit.Paintal@deq.nc.gov, and Jon Risgaard at (919) 707-9034 or Jon.Risgaard@deq.nc.gov.



THE US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S OFFICE OF LOCAL DEFENSE COMMUNITY COOPERATION ANNOUNCES THE DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM: The Defense Community Infrastructure Program will hold a pre-proposal webinar at 3:00 PM EDT on April 18, 2024, to review goals and objectives of this Notice of Funding Opportunity and answer questions from interested respondents. Details about participation in the pre-proposal webinar are available at the Defense Community Infrastructure Program link, <https://OLDCC.gov/defense-community-infrastructure-program-dcip>. **Complete proposals for Defense Community Infrastructure Program grants must be submitted to the funding opportunity number on Grants.gov by 5:00 PM PDT on June 17, 2024**.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity announces availability to obtain funding from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation under the Defense Community Infrastructure Program to assist state and local governments, and not-for-profit, member-owned utilities in addressing deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation. For purposes of the Defense Community Infrastructure Program, "Community Infrastructure" includes projects related to transportation; schools; hospitals; police, fire, or emergency response, or other community support facilities; and utility projects (e.g., water, wastewater, telecommunications, electric and natural gas facilities). The facility or project itself must be owned by a state or local government, or a not-for-profit, member-owned utility. The facility addressed in the application must not be located on a military installation, unless it is on property under the jurisdiction of a military department that is also subject to a real estate agreement (including a lease or an easement) held by an eligible community.

The NOFO may be found at <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/353268>. Contact Colonel Sally Hannan, Program Activity Lead for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program, at (703) 697-2206 or sally.c.hannan.mil@mail.mil.



US DOT HAS UPDATED THE LIST OF FORMULA AND DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAMS THAT ARE SPECIALLY FOCUSED ON CLIMATE CHANGE visit, <https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/climate-and-sustainability/dot-funding-programs-and-climate-change>. To help prepare applications and develop projects that can utilize these resources, explore the following, <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/checklist-strong-climate-change-mitigation-adaptation-and-resilience-grant> on the DOT

Navigator. Included in the tips (provided in the checklist) is to determine whether your proposed project is included in your State's Carbon Reduction Strategy or State Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Deployment Plan. States are required to have FWHHA-approved State EV Infrastructure Deployment Plans to utilize their National EV Infrastructure (NEVI) formula funds. If your project is included in or consistent with the State Carbon Reduction Strategy, State EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan, or other plans, that should be noted in your grant application, as it indicates the project is part of a broader State strategy. Learn more about the Carbon Reduction Program at <https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/climate-and-sustainability/carbon-reduction-program> and the EV Infrastructure Deployment Plans' link, https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/nevi/ev_deployment_plans/.



NATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE (NEVI) will provide \$5 B funding throughout the country from July 2022-June 2027. This is through its goal to provide funding to Justice40 communities by creating a network of 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations along designated priority alternative fuel corridors.

Pertinent requirements to participate in NEVI funding include: 1) Stations must be installed every 50 miles along these priority alternative fuel corridors and must be

located within a 1-mile radius of the corridor; 2) Stations must be equipped with 4 Combined Charging System (CCS) Ports to allow direct current (DC) to allow fast charging for 4 vehicles; 3) Stations must be able to provide at least 150 kilowatts of direct current (DC) simultaneously to each of the 4 charging ports, totaling 600 kilowatts; and 4) Stations must be in operation for a minimum of 5 years and be open to the public 24 hours/day 7 days/week for charging.

For more information, search, <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/environmental/climate-change/Pages/national-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-program.aspx>. There is a required 20% local match for these projects. It is possible that some developers may be willing to cover those costs for host sites. The next [NEVI Online Event will be held on May 9th](#). If you would like to receive an invitation to the call, please contact Alrik Lunsford at aklunsfo@ncsu.edu or Heather Brutz at hbrutz@ncsu.edu.

Host site benefits include: 1) Economic development growth and the possibility of its prosperous byproducts; 2) An increase in tourism; 3) The creation of more jobs to establish thriving workforce development; and 4) Attracting more businesses that will bring in revenue to these underserved communities. Since direct current (DC) fast charging creates that rapid charge ranging from 15-60 minutes, the intent of the model is designed to entice patrons and tourists to buy goods and services while they are waiting for their vehicles to charge.

[NCDOT has not yet released the full RFP](#), but look at the database for networking between potential host sites and developers, which has been created. Some developers have indicated a willingness to help provide the required cost share. We encourage businesses who may be interested in applying - to register, sign up, and enter your information in the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) database. To access the database, search <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/environmental/climate-change/Documents/nevi-networking-database.pdf>. By submitting your information, you are not under any legal obligation. Please disseminate this information to any contacts within your network - whom you think may be interested in participating.



EDA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS UNDER PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS to support accept construction, planning, technical assistance grant applications to advance job creation. 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's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs have a rolling deadline! For further information, please go to <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/funding-program/a2j3d000000KneAAE/fy-2023-eda-public-works-and-economic-adjustment-assistance-programs>. NC 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.



MULTIFAMILY RECYCLING GRANT PROGRAM: The NCDEQ grant offers funding to initiate or expand multifamily recycling programs within the state and is open to local governments, recycling businesses or non-profits, multifamily property owners or management companies, public housing authorities, and colleges and universities for off-campus housing. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.** Search, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/environmental-assistance-and-customer-service/multifamily-recycling-grant-rfp/open>. For more information or assistance please contact Elise Traywick, elise.traywick@deq.nc.gov at (919) 707-8135.

NC MAIN STREET FUNDING GUIDE: The NC Main Street and Rural Planning Center maintains an updated funding guide on our website under Grants and Resources. Find the guide here, <https://www.ncmainstreetandplanning.com/>.

GREAT TRAILS STATE GRANT: The Great Trails State Program provides funding for new trail development and extension of existing trails anywhere in the state of



North Carolina. This includes paved trails or greenways, natural surface trails, biking trails, equestrian trails, and any other type of trail recognized by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Ineligible trails include a series of tourism attractions related to a particular theme that are jointly marketed based on that theme and are interconnected only by vehicular roadways. There will be 1 grant cycle distributing the full \$25 million dollars in non-recurring funding; **the deadline is Sept. 3, 2024**. For more information visit, <https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/great-trails-state-program>.

Tip for Grant Applications: Make sure to pay attention to the scoring criteria and provide relevant information that addresses each criteria when possible. While you should have a project that is shovel-ready, in most cases you can still frame the application around the scoring rubric. In this way you can assure you are answering all of the important questions for the type of grant to which you are applying. For technical assistance contact, Samantha Darlington, Southeast Region Community Economic Development Planner, (984) 365-5868 (c) or samantha.darlington@commerce.nc.gov.



USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT: TELECOMMUNICATIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES: Application

Deadline: Open. USDA Rural Development offers financial assistance to eligible service providers that will construct, improve, or expand telecommunication and broadband networks in rural areas. Applications will be accepted from entities that provide telecommunications in qualified rural areas, which include: State and local governmental entities; federally recognized Tribes; non-profits, including

cooperatives, and limited dividend or mutual associations; and for-profit businesses, which must be a corporation or limited liability company.

Eligible areas are towns with a population of 5,000 or less, those that are without telecommunications facilities, or areas where the applicant is the recognized telecommunications provider. Contact the local RD office to determine whether the proposed service area qualifies via <https://www.rd.usda.gov/find-your-local-area-office>. For more information on other programs administered by RUS Telecommunications please visit, <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/telecom-programs>.

Types of available funding include:

- Cost-of-Money Loans are direct loans from USDA Rural Utilities Service.
- Loan Guarantees of up to 80% allow private lenders, including the Federal Financing Bank (FFB), to extend credit to qualified borrowers in rural areas.
- Hardship Loans may be used (at the sole discretion of USDA Rural Utilities Service) to assist applicants in meeting financial feasibility requirements for applications to serve underserved areas.

USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT: COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN & GRANT IN NORTH CAROLINA:

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas, such as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area. Eligible borrowers include: Public bodies, community-based non-profits, and federally recognized Tribes. Private and commercial businesses are ineligible.

Eligible rural areas include: villages, towns, and cities with no more than 20,000 residents, and Federally Recognized Tribal Lands (according to the latest US Census Data). Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment, and pay related project expenses. Examples of essential community facilities include: 1) Health care facilities, such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities; 2) Public facilities, such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars, or street improvements; 3) Community support services, such as childcare centers, community centers, fairgrounds, or transitional housing; 4) Public safety services, such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles, or equipment; 5) Educational services, such as museums, libraries, or private schools; and 6) Utility services, such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment. **Applications are accepted year-round through the local USDA, Rural Development office** via <https://www.rd.usda.gov/find-your-local-area-office>. For more information visit, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/nc>.

USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT: WATER & WASTE DISPOSAL LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM in NORTH CAROLINA: It provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. This program assists qualified applicants who are not otherwise able to obtain commercial credit on reasonable terms – through long-term, low-interest loans; and if funds are available, a grant may be combined with a loan, if necessary, to maintain reasonable user costs.

Eligible applicants include: Most state and local governmental entities, private nonprofits, and Federally recognized Tribes. Areas that may be served include: Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less and Tribal lands in rural areas. (To determine if a property is in an eligible rural area, click on 1 of the USDA Loan program links - <https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do> - and then select the Property Eligibility Program link. When you select a Rural Development program, you will be directed to the appropriate property eligibility screen for the Rural Development loan program you have selected.) **Applications are accepted year-round through the local USDA, Rural Development office** via <https://www.rd.usda.gov/find-your-local-area-office>.

Funds may be used to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of:

- Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage, and distribution;
- Sewer collection, transmission, treatment, and disposal;
- Solid waste collection, disposal, and closure; and
- Storm water collection, transmission, and disposal.

In some cases, funding may also be available for related activities such as:

- Legal and engineering fees;
- Land acquisition, water and land rights, permits and equipment;
- Start-up operations and maintenance;
- Interest incurred during construction;
- Purchase of facilities to improve service or prevent loss of service; and
- Other costs determined to be necessary for completion of the project.

For more information, visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program/nc>.

USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT: SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING REPAIR LOANS & GRANTS in NORTH CAROLINA: It is also known as the Section 504 Home Repair Program to provide loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

To qualify, you must:

- Be the homeowner and occupy the house;
- Be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere;
- Have a household income that does not exceed the **very low limit** determined by county; and
- Be age 62 or older - for grants.

Loans may be used to repair, improve, or modernize homes OR to remove health and safety hazards.

To repair, improve, or modernize homes a maximum loan is \$7,500 and a maximum grant is \$10,000 with the fixed loan interest rate at 1% for 20 years. Full title service is required, if the total outstanding balance on Section 504 loans is greater than \$25,000.

Grants must be used to remove health and safety hazards and have a lifetime limit of \$10,000. If the property is sold in less than 3 years, the grant must be repaid. **Applications are available year-round, as funding lasts.** For more information view, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants/nc>.

USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT: RURAL HOMES LOANS (DIRECT PROGRAM): It is also referred to as the Section 502 Direct Loan Program to assist low- and very-low-income applicants obtain decent, safe and sanitary housing in eligible rural areas by providing payment assistance to increase an applicant's repayment ability. Payment assistance is a type of subsidy that reduces the mortgage payment for a short time. Borrowers are required to repay all or a portion of the payment subsidy received over the life of the loan, when the title to the property transfers, or when the borrower is no longer living in the dwelling.

A number of factors are considered when determining an applicant's eligibility for Single Family Direct Home

Loans. At a minimum, an applicant's interest in obtaining a direct loan must have an approved family income that is at or below the applicable low-income limit for the area where he/she wishes to buy a house and he/she must demonstrate a willingness and ability to repay debt.

Applicants must:

- Be without decent, safe, and sanitary housing;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other resources on terms and conditions that he/she can reasonably be expected to meet;
- Agree to occupy the property as his/her primary residence;
- Have the legal capacity to incur a loan obligation;
- Meet citizenship or eligible noncitizen requirements; and
- Not be suspended or debarred from participation in federal programs.

Properties financed with direct loan funds must not have market value in excess of the applicable area loan limit and must not be designed for income producing activities. **Applications are accepted year-round through the local USDA, Rural Development office via <https://www.rd.usda.gov/find-your-local-area-office>. Search <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/single-family-housing-direct-home-loans/nc>.**

USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT: STRATEGIC ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT: Application Deadline - Open. Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) supports projects that promote and implement strategic community investment plans. These plans use the unique strengths of rural communities to advance prosperity. USDA Rural Development helps finance these projects to build community prosperity by using community assets, identifying resources, convening partners, and leveraging federal, state, local, or private funding.

To be eligible for SECD, a project must:

- Be eligible for the covered program and be carried out in a rural area; and
- Support a multi-jurisdictional and multi-sectoral strategic community investment plan.

Visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/strategic-economic-and-community-development>.



NC DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR POLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM: Even though NCDIT began accepting applications for pole replacement reimbursement from service providers in June 1, 2021, the General Assembly (NC Session Law 2021-180) allocates \$100 M in the Federal American Rescue Plan Act funds **on a rolling basis** for the new program. It provides funds for utility pole owners to request reimbursement for replacement costs. For program details, application materials and to view the list of prequalified vendors, please go to <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/polereplacement>.

NCDIT'S DIVISION OF BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY ANNOUNCED THE BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) AND THE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANS FOR OUTREACH OVER A 5-YEAR PERIOD. NC will dedicate approximately \$2B in state and federal funding to achieve universal access for all North Carolinians by 2029. The State Digital Equity Plan includes additional data that measures broadband access and adoption by race and ethnicity across NC to support the goal that all racial groups will have at least 80% adoption rates by 2025. To view the plan, visit <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/documents/bead-5-year-plan-final/download?attachment>.

BEAD Program Overview: The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) plan will describe North Carolina's strategy to expand high-speed Internet access through planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs over the next 5 years. To develop the plan, the Division of Broadband & Digital Equity engaged stakeholders during 2 virtual employer listening sessions (in June 2023) through local coordination to improve mapping, inventory existing assets, assess remaining needs, and defining strategies -to meet those needs. The BEAD plan will incorporate the findings and strategies identified through the Digital Equity plan process as well. Aligned funders are poised to support the implementation of this workforce plan.

Outcomes include the following goals:

- Create a career pathway to map on-ramps to entry-level broadband jobs and career advancement opportunities.

- Develop regional training hubs at community colleges to offer fiber technician credentials.
- Support a diverse workforce for the broadband sector.
- Partner with school districts to create Career Accelerators and dual enrollment on-ramps to the broadband sector.
- Promote pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships.

Digital Equity Program Overview: The Digital Equity plan will identify the digital needs and recommend solutions to ensure that all North Carolinians can afford high-speed internet, have the digital devices they need and the skills to use them, and are able to safely engage with online information. The planning process will involve significant engagement with individuals, organizations, and communities across the state. We will ensure that the voices of those who have been excluded from digital opportunity are at the center of this process. The Digital Equity plan will be actionable and will set the state's priorities.

These programs jointly cover the needs of all North Carolinians with the focus on individuals: who are aged, live in households at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, are English learners and have low levels of literacy, are veterans, members of a racial or ethnic minority group, are incarcerated, are LGBTQI+ people, and immigrants; or who have disabilities or a language barrier. For more information visit, <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/BEAD>.



ARPA UPDATES



Subject: ARP/CSLFRF UPDATE - APRIL IS P & E PORTAL MONTH

"For those who do not receive notices from Coates Canons, there is a blog update at, <https://canons.sog.unc.edu/2024/04/american-rescue-plan-act-coronavirus-state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund-important-deadlines-and-updates-for-april-2024-and-beyond/> - on ARP/CSLFRF. There is information about the P&E portal reports due this month and the obligation deadline (December 31, 2024). These issues and more are discussed during the UNC SOG's office hours. Note below that we also are hosting special Portal Triage Office Hours for \$0-\$10 M units during the month of April." Best, Kara Millonzi

UPCOMING REGULAR ARP/FINANCE OFFICE HOURS

- Friday, April 19, 8:30-9:30 AM
- Wednesday, April 24, 8:30-9:30 AM
- Monday, April 29, 8:30-9:30 AM

ZOOM LOG IN

Here is the new Zoom Log in for all Office Hour Sessions:

<https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=UIEzVHNhN2luSoJEYTJqcTZTMFRWdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,95481909044# US

+19292056099,,95481909044# US (New York)

ARP Hotline Zoom for the April 2024 Project & Expenditure Report (\$0-\$10 M units only)

Zoom Link: <https://unc.zoom.us/j/94025737460>.

Week 3 of April

- Wednesday, April 17, 12:00-1:00 PM
- Thursday, April 18, 3:00-4:00 PM

Week 4 of April

- Monday, April 22, 12:00-1:00 PM
- Tuesday, April 23, 9:00-10:00 AM
- Thursday, April 25, 3:00-4:00 PM
- Friday, April 26, 9:00-10:00 AM

Week 5 of April

- Monday, April 29, 9:00-10:00 AM

SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT RELEASES MODEL PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

When spending federal financial assistance (e.g., federal grant awards), local governments are required to adopt written procurement policies to help ensure compliance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). The School of Government developed a model procurement policy intended to help local government recipients and sub-recipients of federal awards to comply with the Uniform Guidance procurement requirements.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT RELEASES OBLIGATION INTERIM FINAL RULE FOR ARPA STATE & LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS:

Treasury issued new obligation guidance regarding ARPA State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) via the **Obligation Interim Final Rule** (IFR), visit **https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Obligation_Interim_Final_Rule_2023.pdf**. The Obligation IFR revises the definition of “obligation” in Treasury’s implementing regulations for the SLFRF program and provides related guidance to give additional flexibility and clarity to recipients to support their use of SLFRF funds. The Obligation IFR does not alter the existing SLFRF obligation or expenditure deadlines. Recipients must obligate SLFRF funds by December 31, 2024, and expend obligated funds by December 31, 2026 (with the exception of projects under the Surface Transportation projects and Title I eligible use categories, for which funds must be expended by September 30, 2026). In addition, the Obligation IFR does not alter the eligible use categories described in the 2022 Final Rule and the 2023 Interim Final Rule. Recipients seeking information about whether a specific project may be an eligible use of SLFRF funds should reference the rules, along with the Overview of the 2022 Final Rule and the Overview of the 2023 Interim Final Rule; visit the full Obligation Interim Final Rule at **https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Obligation_Interim_Final_Rule_2023.pdf**. And for the full Obligation Interim Final Rule, view Treasury’s Quick Reference Guide visit, **https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Obligation_Interim_Final_Rule_Quick_Reference_Guide_2023.pdf**.

If you have questions about how the new Obligation Interim Final Rule may affect your community or project, please contact Cory Osborne (**cosborne@hccog.org**, 828-265-5434 Ext. 142).

UPDATES



GRANTS.GOV INFORMATION: The **Grants.gov** chatbot now provides a more seamless user experience. Additional content has been added, and existing content has been refreshed and updated. To find help, select the chat widget—Grant’s picture, left, is in the bottom right corner of most **Grants.gov** web pages—and explore the “Top 10 FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)” link, other highlighted answers, and the Self-Service Knowledge Base. Or ask your question to reach a help page with possible answers. You can select the widget again to hide and reopen the chat window.

Grants.gov has published a new **Quick Start Guide for Applicants** to help you register and apply for grants using **Grants.gov**. Our helpful guide covers registering with SAM, creating workspaces, submitting your application, and more! For more information visit, **<https://www.grants.gov/quick-start-guide/applicants>**.

FEMA GO TRAINING RESOURCES: Self-guided training resources are available regarding any stage of the grants management life cycle on the FEMA GRANTS OUTCOMES Webpage at **<https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go>**. It has a Start-Up Guide, an Application

Guide, and the FEMA GO Pass-through Application and Sub-application Process User Guide.

FEMA GO Technical Support: Contact the FEMA GO Help Desk to report any issues with an account or completing a task in FEMA GO. The FEMA GO technical support team is standing by to assist with any need. A user can call the FEMA GO Help Desk at 1-877-585-3242 or send an email to femago@fema.dhs.gov.

TECHNOLOGY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (TBED) will host a Community of Practice webinar on April 25th at 2:00 PM. TBED builds the capacity of EDA grantees to achieve greater impacts for their regional innovation economies. The State Science & Technology Institute's (SSTI) work with the community emphasizes: identifying and distributing best practices in structuring, measuring and planning TBED initiatives; fostering community among grantees around types of TBED activities and target audiences/technologies; and facilitating communication with external stakeholders, including funders, clients and partners. SSTI will provide an overview of key initiatives funded in the FY 2024 budget so you know where and when to look for opportunities in the coming year. The discussion will include programs at the Department of Energy, Economic Development Administration, National Science Foundation, Small Business Administration, and more.

Feel free to message tbedcop@ssti.org if there are any specific programs you want us to cover. Register for the free webinar via Zoom, today at https://ssti-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_66EQ-csRTMGgKH3toxIoCg#/registration.

THE 2024 STATE ENERGY CONFERENCE OF NORTH CAROLINA: It will be held on April 23-24 at the McKimmon Conference and Training Center in Raleigh. Plan to network, learn best practices, hear about successful case studies, engage in important energy discussions and other activities. Choose from among 30 different sessions in 6 separate tracks. Network with exhibitors, sponsors and attendees during designated break times. Receive professional continuing education credits (access to all sessions and credits). Register for conference at this link, <https://mckimmoncenter.ungerboeck.com/prod/emcoo/PublicSignIn.aspx?&aat=54703943686a30414f5a4e4369326e4374736255364173597936717539707153436e462b776130644e2f513d>. Full access to all conference sessions through the conference app will be available for 3 weeks after the conference is complete.



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