



MARCH 2024 GRANT RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



GRANTS

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



T-Mobile partnered with Main Streets America to provide T-MOBILE HOMETOWN GRANTS: Applications are due quarterly and are intended only for “shovel-ready projects” to foster local relationships through technology upgrades, or the arts, and in outdoor spaces or community centers. **The spring deadline for applications is January 1st to March 29th; the summer deadline for applications is April 1st – June 28th.**

Elected officials, town managers/employees, tribal leaders, or non-profit community leaders from small towns **with population less than 50,000 may apply for a maximum grant of \$50,000. For more information see, <https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>.**



NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION announces new grant category, **the Rural Downtown Economic Development (RDED) Grant**. These RDED grants will support a wide array of public projects that will help retain businesses and attract customers into business districts, support publicly owned downtown economic development initiatives, and facilitate publicly owned building improvements that are used for community-wide

uses or mixed-use development in or on properties that are publicly owned and controlled. Eligible applicants include Units of local government in Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties, and rural census tracts in Tier 3 counties. The maximum grant will be \$850,000 per grantee with a cap of \$12,500 per project; a 5% local match is required. The grant deadline is April 1, 2024, and award announcements are anticipated on April 18. Access is through the Rural Connect portal - or directly at <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/grants-incentives/downtown-development-funds>.



RURAL TRANSFORMATION GRANT FUND: The Rural Transformation Grant Fund (RTGF) provides local governments with grants and expert guidance to improve economic vitality and overcome the unique challenges many rural communities face. It is open to local governments in the state's Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties, as well as

qualified census tracts in Tier 3 counties. Rural Transformation Grants can support:

- Main Street and downtown investment and revitalization efforts;
- Initiatives that help create resilient neighborhoods;
- Community enhancements that spur economic growth; and
- Professional development and education programs to build local government capacity.

The Fund, created by the North Carolina General Assembly, has an available pool of \$48 million for grantmaking in the 4 categories: Downtown Revitalization; Resilient Neighborhoods; Community Enhancement for Economic Growth; and Rural Community Capacity Building.

The maximum grant amount is \$950,000 per grantee, with some restrictions for specific activities. There is no minimum grant amount. Applicants should consider feasibility as it relates to the overall cost of any project. Grant administration costs are limited to five percent (5%) of the awarded grant total. Projects must be completed within 36 months. Applications can currently be accepted only for the Rural Community Capacity (RC2) program. **The applications are due March 28, 2024.** For more information visit, <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/grants-incentives/rural-transformation-grants>.



NC DOT, CARBON REDUCTION PLAN (CRP) GRANTS: The CRP grant program (resulted from the American Rescue Plan) provides funding for local projects with a goal of reducing carbon emissions. Funding guidelines for these grants are left intentionally open-ended, leaving municipalities and counties with a wide range of options. Projects may range from purchasing new EV transit vehicles (subject to Buy America), new traffic signalization, roundabouts, bike lanes, greenways, sidewalks, and others. The CRP grant program, as per most federal programs, requires a 20% local match for all grants awarded. CRP projects are locally administered, but DOT can be used for assistance. If any entity is interested in applying for CRP funding, apply through **DERPO or ECRPO. NCDOT is accepting applications on a rolling, quarterly basis.** For a CRP summary, visit the spring 2023 overview, <https://eccog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Carbon-Reduction-Program-RPO-Summary-Sheet.pdf>.



US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS UNDER URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION (UAIP) PROGRAM: Local governments, public housing authorities, tribal governments, and nonprofits support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production. Applications must be received via **Grants.gov by April 9, 11:59 PM.** For more information and to apply, go to grants.gov/search-results-detail/352256?utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_subject=Indigenous



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: 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>.



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 one 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 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 adjusted 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>.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: 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>.



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.



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/a2j3d0000000KneAAE/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.

NATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE (NEVI) is a program stemming from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. NEVI was designed to provide \$5 Billion of funding throughout the country over the next 5 years (July 2022-June 2027) to create a network of 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations along designated priority alternative fuel corridors. NC will receive \$109 million to install electric vehicle charging stations and infrastructure. The main goal of this program is to provide funding to Justice40 communities, filling the disparity gaps by improving transportation infrastructure in at least 40% of disadvantaged communities.

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, 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 hmbritz@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 a database for networking between potential host sites and developers 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.



NC DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR POLE REPLACEMENT
PROGRAM:

NCDIT began accepting applications for pole replacement reimbursement from service providers back to June 1, 2021. The General Assembly (NC Session Law 2021-180) allocates \$100 million in the Federal American Rescue Plan Act funds **on a rolling basis** for the new program which 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>.

UPDATES

ECC's DISASTER RECOVERY TRAINING - APRIL 16TH, 9:00-4:00: ECC will facilitate the day-long program in ECC's Board Room involving Disaster Recovery Best Practices. This program is funded by the NC Legislature, the NC Office of State Budget and Management in conjunction with the NC Department of Public Safety and the Office of Emergency Management. Managers, financial officers, clerks, emergency management personnel, public works staff, fire chiefs, and other government staff, especially those who have not experienced a disaster involving a Declared State of Emergency in the last 5 years, are encouraged to attend. More information will become available soon.

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.

ECC MOVING FORWARD WITH REGIONAL DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN EFFORT: In its partnership with North Carolina State University's Institute for Emerging Issues (NCSU IEI) ECC will assist in developing a Regional Digital Inclusion Plan that will include sections for each of the 9 counties.

A digital inclusion plan is often the first formal step for a community to reduce the digital divide and prioritize digital equity for their residents. It will support the county's efforts to increase broadband access and use, computer literacy, and information technology capacity. The goal is for all 100 counties to have digital inclusion plans. Through this partnership with NCSU IEI, we anticipate developing 1 regional plan, with sections specific for each county, even though some counties already have developed their plans. We

anticipate **including all 9 counties in the regional plan**. As part of this effort, ECC will be coordinating public engagement opportunities with our county partners – to provide a free resource.

NC PANDEMIC RECOVERY OFFICE, ncIMPACT AND NC COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HOST PANDEMIC RECOVERY FOCUS GROUPS ACROSS THE STATE: The NC Pandemic Recovery Office, in partnership with ncIMPACT and NC COGs are hosting focus groups to reflect on the concerns raised by NCPRO's Community Engagement Survey (CES), Business Engagement Survey (BES), and Resiliency Index (Index), to assess the success and impact from federal, state and local pandemic recovery efforts, and to assist in the formulation of recommendations for continuing to build resilient communities across the state, which will manifest in a final report expected in May 2024.

To enhance community access focus group sessions have been scheduled in each COG region as follows:

- March 18, 2024 from 10-11:30am – Land of Sky Council of Governments
- March 18, 2024 from 11:30am-1pm – Eastern Carolina Council of Governments
- March 18, 2024 from 2pm-3:30pm – Western Piedmont Council of Governments
- March 19, 2024 from 11am-12:30pm – Southwest Commission
- March 19, 2024 from 3pm-4:30pm – Centralina Council of Governments
- March 20, 2024 from 10am-11:30am – Mid-East Commission
- March 20, 2024 from 2pm-3:30pm – Cape Fear Council of Governments
- March 21, 2024 from 9:30-11:00am – Foothills Commission
- March 21, 2024 from 3pm-4:30pm – Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments

*Events have already been held in Piedmont Triad Regional Council of Governments and Kerr-Tar Council of Governments.

**Event details are forthcoming for outreach in Albermarle Commission region.

To sign up for a focus group, complete this interest form -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGPvAYfFnJRJW2Oe-uHp1zww7PLYVhLq_XvVpIC_GF1QsPSw/viewform. And to learn more, please contact your regional Council of Governments office or go to <https://ncimpact.sog.unc.edu/pandemic-recovery-focus-groups/>.



ECC CONTINUING TO CONNECT COMMUNITIES TO FREE IEDC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

ECC continues to help connect communities in our region with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), which can conduct technical assistance visits to assist communities evaluate specific economic development / community development opportunities. The IEDC member volunteers help provide recommendations at no cost to the community (through funding from US EDA). Some current / planned IEDC projects in the ECC region include:

- Helping a community evaluate options for the highest and best use for a building the town owns
- Assisting a county with developing strategies for business promotion, corridor beautification along a key corridor.
- Assisting several communities with downtown redevelopment strategies.
- Helping a city evaluate opportunities to redevelop two properties.
- Assisting a town in developing an economic development vision.

These efforts are providing technical assistance with a value of \$10,000-\$40,000 for communities (depending on the number of professionals involved and the amount of time they spend in the community.) Please contact Executive Director David Bone at dbone@eccog.org if you would like to propose a potential IEDC technical assistance project for your community.

FEMA GO QUARTERLY STATUS BRIEFING: Please join FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) for the next FEMA GO Quarterly Status Briefing **March 20, 3:00 –**



4:30 PM. The briefing will include an overview of the new grants management system FEMA Grants Outcome (FEMA GO), the updated schedule of future functionality to be released, training, and communication updates. All FEMA GO stakeholders are welcome to attend.

The briefing will take place using Adobe Connect. To join the meeting, please register at https://femacqpub1.cosocloud.com/content/connect/c1/7/en/events/event/shared/153069038/event_landing.html?connect-session=breezbreezkb5mgtcasugegprw&scoid=413526723&charset=utf-8.

Some helpful tips to join the meeting: 1) The following browsers work the best for Adobe Connect: Microsoft Edge, Safari, and Firefox; 2) To access the meeting, your created password will be needed - the password when you first registered. If you need to reset your password, click the "Forgot password" prompt; and 3) Audio will be conducted through your computer; turn up the computer's volume and any external speakers connected to the computer.

This meeting will be recorded. By logging into this meeting, you are giving consent to being recorded. If you do not consent to being recorded, please do not log into the meeting, and contact the host separately. A portion of the briefing will be open to the floor to encourage your input and answer any questions for the FEMA GO Team. The recorded briefing and additional information will be made available following the conclusion of the meeting.



FEMA RELEASES RECORDING OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR COASTAL

RESILIENCE: FEMA has released the recording of a webinar held in December 2023 entitled, "Partnerships in Planning for Coastal Resilience," the resource provides tips and resources to help develop robust coastal resilience through strong partnership development. To access the YouTube recording, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVjktl8hYg>.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN FOR NEW NATIONAL STRATEGY PLAN FOR AQUACULTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Aquaculture is an important component of many communities' economic development, and an important input into food systems communities rely upon. The interagency Subcommittee on Aquaculture (*a statutory subcommittee authorized by the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 that includes representatives from EDA, NOAA, EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies*) has developed the draft Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Economic Development (SPAED) to address primary goals of US aquaculture development. The SPAED is the 3rd of 3 chapters of a broader National Aquaculture Development Plan (NADP), which is intended to support the future development of economically and ecologically sustainable aquaculture in the U.S. A **public comment period** for this draft plan **is open until April 5, 2024**. To learn more about the plan and for full details on how to submit a comment, please go to the Federal Register announcement at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/20/2024-03345/draft-overview-of-the-national-aquaculture-development-plan-and-draft-strategic-plan-for-aquaculture?utm_medium=email&utm_program=impact&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_subject=march&utm_year=2024

RESOURCE AVAILABLE: UNC ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER OFFERS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL WATER SYSTEMS: Running a water system comes with several challenges - those that can be particularly vexing for small water systems. Having technical assistance support can be helpful in considering options and developing plans to mitigate challenges. The UNC Environmental Finance Center offers a range of technical assistance services for small water services. The 1st step for accessing is

ARPA UPDATES



ARP OFFICE HOURS

- Thursday, March 21, 12-1pm
- Wednesday, March 27, 8:30-9:30am
- Thursday, April 4, 12-1pm
- Wednesday, April 10, 12-1pm
- Friday, April 19, 8:30-9:30am
- Wednesday, April 24, 8:30-9:30am
- Monday, April 30, 8:30-9:30am

Zoom Information:

<https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=UIE2VHNhN2luSoJEYTJqeTZTMFRWdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,95481909044# US

+19292056099,,95481909044# US (New York)



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

ASSISTANCE: When spending federal financial assistance, 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. To view the Model Procurement Policy, read

[https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fcanons.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F1175%2F2023%2F01%2FUniform-Guidance-Procurement-Policy_10_11_2361.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

[src=https%3A%2F%2Fcanons.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fcanons.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F1175%2F2023%2F01%2FUniform-Guidance-Procurement-Policy_10_11_2361.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

[content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F1175%2F2023%2F01%2FUniform-Guidance-Procurement-Policy_10_11_2361.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fcanons.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F1175%2F2023%2F01%2FUniform-Guidance-Procurement-Policy_10_11_2361.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

To access the School of Government's PowerPoint presentation on Uniform Guidance Procurement, view

[https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fcanons.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F1175%2F2023%2F01%2FProcurement-Office-Hours_10_12_202399-Read-Only.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

[src=https%3A%2F%2Fcanons.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fcanons.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F1175%2F2023%2F01%2FProcurement-Office-Hours_10_12_202399-Read-Only.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

[content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F1175%2F2023%2F01%2FProcurement-Office-Hours_10_12_202399-Read-Only.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fcanons.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F1175%2F2023%2F01%2FProcurement-Office-Hours_10_12_202399-Read-Only.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

To access the School of Government's sample contract terms compliant with Uniform Guidance procurement requirements, visit [https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Farpa.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2022%2F05%2FContract-Clause-Model-Addendum-04-18-2022.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

[src=https%3A%2F%2Farpa.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Farpa.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2022%2F05%2FContract-Clause-Model-Addendum-04-18-2022.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

[content%2Fuploads%2F2022%2F05%2FContract-Clause-Model-Addendum-04-18-2022.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Farpa.sog.unc.edu%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2022%2F05%2FContract-Clause-Model-Addendum-04-18-2022.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

[INTERNAL CONTROL IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS](#)

Headline - City finance employee embezzles public money. While the facts may differ, the story underlying this all-too-common headline is usually one in which a trusted employee slowly pockets money by writing checks or electronically transferring funds to a personal bank account until the fraud is eventually uncovered. How did this happen? Citizens want to know. They look to the governing board for answers—we elected you and entrusted you to protect us.... To read Rebecca Badgett's blog visit, <https://canons.sog.unc.edu/2023/11/internal-control-in-financial-management-understanding-the-basics/>.

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). 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 (except for 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.

To view the full Obligation Interim Final Rule, visit

[https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Obligation Interim Final Rule 2023.pdf](https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Obligation%20Interim%20Final%20Rule%202023.pdf).

To view Treasury's Quick Reference Guide for the Obligation Interim Final Rule, visit

[https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Obligation Interim Final Rule Quick Reference Guide 2023.pdf](https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Obligation%20Interim%20Final%20Rule%20Quick%20Reference%20Guide%202023.pdf). If you have questions about how the new Obligation Interim Final Rule may affect your community or project, please contact Cory Osborne at cosborne@hccog.org, 828-265-5434 Ext. 142.

WEBINARS

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL EXECUTIVE EDUCATION WEBINAR TO BE OFFERED FOR FREE ON STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH: The Harvard Kennedy School is offering an Executive Education Webinar entitled, "Strategies for Inclusive Growth," on **Monday, March 18, 2024, at 1:00 PM**. The live webinar is free and is scheduled for 1 hour. To register and participate, please go to: https://harvard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Udjohnq7Sky8HsmJ8LJb4g#/registration

FEMA AND DHS CENTER FOR FAITH-BASED AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS OFFER FREE WEBINAR ON RECOVERY BEST PRACTICES: FEMA and the DHS Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnership will host a webinar on **March 21, 2024, at 2:00 PM** entitled, "Making Recovery More Resilient: A Conversation on Mitigation." This webinar will showcase key findings from recently released report entitled, "Guide to Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection to Faith-Based Partners," which is available at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_making-connection-faith-based_012024.pdf. The webinar will highlight key information from this resource and will include multi-faith perspectives for discussion on how to start and strengthen partnership to support resilience. To register for the webinar, please go to https://fema.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_eSl3uU1uQtOBVUt4dYAYaQ#/registration.

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