

## MAY 2024 GRANT RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



FUNDING



### GRANTS



#### **US DOT FORMULA AND DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAMS**

**HAVING A CLIMATE CHANGE THEME:** 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. The checklist provides tips to determine whether your proposed project is included in your State's Carbon Reduction Strategy or State Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Deployment

Plan. North Carolina has a required FHWA-approved State EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan to utilize its National EV Infrastructure (NEVI) formula funds. If your project is included in or is 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.

Visit this web page for more information on NCDOT's involvement in these grant programs, <https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/climate-and-sustainability/dot-funding-programs-and-climate-change>, also contact Heather Hildebrandt at [hjhildebrandt@ncdot.gov](mailto:hjhildebrandt@ncdot.gov) or Mark Eatman at [mreatman@ncdot.gov](mailto:mreatman@ncdot.gov). 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/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/nevi/ev_deployment_plans/). For information for NC's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant visit, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/energy-climate/state-energy-office/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grant>.



### **COMMUNITY COOPERATION ANNOUNCES THE DEFENSE**

#### **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM:**

The 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.

To review the Defense Community Infrastructure Program's goals & objectives and to see the Q&A details from the [April 18th pre-proposal webinar](#), visit 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](https://grants.gov) by 5:00 PM PDT on [June 17, 2024](#). 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](mailto:sally.c.hannan.mil@mail.mil).



#### **THE GOLDEN LEAF FOUNDATION PROMOTES GRANT PROGRAMS:**

The Golden LEAF **Open Grants Program** allows applicants to apply for funding throughout the year. Eligible applicants are governmental entities and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. This program is for economic development projects aligned with the Golden LEAF priority areas: 1) Job Creation and Economic Investment, 2) Agriculture, and 3) Workforce Preparedness. Competitive applications for projects include requests for funds to:

- Develop and implement a new workforce training program to meet demand from local employers.
- Implement a career pathway at a high school for a high demand field.
- Extend water, sewer, or road infrastructure to a site to enable industrial development that will create full-time jobs.
- Support the development of new crops, expand markets for agriculture products, or provide training for farmers.

Most awards in the Open Grants Program will be for \$200,000 or less. Golden LEAF may make awards of up to \$500,000 from this program for projects that possess some of its additional characteristics. For more information about the Open Grants Program visit <https://goldenleaf.org/opengrants/> or to submit a general inquiry to the Golden LEAF Foundation, contact [info@goldenleaf.org](mailto:info@goldenleaf.org).

[The 2024 Open Grants deadlines end at 11:59 PM on June 20, Aug. 22, Oct. 24, and Dec. 26, 2024.](#)

Visit <https://goldenleaf.org/> to learn about Golden LEAF Foundation's other grant programs.



#### **THE SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A)**

**DISCRETIONARY GRANT:** SS4A is accepting applications in response to its Fiscal Year 2024 NOFO; visit,

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/fy24-nofo>. The SS4A program supports the development of a [comprehensive safety action plan](#), referred to as an “Action Plan,” that identifies the most significant roadway safety concerns in a community and implementation of projects and strategies to address roadway safety issues. Action Plans are the foundation of the SS4A

grant program, which are required to be in place before applying for implementation projects and strategies.

Planning and Demonstration Grants provide Federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement an Action Plan. Its goal is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and

serious injuries in a locality or region. "Supplemental planning" broadly refers to any activity that informs the development of a new or existing Action Plan. Eligible entities include: Political subdivisions of a State - counties, cities, towns, transit agencies, and other special districts; Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs); and Federally recognized Tribal governments.

Eligible supplemental planning activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Action plan updates.
- Action plan consolidation.
- Complementary safety plan development.
- Road safety audits.
- Equity analysis, including analysis focused on equitable enforcement.
- Follow-up data collection and safety analysis.
- Progress reporting.
- Stakeholder engagement and collaboration.
- Roadway safety planning.

For more information on Planning and Demonstration Grants, visit

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/planning-and-demonstration-activities#eligible-supplemental-planning-activities>. The 'FY 2024 SS4A NOFO has multiple application deadlines depending on the grant type; the remaining deadline is for [Planning and Demonstration Grant application, which is Aug. 29, 2024, by 5:00 PM](#). 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>.



**EPA ENVIRONMENTAL AND THE CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS PROGRAM:**

The EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change grants are intended to benefit environmental and climate justice activities for disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. Approximately, \$2 B is available from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), most awards will be \$10-20 M, with limited smaller awards of \$1-3 M.

Eligible projects include:

- Climate resiliency and adaptation.
- Mitigating climate and health risks.
- Community-led air and other pollution monitoring, prevention and remediation.
- Investments in low- and zero-emissions resilient technologies.
- Workforce development to support reducing greenhouse gases and other air pollutants.
- Reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution.
- Facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings and other public processes.

These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. They are designed to deliver on the transformative potential of the IRA for communities most adversely and disproportionately impacted by climate change, legacy pollution, and historical disinvestments. Those who are eligible are: Partnerships of multiple Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) OR partnerships of CBOs and local or federally-recognized tribal governments or academic institutions. The EPA Community Change Grants NOFO is now open through [grants.gov](#). [The application deadline is Nov. 21, 2024](#). No match is required. For more information visit, <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>.



**USDA, RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE**

**PROGRAM:** It serves 2 purposes - to help microenterprises startup and growth through a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund AND provide training and technical assistance to microloan borrowers and micro entrepreneurs. Microlenders may make microloans for qualified business activities and expenses including, but not limited to: 1) Working capital, 2) Debt refinancing, 3) Purchasing equipment and supplies, and 4) Improving real

estate.

Eligible entities are: Non-profits, institutions of higher education, and Federally-recognized tribes, specifically, businesses (with 10 or fewer employees) located in a city or town of fewer than 50,000 residents; the lender may be located anywhere. Grants, up to \$100,000 annually, are available to

provide technical assistance to rural micro-entrepreneurs or microenterprises. Funding at the requested level is not guaranteed, and at least 15 % matching funds are required. Loans of \$50,000 - \$500,000 may be used for establishing a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund managed by the Microenterprise Development Organization (MDO). Total aggregate debt is capped at \$2.5 M.

MDOs must demonstrate experience in managing a Revolving Loan Fund or:

- Certify that it or its employees have received education and training from a qualified microenterprise development training entity so that the applicant has the capacity to manage such a revolving loan fund.
- Demonstrate that it is actively and successfully participating as an intermediary lender in good standing under the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Microloan Program or other similar loan programs as determined by the Administrator.

Applications are accepted on an on-going basis through quarterly funding competitions; the next quarter ends on June 30, 2024, at 11:59 PM. Visit, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program>. Please contact the NC State Office for additional information and to apply - Reginald Speight, State Director, 4405 Bland Rd., Suite 260, Raleigh, NC, 27609, Phone (919) 873-2000, Fax (844) 325-6921.

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**RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM:** The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant programs provide funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides 0%-interest loans to local utilities which in turn, they pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The ultimate recipients repay the lending utility directly, who then, are responsible for repayment to USDA.

USDA provides grants to local utility organizations, which use the funding to establish Revolving Loan Funds (RLF). Loans to project from the RLF will create or retain rural jobs. When the RLF is terminated, the grant is repaid to USDA. Eligible entities for projects in rural areas or towns with fewer than 50,000 residents include: 1) Current Rural Utilities Service (RUS), electric or telecommunication borrower; 2) Any former RUS borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act; Or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act.

The local utility applies to USDA for funding support on behalf of specified local projects. Projects may begin after submission of an application, but there is no guarantee of approval. If approved, USDA will then issue funds to the local utility for the specified project. The Maximum Grant Amount is \$300,000 to establish the RLF; up to 10 % of grant funds may be applied toward operating expenses over the life of the RLF. The Maximum Loan Amount is \$2 M.

The local utility passes the funding to ultimate recipients for such eligible projects as:

- Business incubators.
- Community development assistance to nonprofits and public bodies (particularly for job creation or enhancement).
- Facilities and equipment to educate and train rural residents to help economic development.
- Facilities and equipment for medical care for rural residents.
- Start-up venture costs, including, but not limited to, financing fixed assets such as real estate, buildings, equipment, or working capital.
- Business expansion.
- Technical assistance.

For more information visit, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis through quarterly funding competitions; the next quarter ends on June 30, 2024, at 11:59 PM. Visit, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program>. Please contact the NC State Office for additional information and to apply - Reginald Speight, State Director, 4405 Bland Rd., Suite 260, Raleigh, NC, 27609, Phone (919) 873-2000, Fax (844) 325-6921.

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## ARPA UPDATES

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- Wednesday, May 29 – 8:30-9:30 AM

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (NCACC) LAUNCHES NEW ARPA RESOURCE LIBRARY:

Recently, the NCACC 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.

Visit [www.ncacc.org/arparesourcelibrary](http://www.ncacc.org/arparesourcelibrary) to explore the NCACC ARPA Resource Library.

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## UPDATES

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SAVE THE DATE – ECC TO HOST GRANT / PROJECT RESOURCE ROUNDTABLE – JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>:

ECC is partnering with various agencies on a “Grant / Project Resource Roundtable” event on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Best practices for the development of projects and grant applications will be discussed, along with updates on fall grant cycles. The tentative plan for the event is to be held from 10:00 - 3:00 at ECC’s office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE NEXT GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP - SEPT. 10-11<sup>TH</sup> in ECC's Board Room:

The ECC's goal is to train Members and their staff in grant writing skills and provide resources to match community needs to generate successful awards. Five ECC members have already expressed great interest in attending the fall workshop! For more information contact **Holly Lippitt** [hlippitt@eccog.org](mailto:hlippitt@eccog.org) OR by phone (252) 638-3185. Ext. 3021.



For grant research information, look at the **Community Blog**; the newest article featured is entitled, **Mastering Keywords**. Visit,

<https://grantsgovprod.wordpress.com/2024/04/11/grant-searching-made-easy-mastering-keywords-on-grants-gov/>. For technical assistance, click on Grant, the **Grants.gov** chatbot, seen below.



**PLEASE NOTE:** STARTING JULY 2024, ALL EXTERNAL USERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO LOG INTO FEMA GO via **LOGIN.GOV**. FEMA's new grant management system is **FEMA GO**

(FEMA Grants Outcomes). Visit, [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema-go\\_startup-guide.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema-go_startup-guide.pdf), to access the [FEMA GO](#) Startup Guide. Below are some tips that may be of help:

**TIP 1:** Those who have a [Login.gov](#) account, sign in to [Welcome | Login.gov](#) to ensure the [FEMA GO](#) email account has been added to the authorized [Login.gov](#) profile to avoid any sync issues. If the [FEMA GO](#) email account cannot be found, contact the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) or Subrecipient Authorized Representative (SAR); these staff members can view emails displayed under My Organization | Manage my Team in [FEMA GO](#).

**TIP 2:** Those who need to create a [Login.gov](#) account go to [Create your account | Login.gov](#) and add a [FEMA GO](#) email account to avoid any sync issues.

**TIP 3:** For those who are the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) ensure that the authorized [SAM.gov](#) email has been added to the [Login.gov](#) profile. Multiple emails can be added to the AOR's [Login.gov](#) profile.

**TIP 4:** [Login.gov](#) recommends that a personal email address be used - and not the work email address. Why? If someone leaves a job, that individual will no longer have access to that email address, which will make it much harder to verify that individual's use of the email address, if ever there is a need to reset the password. No one can use an email address shared with someone else, but additional work emails can be added to prepare for [FEMA GO](#)'s transition to [Login.gov](#).

[FEMA GO](#) is committed to ensuring a seamless transition with the planned integration of [FEMA GO](#) with [Login.gov](#). Please continue to look for future reminders and more information about this important change. For questions related to the pending adoption of [Login.gov](#), users are encouraged to contact the [FEMA GO](#) Help Desk during the hours of operation are Mon.-Fri., 9:00 AM-6:00 PM ET. The Help Desk accepts phone calls at 1-877-585-3242 and emails at [femago@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:femago@fema.dhs.gov).



### [MORE FROM FEMA GO](#)

[FEMA GO ENHANCEMENTS ARE RELEASED IN THEIR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.](#) As [FEMA GO](#) stakeholders' needs and expectations continue to evolve, [FEMA GO](#) will continue to innovate and ideate with every enhancement release to ensure a transformative customer experience with grants management functions. By listening to stakeholders, and based on the feedback, [FEMA GO](#) has delivered features for positive impact on the user experience:

- Re-focused the home page to prioritize and reduced the effort for internal and external users.
- Made it easier for users to access their forms when logging into the system.
- Added separate tabs for grant applications, subgrant applications, and award acceptance actions.
- Incorporated sorting to the Apply for new grant card to enable the user to better find the funding opportunity to start an application.

#### **For internal users:**

- Added My Work section to the home page with access to a new Funding Opportunity page. Initially, this page was set up to provide access to allocation information for the Hazard Mitigation grants.
- Updated this page to enhance the navigation for access to grants, subgrants, and requests for assistance outside of a task. The ability to easily navigate back to a grant file and subgrant file (outside of a task) has been requested often of [FEMA GO](#).
- Added a single location within the system for users to find funding opportunities, when the users are not working on an individual task.

**For external users:** Beginning July 2, 2024, external users of the [FEMA GO](#) system will be required to access [FEMA GO](#) using [Login.gov](#). FEMA employees will continue to access [FEMA GO](#) with their PIV-card.

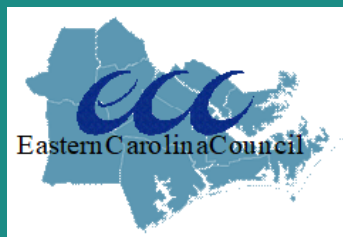
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FEMA is excited to announce that its first [FEMA GO Quarterly User Focus Group](#) session on

June 4, 3:00-4:30 PM ET. This event offers an opportunity to connect with **FEMA GO** stakeholders, end-users, and program partners to showcase how responding to calls meet emergent demands for grants management. Highlighted on the agenda will be recent and upcoming **FEMA GO** enhancements, demonstrations of live **FEMA GO** system enhancements and corresponding training materials, and discussion of design ideas. System experts will discuss user feedback and answer all questions about **FEMA GO**.

Moreover, this event is **FEMA GO's** way to stay abreast of the growing needs for grants management and to provide stakeholders and partners with the best possible solutions and training resources to meet those needs. Link to register, please visit,

<https://fema.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdeGsrzsuHr1TcdC5hBnThGElMfdNull#/registration>. This meeting will be recorded; by logging into this meeting, everyone is giving consent to being recorded. Please do not log into the meeting if consent has not been provided; contact the host separately. The recorded session will be made available following the conclusion of the meeting. FEMA has created a collection of resources available for **FEMA GO** users. Please visit, <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go>.



Eastern Carolina Council | 233 Middle St., Suite 300, PO Box 1717 | New Bern, NC 28563  
US

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