



JUNE 2024 GRANT RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

GRANTS



T-MOBILE HOMETOWN GRANT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MAIN STREET AMERICA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS FOR THE NEXT GRANT CYCLE, JULY 1st - SEPT. 30th. T-Mobile Hometown "shovel-ready" grants are limited to a maximum of \$50,000. The T-Mobile Grant Program offers 4 cycles annually, which includes: Jan. 2 - March 31, April 1 - June 30, July 1 - Sept. 30, and Oct. 31 - Dec. 31. This 5-year grant program will close in 2026.

For more information, visit <https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>.



EDA ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS TO ADVANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The Economic Development Administration, a federal agency, provides grant funds to support a range of construction and non-construction activities to advance economic development and enhance the competitive environment in which jobs can be created and private investment leveraged.

Suggestions for a strong funding application include the following:

- Provide public projects (or nonprofit led projects coordinated in collaboration with a unit of local government) to enhance physical infrastructure for business growth and expansion.
- Help workforce infrastructure to connect residents to good-paying jobs.
- Facilitate planning or technical assistance projects that connect and inform regional partners to enhance economic development outcomes.

Competitive applications are place-based and reflect the needs of local areas, which provides EDA with the capacity to invest in diverse projects. Refer to the examples below to formulate project ideas:

1. Improve or expand water/sewer system to meet capacity needs of new and growing businesses.
2. Link transportation assets (access roads, inland and traditional ports, rail spurs, etc.) for business and labor to commerce activities.
3. Provide entrepreneurship, incubator/accelerator, and business hubs to meet local gaps and support businesses with expansion and job creation goals.
4. Develop facility and equipment projects to expand training programs for good-paying jobs.
5. Enhance studies and analysis that inform economic development, including but not limited to highest and best use analysis, supply chain analysis, corridor studies, diversification studies, and master plans.

EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs are designed with flexibility in terms of regional eligibility, match, and funding amount provided. [EDA is currently accepting applications](#) at <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/> for the Economic Adjustment Assistance and Public Works Programs. Feel free to contact EDA's state representative, Hillary Sherman at hsherman@eda.gov.

EDA's PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM helps distressed communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure. This program enables communities to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, generate local investment, and create or retain long-term jobs through land acquisition, development, and infrastructure improvement projects that establish or expand industrial or commercial enterprises.

Public Works program investments help facilitate the transition of communities from being distressed to becoming competitive by developing key public infrastructure, such as:

- Technology-based facilities.
- Multi-tenant manufacturing facilities.
- Business and industrial parks.
- Telecommunication and development facilities.
- Water and sewer system improvements.
- Business incubator facilities.
- Port and harbor expansions.
- Skill-training facilities.
- Brownfield redevelopment.

Visit <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/public-works> for more information on each program. **Contact:** Hillary Sherman, NC Economic Development Representative, hsherman@eda.gov.



EPA ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS TO REPLACE HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES WITH CLEAN-ENERGY VEHICLES: EPA seeks applications from States, municipalities, Tribal Governments, and nonprofit school transportation associations to support the replacement of school buses or other heavy-duty vehicles with clean-energy vehicles. [The application deadline is July 25, 2024.](#) To learn more, please go to <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/2024-chdv-grants-nofo-2024-04.pdf>.

EPA OFFERS GRANTS UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM: EPA is accepting applications under its Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant program. This project is designed to help disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. [Application deadline is November 21, 2024.](#) To learn more, please go to <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) is administered by the NC DOC and funds local community housing and environments, thereby expanding economic opportunities for people with low- and moderate-income (LMI) levels. The Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) administers the economic development (ED) category for the Department of Commerce. State rules related to the CDBG program are found in North Carolina Administrative Code 4 NCAC 19L and specific CDBG economic development rules are found at 4 NCAC 1K.

COMMUNITY HOUSING GRANTS: These grants empower localities to tailor projects to their unique needs, especially for low- and moderate-income residents.

- **Federal CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization**, of which Lenoir and New Bern are eligible. Contact: John F. Brooks, CDBG Section Chief, john.brooks@commerce.nc.gov.
- **Federal CDBG Recovery Housing Program (RHP) Program**. Contact: Simpson-Carter, Special Programs Manager, s.simpson-carter@commerce.nc.gov.
- **Public Infrastructure**: CDBG's Program for Economic Development (ED) is administered by NC Department of Commerce's (DOC) REDD and CDBG Public Infrastructure Funds are administered by NC DEQ's NC Division of Water Infrastructure. Eligible applicants are units of local government with priority given to the counties that have the 80 highest rankings under N.C.G.S.143B-437.08, which is Tier 2 for Craven and Pamlico Counties and Tier 3 for Carteret County. Visit <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/community-development-block-grant-infrastructure>.
- CDBG's economic development component is administered by DOC's REDD to assist with environmental issues focused on aging sewer systems, contaminated drinking water, and improving the quality of life which result from improved infrastructure systems. Contact: Colleen Simmons, Program Manager, CDBG-Infrastructure Unit, colleen.simmons@deq.nc.gov.
- NC's Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Water Infrastructure provides financial assistance for projects that improve water quality (sewer collection and treatment systems, water treatment plants, drinking water distribution systems, water treatment plants, stormwater treatment systems, and stream restoration). Visit <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure>. Contact: Carrie Shortt, Administrative Services Unit Supervisor, (919) 707-9049, carrie.shortt@deq.nc.gov.

DEMOLITION GRANTS (for small cities): Eastern Carolina cities include Goldsboro, Jacksonville, Lenoir, and New Bern are ineligible. Counties of Wayne, Lenoir, Craven, and Onslow are eligible. Visit <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/grants-incentives/building-or-site-funds/demolition/demolition-federal-cdbg>. Contact: John F. Brooks, CDBG Section Chief, john.brooks@commerce.nc.gov.

The BUILDING REUSE PROGRAM (for small cities) uses federal CDBG Economic Development funds, which are administered by NC DOC's REDD. The rural development specialists guide and assist those needing economic development grants to expand business space through renovation or upfitting old buildings, and demolition that lead to creating new, full-time jobs. Eastern Carolina cities of Goldsboro, Jacksonville, Lenoir, and New Bern are ineligible. Counties of Wayne, Lenoir, Craven, and Onslow are eligible. Visit

<https://www.commerce.nc.gov/grants-incentives/building-or-site-funds/building-reuse/building-reuse-federal-cdbg-economic-development>.

Contact: John F. Brooks, CDBG Section Chief, john.brooks@commerce.nc.gov.



NC's DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S (DEQ) DIVISION OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE provides the financial assistance for projects that improve water quality (sewer collection and treatment systems, water treatment plants, drinking water distribution systems, water treatment plants, stormwater treatment systems, and stream restoration). For more information, visit <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure>. or Contact: Carrie Shortt, Administrative Services Unit Supervisor, (910) 707-9049, carrie.shortt@deq.nc.gov.

ARPA UPDATES



ARP OFFICE HOURS: The UNC School of Government (SOG) hosts virtual ARPA Office Hours for local governments to discuss issues related to the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Fund program and local government finance.

Upcoming ARP/Finance Office Hours:

- Tuesday, June 18, 12:00-1:00 PM (focus on procurement)
- Monday, July 1, 8:30-9:30 AM
- Tuesday, July 9, 8:30-9:30 AM

- Friday, July 26, 8:30-9:30 AM (obligation definition)
- Wednesday, July 31, 12:00-1:00 PM
- Friday, August 9, 8:30-9:30 AM
- Tuesday, August 13, 8:30-9:30 AM
- Wednesday, August 21, 12:00-1:00 PM (obligation definition)

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

[https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?](https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=UIE2VHNhN2luSoJEYTJqeTZTMFRWdz09#success)

[pwd=UIE2VHNhN2luSoJEYTJqeTZTMFRWdz09#success](https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=UIE2VHNhN2luSoJEYTJqeTZTMFRWdz09#success)

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726

One tap mobile

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NC ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (NCACC) LAUNCHES NEW ARPA

RESOURCE LIBRARY: The NCACC recently published a new tool, the ARPA Resource Library to help orient county staff who are new to the ARPA SLFRF program and help veteran staff brush up on key concepts and resources. It is a comprehensive compilation of official guidance, tools, templates, and other pertinent information from various sources to help counties implement compliant SLFRF-funded projects. To access the NCACC ARPA Resource Library, visit <https://north-carolina-association-of-county-commissioners.foleon.com/arpa-resource-library/arpa-resource-library/>.

UPDATES

THE NC RESILIENCE EXCHANGE IS LIVE: On May 21, 2024, The NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) launched the NC Resilience Exchange at <https://www.resilienceexchange.nc.gov/>.

Countless North Carolina leaders within and outside of government have requested that the state offer a single, trusted clearinghouse of vetted climate resilience resources. The Exchange fills this information gap, enabling local communities to make data-driven decisions and find actionable guidance from peers and experts.

NCORR developed the NC Resilience Exchange, which was supported by countless advisors, reviewers and contributors who helped ensure that all the content is applicable and accurate, yet not overwhelming to users. The Exchange is an easy-to-use clearinghouse of vetted resources for resilience work in North Carolina. It provides maps and data to help communities analyze vulnerabilities, tools to identify actions and find funding, original case studies of successes in the state, and a database of experts willing to help. With the support of these tools, local leaders can build resilience within communities. The NC Resilience Exchange team has taken care to include resources and strategies for use in natural areas and farmlands, in addition to cities in towns. It is to be shared with communities, organizations and professionals across the state.

NCORR will continue adding content to the Exchange over time. Please contact nicole.goddard@ncdps.gov to provide feedback and share best practices.



Starting July 2, 2024, external users of the FEMA GO system will be required to access FEMA GO using login.gov.

FEMA's Grant Program Directorate (GPD) will be hosting two 60-minute training webinars titled, "How to use [Login.gov](https://login.gov) to log in to FEMA GO." The training webinars will be facilitated by GPD's FEMA GO Training Section and is offered to prepare external users for the

planned integration of FEMA GO with [Login.gov](https://login.gov). The 2 training webinars will be held:

- Thursday June 20 2:30 - 3:30 ET
- Wednesday June 26 2:30 - 3:30 ET

Registration for both trainings may be accessed at

<https://femacqpub1.cosocloud.com/content/connect/c1/7/en/events/catalog.html?folder-id=478099172&from-origin=fema.cosocloud.com>. The training webinars are limited to 1500 participants. For those who are unable to attend the training, the On Demand recorded session will be available on the link above.

The training team will provide key information published in the updated FEMA GO Startup Guide at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema-go_startup-guide.pdf on how to use login.gov to log in to FEMA GO, which includes:

- Best Practices to Create a Login.gov Account
- New FEMA GO User Account Creation
- Internal FEMA Employees
- Account Scenarios
- Managing Emails
- Managing Email Notifications

FEMA GO's USER FOCUS GROUP: Last month FEMA Go announced the hosting of the 1st FEMA GO Quarterly User Focus Group session held on June 4th. This event provided FEMA GO and its users with the opportunity to be updated regularly for grants management by delivering the best possible solutions and training resources to meet those needs. Since the inaugural interactive user focus group session was held on June 4th, a recording of the session was made available.

FEMA has created a collection of resources available for **FEMA GO** users. Please visit, <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go>.

JUSTICE40 IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: This document was developed by PolicyLink and the Emerald Cities Collaborative to assist local governments in maximizing federal funds for underserved communities as part of the Justice40 Initiative. The document guides local governments through 4 steps to determine the best resources, which include DOT Justice40, EPA Justice40, and DOE Justice 40, to engage and benefit their communities. Visit, <https://www.policylink.org/resources-tools/justice40-implementation-guide>.

HUD EXCHANGE: Here is another resource that may be of interest to local governments. It also provides federal opportunities, including the names of the federal agencies, descriptions of the available funding, and deadlines, Visit, [Welcome to HUD Exchange - HUD Exchange](#).



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