



Technical Assistance and Funding Resources Guide

A Monthly Update from U.S. EPA, Region 2

March 2021

This guide is designed to assist community organizations, local governments, universities, and other partners in navigating technical assistance and funding opportunities across Region 2.

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Important Deadlines

Apply by March 19- [The Funders Network - Partners for Places](#)

Apply by March 21- [Climate Justice for All Project Grants](#)

Apply by March 26- [EPA Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program Grants](#)

Apply by March 31- [American Water Environmental Grant Program](#)

Apply by March 31- [USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program](#)

Apply by March 31- [EPA Exchange Network Grant Program](#)

Apply by April 1- [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative](#)

Apply by April 13- [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Partnership Grants](#)

Apply by April 14- [AARP Community Challenge Grants](#)

Apply by April 20- [Health Literacy Initiative to Address COVID-19 among Underserved Populations](#)

Apply by April 21- [BioGals Sustainable Communities Fund](#)

Apply by May 4- [HUD Older Adults Home Modification Program Grants](#)

Apply by May 7- [EPA Annual Environmental Justice Grants](#)

Apply by June 2- [NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program Grants](#)

EPA COVID-19 Related Resources

EPA's main page for COVID-19 related resources can be accessed [here](#). These resources are available in several other languages including [Spanish](#).

Learn more about [EPA's ongoing efforts](#) to keep Americans safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read the jointly developed guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and EPA for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes.](#)

[View our infographic that demonstrates how to use disinfectants safely and effectively.](#)

[Visit List N: EPA's list of disinfectant products expected to kill SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\).](#)

EPA's Indoor Air and COVID-19 Webpage

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person. However, some uncertainty remains about the relative importance of different routes of transmission of the virus. There is growing evidence that this virus can remain airborne for longer times and further distances than originally thought. However, there are straightforward steps that can be taken to reduce potential airborne transmission of COVID-19 and the focus of this material is on those measures. The layout and design of a building, as well as occupancy and type of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, can all impact potential airborne spread of the virus.

EPA recommends precautions including increasing ventilation with outdoor air and air filtration as part of a larger strategy that includes social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings or masks, [surface cleaning and disinfecting](#), handwashing, and other precautions. Topics covered on [EPA's Indoor Air and COVID-19 webpage](#) include:

- [Indoor Air in Homes and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Ventilation and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Air Cleaners, HVAC Filters and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Additional Measures to Address COVID-19 in Public Indoor Spaces](#)
- [COVID-19, Wildfires, and Indoor Air Quality](#)
- [Science and Technical Resources related to Indoor Air COVID-19](#)
- [Indoor Air and COVID-19 Key References and Publications](#)

EPA COVID-19 Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

EPA's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Agencies and Associations](#) contains important information on grants, enforcement and compliance programs, water infrastructure, and a host of other issues important to effective environmental program delivery. The webpage will be updated regularly with new information. EPA is also continuing to update resources on its website and add to the [list of surface disinfectant products](#) that are effective against SARS-CoV-2. If you would like to contact EPA about any Coronavirus (COVID-19) issue, you may do so [here](#).

EPA's [Frequent Questions about Grants and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Other Resources for COVID-19 Disaster Assistance

The situation is rapidly changing, and new announcements are being issued frequently.

For the latest CDC guidance for individuals, businesses and communities see [cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

For a current compilation of other federal resources visit www.usa.gov/coronavirus

Environmental Justice

EPA Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 (12:00-1:00PM EST)

[See more details in the Webinars section!](#)

Climate Justice for All Project Grants

Climate Reality seeks to work with 10 organizations or groups interested in implementing a six-month project-based climate initiative between April and October of 2021.

The project must engage and benefit frontline communities, historically marginalized groups, or communities of color in the US. Recognizing that those closest to the problem are also closest to the solution, they will award a one-time grant of up to \$20,000 per organization for project implementation.

Climate Reality encourages applications from organizations primarily run by and serving people of color. More information can be found [here](#).

Applications are due **Sunday, March 21, 2021**.

EPA Annual Environmental Justice Grants

EPA has announced the availability of up to \$6 million in grant funding under [The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving \(EJCPS\) Cooperative Agreement Program](#) and [The Environmental Justice Small Grants \(EJSG\) Program](#).

EPA will be giving special consideration to the following focus areas:

- Addressing COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income communities and communities of color
- Climate Change and Natural Disaster Resiliency outreach and planning
- New applicants to either opportunity
- [Ports Initiative](#) to assist people living and working near ports across the country
- Small non-profits

The EJCPS Cooperative Agreement Program's total estimated funding for this opportunity is approximately \$3,200,000. EPA anticipates awarding two cooperative agreements of \$160,000 each within each of the 10 EPA Regions. To learn more about pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, [click here](#).

The EJSG Program estimates approximately \$2,800,000 will be awarded to approximately five applications per EPA region in amounts of up to \$50,000 per award. This includes the EPA's [Ports Initiative](#) program which anticipates funding up to six additional projects that address clean air issues at coastal and inland ports or rail yards. To learn more about pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, [click here](#).

Applicants should plan for projects to begin on October 1, 2021. Click here for more information on [environmental justice grants, funding, and technical assistance](#).

Applications are due **Friday, May 7, 2021**.

EPA Announces Progress with Environmental Justice Communities

EPA released its annual Environmental Justice Progress Report highlighting key environmental health advances in minority, low-income, tribal, and indigenous communities across the country. The FY 2020 Report shows how EPA is collaborating with partners, supporting communities, and ensuring that EJ is integrated into the work of every EPA programs and regional office. EPA is also working to align programs, policies, and investments to support economically distressed communities, including those in Opportunity Zones. You can read about these and many other accomplishments in the [FY 2020 Report](#).

Updated - EPA Environmental Justice Mapping and Screening Tool

In order to better meet the Agency's responsibilities related to the protection of public health and the environment, EPA has developed an environmental justice mapping and screening tool called **EJSCREEN**. It is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports.

The EJSCREEN Tool includes:

- **11 environmental indicators**
- **6 demographic indicators**
- **11 EJ indexes**

EPA completed an annual update of EJSCREEN on January 25, 2021. The annual update is an important refresh of the environmental and demographic data contained in EJSCREEN and enhances the tool by adding new and improved functionality. An exciting new feature of the update includes **climate indicators**. Users can now add flood and sea level rise data for the first time. EPA will continue to expand the climate indicators in upcoming updates. EPA's **Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI)** data is also now an available map layer.

More information and access to the EJSCREEN Tool can be found [here](#).

Rural Communities

USDA RD Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program

USDA is accepting applications for grants for projects that promote economic development and job creation in rural areas through its **Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program**. Application deadlines for FY21 are:

Third Quarter- **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**

Fourth Quarter- Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Applications must be submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office for the State where the Project is located. Find your **Rural Development State Office contacts**.

USDA Rural Water and Water Disposal Loan and Grant Funding

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Bette Brand has announced that the department **is investing \$281 million in 106 projects to improve water and wastewater infrastructure** in rural communities in 36 states and Puerto Rico.

USDA is funding the projects through the **Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant** program.

Eligible applicants include rural cities, towns, and water districts. The funds can be used for drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems in rural communities that meet population limits. For application or eligibility information, view the interactive [RD Apply](#) tool or contact one of USDA Rural Development's [state or field offices](#).

USDA COVID-19 Federal Resource Guide

USDA and its Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long-term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses, and communities through technical trainings, management assistance, financial assistance, and state/local assistance.

The [USDA COVID-19 Federal Resource Guide](#) provides important information about the funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act, as well as other federal resources supporting rural communities.

Agriculture

Webinar Series - Urban and Community Integrated Pest Management

Thursday, March 18, 2021 (4:00PM EST)

[See more details in the Webinars section!](#)

Webinar - Is an Organic Farm Business in Your Future? New Jersey Urban Ag

Thursday, March 18, 2021 (5:30PM EST)

Do you or someone you know dream of operating your own organic farm business in the Garden State? Do you have an urban farm or garden and dream of being bigger?

[See more details in the Webinars section!](#)

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Applications to the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Sustainable Agricultural Systems must focus on approaches that promote transformational changes in the U.S. food and agriculture system. NIFA seeks creative and visionary applications that take a systems approach for projects focused on the themes in the USDA Science Blueprint: sustainable agricultural intensification; agricultural climate adaptation; value-added innovation; and/or food and nutrition translation.

These projects are expected to significantly improve the supply of affordable, safe, nutritious, and accessible agricultural products, while fostering economic development and rural prosperity in America. These approaches must demonstrate current needs and anticipate future social, cultural, behavioral, economic, health, and environmental impacts. Additionally, the outcomes of the work being proposed should result in societal benefits, including promotion of rural prosperity and enhancement of quality of life for all those involved in food and agricultural value chains from production to utilization and consumption. Visit [here](#) for more details.

Applications are due **Thursday, April 1, 2021**. (Letters of intent were due January 7, 2021)

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Partnership Grants

Northeast SARE's Partnership Grant program funds projects conducted by researchers, educators and agricultural service providers working in direct partnership with farmers to encourage design and implementation of innovative solutions to current sustainability challenges related to production, marketing and/or household and community well-being in Northeast farming and food systems, or to strengthen working partnerships between farmers and agricultural service providers to advance sustainable agriculture.

Grants may be used for: research to improve production practices, marketing approaches, or farmer, farmworker or community well-being; education and training programs to increase knowledge and improve decision-making about sustainable practices; on-farm or in-market demonstrations of new techniques; and developing new farm management and community development approaches that support sustainable agriculture outcomes.

Click [here](#) for more details and to apply.

Applications are due **Tuesday, April 13, 2021**.

AgSTAR Anaerobic Digester Project Development Handbook

EPA AgSTAR just published an updated **Anaerobic Digester Project Development Handbook** -- a comprehensive compilation of the latest knowledge in the industry on best practices for anaerobic digestion (AD)/ biogas systems. The goal of the Handbook is to ensure long-term project success for AD/biogas systems by providing background and a framework for project development.

Air & Water

EPA Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program

EPA is soliciting applications from eligible applicants to (1) assist in the development and use of innovative activities relating to water workforce development and career opportunities in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector, and (2) expand public awareness about drinking water and wastewater utilities and to connect individuals to careers in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector. Project area #1 includes green infrastructure training.

Eligible applicants under this competition are nonprofit professional or service organizations, nonprofit labor organizations, nonprofit community colleges, institutions of higher education, or other nonprofit training and educational institutions. Individuals and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply.

Click [here](#) for more details and to apply.

Applications are due **Friday, March 26, 2021**.

American Water Environmental Grant Program

With an American Water Environmental Grant, your community or community-based organization can lend the water supply or watershed a helping hand by working to improve, restore, or protect it.

Project activities and outcomes should address a watershed or source water protection need in the local community within American Water service areas. Source water protection projects are activities that result in the protection or improvement of the community's public drinking water supplies. Watershed protection projects should focus on activities that improve, restore, or protect one or more watersheds. More information can be found [here](#).

Applications are due **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**.

NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program Grants

Up to \$750,000 is available from the New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) through three Requests for Applications that are currently open:

Local Stewardship Planning Grants: This funding will help communities in the Hudson River estuary watershed increase resiliency to flooding, protect water quality, fish, and wildlife habitat, and enhance natural resources. The minimum award amount is \$10,500 and the maximum award amount is \$50,000, with 15% match. This funding is from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Eligible projects advance four categories of projects and programs through planning, feasibility studies, and/or design:

- Hudson River shoreline communities to adapt land uses and decision-making to factor in climate change, flooding, heat, drought, and sea-level rise projections;
- Making water infrastructure more resilient to flooding and/or sea-level rise;
- Watershed and source water management planning (including assessing and monitoring water quality, developing a watershed characterization, and planning and designing water quality improvement projects); and
- Conservation of natural resources by creating a natural resources inventory, open space inventory/index, open space plan, conservation overlay zone, open space funding feasibility study, or connectivity plan.

River Education Grants: Approximately \$200,000 is available to support projects to enhance education about the estuary along the tidal waters of the Hudson and make opportunities to learn about the Hudson River Estuary more accessible. The funding may be used to design, equip and/or construct educational facilities (including signage, exhibits, and river-focused art installations), support development of plans or curriculum, purchase of equipment, and/or development of web sites or mobile phone apps. The minimum grant award is \$10,500, and the maximum grant amount is \$40,000, with 15% match

River Access Grants: Approximately \$200,000 is available in the RFA for River Access for projects along the shoreline of the Hudson estuary, including the tidal portion of its tributaries, that provide new or improved accessibility at new or existing access sites for boating, fishing, swimming, and/or wildlife-dependent recreation. The minimum grant award is \$10,500 and the maximum grant amount is \$50,000, with 15% match. This funding is from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

All three applications are due **Wednesday, June 2, 2021.**

EPA Trash Free Waters Implementation Guide

EPA has finalized and released the **Trash Free Waters (TFW) International Guide** - a tool that provides step-by-step guidance in order to establish a TFW program and implement related TFW projects. TFW is EPA's approach to address land-based sources of marine litter. This approach is designed to include all stakeholders, either at the national, state, or community level, in decision-making to address marine, coastal and watershed issues related to marine litter, as well as identifying and executing improvements to solid waste management. TFW works by bringing together stakeholders to identify and prioritize their most immediate marine litter challenges and develop actionable solutions to address them.

The TFW International Implementation Guide follows a logical, step-by-step approach to address marine litter in a holistic manner and helps stakeholders identify low-cost, low-tech projects that can be implemented in a flexible time frame. The steps to establish a TFW Program and implement related TFW projects are explained in the Guide and include:

- Form a Trash Free Waters Launch Team
- Conduct the Situational Assessment
- Convene Stakeholder Dialogue(s)
- Project Implementation and Further Actions
- Monitoring, Evaluating, and Sustaining a Trash Free Waters program

The Guide is designed to be used by representatives from all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders. It provides users with tools, guidance and templates that can be used to organize, implement, and sustain a TFW program. [Access the document here.](#)

EPA Advance Program

EPA's Advance Program promotes local actions in attainment areas to reduce ozone and/or fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) to help these areas continue to maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The program provides EPA technical assistance, information on grants and training, opportunities for collaboration, and other support to states, tribes, and local governments that want to take proactive steps to keep their air clean. By participating in the program, Advance Partners can:

- Provide long-term improved air quality and continued health protection for area residents;
- take actions to reduce pollutant emissions and help reduce the number of days the area exceeds the NAAQS;
- engage with stakeholders in the community to identify and implement cost-effective programs and measures that make the most sense for your area;
- collaborate with other participating organizations and learn about programs and initiatives that have been successful in other communities; and
- achieve multi-pollutant benefits (for example, through actions that may also help reduce air toxics and/or carbon emissions in addition to reducing ozone and particle pollution).

Please contact the EPA Region 2 contact, Omar Hammad (hammad.omar@epa.gov), or the EPA Headquarters Advance Program team (Rich Damberg, damberg.rich@epa.gov; Mia South, south.mia@epa.gov; or ADVANCE@epa.gov) if you have questions about becoming an Advance program partner.

For more information, visit [EPA's Advance Program website](#). See also: [Advance Fact Sheet](#), [Ozone Advance Guidance](#), [PM Advance Guidance](#).

DOE Clean Cities Coalition Network Technical Assistance

The U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Coalition connects transportation stakeholders with objective information and experts to assist with alternative fuels, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies.

Through these trusted, time-tested resources, Clean Cities has helped fleets and fuel providers deploy hundreds of thousands of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling stations that serve a growing market. Clean Cities continues to support the entry of new transportation technologies into the marketplace.

For more information, visit the [technical assistance description](#).

Progress Report: Urban Waters Program

This [Progress Report](#) summarizes the accomplishments and significant milestones of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) working in 20 urban locations across the country. This Report is the first in a series of Progress Reports that will detail the specific program achievements at the federal and local level.

The Program accomplishes this through the critical work of local coordinators, or Ambassadors, that facilitate coordination with federal, state, local, municipal, academic, non-profit, and private sector partners on water quality and education and outreach projects. These Ambassadors are funded through a variety of sources, including federal partners, academic organizations, and local or national non-profit organizations. Ambassadors develop local workplans which guide project development and improves coordination and communication among partners.

The goal of this Report is to provide a high-level snapshot of some key projects and programmatic achievements of the UWFP locations, the federal partnership, and key project funding and information sharing resources; however, given the wide variety of activities at the partnership locations, a truly comprehensive report is beyond the scope of this Report. As data and reporting is improved and refined, future Reports will be able to provide cumulative impacts and successes.

EPA Water-Related Trainings

EPA Watershed Academy provides self-paced training modules and webcasts from national experts about a range of watershed management topics. To access webcast archives and online trainings, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/watershedacademy>

EPA Water Quality Standards Academy supports water quality standards development by presenting courses, along with occasional webinars. Access the page here: <https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-academy>

Nutrient Pollution - Online educational resources from EPA and other federal agencies. Teachers and students can work to reduce and prevent nutrient pollution in their communities. Check out these resources for use in the classroom here: <https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/what-you-can-do-your-classroom>

Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water's Drinking Water Training System provides training on the federal requirements of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. To access the trainings, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training>

Opportunity Zones

EPA Cleanups in My Community Map

EPA has provided a [map of all EPA funded Brownfield sites](#) overlaid with Opportunity Zones (the check box to activate this layer is at the very bottom).

More information about EPA's role in the supporting Opportunity Zones can be found [here](#).

Opportunity Zone Mapping Tool

The EDA, Indiana University, and its Kelley School of Business launched the [USA Opportunity Zones tool](#). The tool resides on the [StatsAmerica](#) platform. The tool combines location information for Opportunity Zones with reports that list the EDDs and University Center programs serving the area, as well as nearby EDA investments and other demographic and economic metrics.

View EDA investments in projects located in and around Opportunity Zones [here](#).

Federal Actions and Resources Supporting Opportunity Zones

View a full compiled listing of actions taken by federal agencies to support Opportunity Zones, as well as a host of other resources for Local Leaders, Investors and Entrepreneurs in Opportunity Zones on the [Opportunity Now, Opportunity Zones](#) website hosted by HUD [here](#).

Community and Economic Development

The Funders Network - Partners for Places

The Funders Network (TFN), in partnership with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), has announced the next round of grant opportunities for general and green stormwater infrastructure matching grants.

Applications are to create or improve collaborative partnerships between a local government sustainability and/or water department(s), frontline community-led group(s), and place-based funder(s), advance equitable sustainable climate action and/or GSI projects that addresses frontline community priorities, and apply a racial equity approach to both the collaboration and the project planning/implementation. More information can be found [here](#).

Applications are due **Friday, March 19, 2021**.

FY2021 Exchange Network Grant Solicitation Notice

The EPA [Exchange Network Grant Program](#) is soliciting project applications using the Environmental Information Exchange Network (EN) to:

- Facilitate sharing of environmental data, especially through shared and reusable services.
- Reduce burden and avoid costs for co-regulators and the regulated community.
- Streamline data collection and exchanges to improve its timeliness for decision making.
- Increase the quality and access to environmental data through discovery, publishing, outbound and analytical services so it is more useful to environmental managers.
- Increase data and IT management capabilities needed to fully participate in the EN.

The FY21 Exchange Network Grant Solicitation Notice is available on Grants.Gov. Applicants for the FY21 Exchange Network Grant program must submit an application package to EPA through the Grants.gov website.

Grant Announcement

Resources for Applicants and Grantees

Applications are due **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**.

New Health Literacy Initiative to Help Address COVID-19 Pandemic among Underserved Populations

The new initiative from the Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – [Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19](#) – is expected to fund approximately 30 projects in urban communities and 43 projects in rural communities for two years to implement culturally appropriate health literacy strategies to enhance COVID-19 vaccination, testing, contact tracing and other mitigation efforts among racial and ethnic minority and other socially vulnerable communities. Cities, counties, parishes, or other similar subdivisions may apply for the funding.

Click here to access the [notice of funding opportunity](#) and [resources](#) including shareable graphics, social media messages, and sample articles.

A technical assistance webinar for potential applicants will be held Wednesday, March 17, 2021 (5:00PM EST). Click here to register for the [webinar](#).

Applications are due **Tuesday, April 20, 2021**.

AARP Community Challenge Grants

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Community Challenge provides small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Applications are accepted for projects to improve public spaces, housing, transportation, civic engagement, coronavirus recovery, diversity and inclusion, and more.

More information can be found [here](#). Apply [here](#).

Applications are due **Wednesday, April 21, 2021**.

BioGals Sustainable Communities Fund 2021

BioGals is a 501(c)3 focused on empowering girls and women of color to design sustainable solutions for their local communities through engineering design and project implementation. This year, they are launching a Sustainable Communities Fund for locally-led projects that promote community development and sustainability education, one neighborhood at a time. The fund will include a small grant and pro-bono engineering support to design and implement. More information can be found [here](#).

Applications are due **Wednesday, April 21, 2021**.

HUD Older Adults Home Modification Grant Opportunity

HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes is making \$30 million available for grants under its Older Adults Home Modification ("Home Mod") Program.

Home Mod funding will help grantees provide adaptive home adjustments through maintenance and repair projects on the primary residence of eligible, low-income senior homeowners who are at least 62 years old. At least half of the funds will be awarded to grantees that serve communities with substantial rural populations.

These three year-grants are expected to demonstrate that providing client focused, low-cost interventions in homes of older adults is both feasible and beneficial. Eligible applicants include experienced nonprofit organizations, states and local governments, public housing authorities that have at least 3 years of experience in providing services to elderly persons.

[View the grant opportunity here.](#)

Applications are due **Tuesday, May 4, 2021**.

Business and Industry (B&I) CARES Act Program

USDA is making available up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees to help rural businesses meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, agricultural producers that are not eligible for USDA Farm Service Agency loans may receive funding under USDA **B&I CARES Act Program** provisions included in the CARES Act.

Applications are due **Wednesday, September 15, 2021** or until funds are expended.

EPA New Clearinghouse for Environmental Finance

EPA has launched a **Clearinghouse for Environmental Finance (Clearinghouse)**, an online database of land, air, and water information. This new Clearinghouse catalogues available funding, financing, and instructional resources to aid communities in their efforts to improve environmental conditions.

The Clearinghouse expands on the concept of the original Water Finance Clearinghouse, launched in 2017, that served as the one-stop shop for communities researching ways to fund and finance their water infrastructure needs to assist in local decision-making. The new Clearinghouse includes over 1,800 funding and financing opportunities and information resources from EPA's air, water, and land programs. Communities can use this system to access information on funding and financing opportunities for environmental projects as well as financial research, such as case studies, white papers, and webinars.

You can access the Clearinghouse for Environmental Finance here: www.epa.gov/chef

NIST Community Resilience Planning Playbook

Local officials, businesses, and residents who want to make their communities more resilient to hazard events – natural or otherwise – now can get straightforward, action-oriented guidance from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This **NIST Playbook** identifies key actions that communities of any size can take to better position themselves to deal with potential hazards. It complements the two-volume **NIST Community Resilience Planning Guide for Buildings and Physical Infrastructure Systems** produced in 2015 that is used by communities and professionals in a variety of ways. The Guide recognizes that communities must prioritize their limited resources and that improving resilience is a process achieved over time. More information can be found [here](#).

EPA Tools and Partnerships for Community Revitalization

EPA's Office of Research and Development has launched a project advancing community revitalization. The program is centered on a suite of science-based tools that EPA has developed that integrate information and data important to community revitalization in ways that facilitate decision-making and strategic planning to advance public health and sustainability.

Follow the link to view the selection of **Tools and Partnerships for Community Revitalization** and website links featuring case studies, videos, and training webinars. The tools highlighted were selected through a collaborative effort among 60 specialists participating in the partnership.

UST Finder - EPA's National Underground Storage Tanks and Release Web Map

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), with support from the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) and OUST, developed UST Finder; it is a web map application containing a comprehensive, state-sourced national map of UST and leaking UST (LUST) data. You can now access UST Finder, EPA's national underground storage tanks (USTs) and releases web map application, via EPA's **GeoPlatform**. You can also access UST Finder via EPA's UST website www.epa.gov/ust/ust-finder where, in addition to a link to the application, you can read a 2-page document with more information about UST Finder.

For more information about UST Finder, please contact USTFinder@epa.gov.

Sustainable Materials Management Prioritization Tool

If you are looking for ways to prioritize environmental improvement at your organization, the brand-new **Sustainable Materials Management Prioritization Tools** are lifecycle-based tools that offer a starting place to establish priorities for environmental improvement. They can help focus limited financial and human resources and help you consider key industries for collaboration.

The Tools generate dynamic charts that present over 10 million data points from a fully transparent, open, and freely available lifecycle model created by EPA. These charts provide insights across more than 20 environmental, social, and economic indicators for 389 categories of goods and services in the United States. They are a great starting point when developing sustainability initiatives.

EPA Federal Regulation Finder Tool

EPA has launched a Federal Regulation Finder (“**RegFinder**”) that helps users discover potentially applicable regulations. Importantly, companies can search for regulations by chemical, keyword, or industrial sector using NAICS codes.

EPA Smart Growth Technical Assistance Opportunities

EPA’s focus on Smart Growth covers a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse.

EPA offers several technical assistance opportunities to help communities learn about and implement smart growth approaches. More information about these technical assistance programs can be found [here](#).

Webinars & Virtual Events

EPA Indoor Air Quality Science Webinar – Evaluating the Health Risks of Radon

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 (10:00AM-12:00PM EST)

Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can be found across the United States, is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. In this webinar, two presenters will describe approaches for estimating the health risk of radon, summarize findings of epidemiologic studies of radon, and share findings of a recent report published by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), which evaluated lung cancer from exposure to radon.

[Register here](#).

Urban and Community IPM Webinar Series

Thursday, March 18, 2021 (4:00PM EST)

The UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Urban & Community Program is excited to present a new monthly webinar series that is free and open to the public. Presenters will share helpful pest management information for California residents.

Topics will vary each month, covering landscape pest management, household pests, rodent identification, understanding pesticides, management for weeds, invasive pests and more. The first in the series is “What is IPM?”

[Register here.](#)

Is an Organic Farm Business in Your Future?

Thursday, March 18, 2021 (5:30PM EST)

Do you or someone you know dream of operating your own organic farm business in the Garden State? Do you have an urban farm or garden and dream of being bigger?

Join the [Urban Agriculture Cooperative](#) of Newark, NJ on a free webinar for a listening and discussion session about preserved farmland through an innovative new program that offers low-cost land access in Northern New Jersey. [Learn more about the webinar here.](#)

[Register here.](#)

Healthy Yards Series: Get Ready for Spring

Friday, March 19, 2021 (12:00PM EST)

With spring right around the corner, now is the perfect time to create your plan for having a healthy, environmentally friendly yard this year. Join Save the Sound to talk about natural alternatives to fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and how to put best practices in place to build a healthier yard for you and your family.

Save the Sound will also discuss how to create a pollinator pathway patch. Whether you have a big lawn, a woodsy yard, are working in a community garden, or maybe just tending your window box, they have helpful tips to prepare for spring.

[Register here.](#)

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) hosts a monthly public webinar series to share EPA resources and information that are useful, practical/applied and available to meet [state research needs](#). Upcoming webinars:

Wednesday, March 24 (3:00-4:00PM EST): Air Sensor Performance Targets for PM2.5 and Ozone - [Register here](#)

Thursday, April 1 (3:00-4:00PM EST): Finding EPA Resilience Resources with the Environmental Resilience Tools Wizard (training webinar)

Wednesday, April 21 (3:00-4:00PM EST): Proctor Creek Story Map

Wednesday, May 19 (3:00-4:00PM EST): Air Sensors: Extension of the U.S.-Wide Correction for Purple PM2.5 Sensor Data During High Concentration Smoke Events

View all available recordings [here](#).

Northeast Regional Climate Center Webinar Series

The Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) hosts a monthly webinar with NOAA affiliates to address timely weather and climate concerns. These webinars are available to watch live. Recorded versions are available within a week after the live webinar.

Tuesday, March 30 (9:30-10:30AM EST): Spring Flood Outlook

Thursday, April 29 (9:30-10:30AM EST): Northeast Climate Integrated Modeling (NCLIM)

Thursday, May 27 (9:30-10:30AM EST): Updated Climate Normals

Click [here](#) to register.

EPA Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series – Redlining and the Climate Crisis

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 (12:00-1:00PM EST)

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice is a speaker series on Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism. This second session in the series will focus on Redlining and the Climate Crisis.

Understanding structural racism and the climate crisis is key to shaping urban governance and the future of America's cities. The co-authors of a recent study on the correlation of redlined areas and the location of urban heat islands will discuss their participatory research on the spatial distribution of climate impacts, involving communities in measuring heat in cities. Their interdisciplinary approach offers a compelling perspective on how scientists and residents seek to address disproportionate vulnerability emerging from climate change.

The Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series will illustrate how addressing systemic racism is highly relevant to EPA's mission. This series explores how understanding and addressing systemic racism and the roots of disproportionate environmental and public health impacts is key to integrating EJ in the policies and programs of EPA and other environmental agencies to achieve environmental protection for all people

The first five sessions will focus on redlining and current environmental challenges. Future topics will include: Title VI and civil rights program, EJ research and analysis, rural inequities, and others.

[Register for the session here.](#)

EPA Region 2 Virtual AWIA Section 2018 Workshop

Thursday, April 15, 2021 (8:30AM-3:00PM EST)

On October 23, 2018, America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was signed into law, amending numerous provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Section 2018 of AWIA also amended the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). These revisions to EPCRA require that community water systems (CWSs) receive prompt notification of any reportable release of an EPCRA extremely hazardous substance (EHS) or a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance (HS) that potentially affects their source water, as well as have access to EPCRA Tier II information (i.e., hazardous chemical inventory data). More information is available as part of an EPA [Factsheet](#).

The virtual workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss implementation of the AWIA Section 2018 amendments to EPCRA and their impacts on emergency release notifications and hazardous chemical data availability for CWSs. This will be accomplished through presentations, as well as state-specific small group and roundtable discussions.

Who should attend: Region 2 State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC), as well as state and territory drinking water primacy agency and environmental response agency representatives.

[Register here.](#)

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Online Training

This online training course is designed to help state, local, and tribal agencies know the requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and its implementing regulations. The course supports agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities prescribed in law and is also designed to prepare participants for chemical emergencies and to provide compliance assistance to facilities.

Participants will learn facilities' reporting requirements providing information on the storage and releases of hazardous chemicals and how state and local agencies should use that information to prepare and protect the community from chemical emergencies.

Each lesson contains text, interactive exercises, and knowledge checks. Register [here](#).

Grant Resources

Resources for Finding Funding Opportunities

General information about EPA's grants can be found [here](#).

Grants.gov

This is a single access point for over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. The [search for grant opportunities](#) feature, located at [Grants.gov](#), allows you to electronically find and apply for these competitive grant opportunities. EPA posts synopses of competitive grant opportunities on [Grants.gov](#).

Assistance Listings (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance)

[Assistance Listings](#) on [beta.SAM.gov](#) (formerly CFDA.gov) provides access to a database of all federal programs available to state and local governments; federally recognized Indian tribal governments; U.S. territories; domestic public, quasi-public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals. After you [find the program you want](#), contact the office that administers the program and find out how to apply.

Resources for Small Business

EPA's gateway to environmental information and contacts for small businesses can be found [here](#).

Guide to Finding Federal Assistance and Resources for Environmental Justice Efforts

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice offers a guide with general guidance and tips on searching for funding opportunities, as well as information on tools, trainings, and other relevant resources that are available to help address community needs. This guide can be accessed [here](#).

Resources for Writing Grants

The federal government provides a range of trainings and resources to assist individuals and organizations interested in applying for a federal grant. Below is a list of some of those resources.

EPA Grants Management Online Training

This online training course is designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects of the entire grant life cycle, from preparation of an application through grant closeout. The course is divided into separate modules that can be completed individually. Each module includes knowledge checks to verify your understanding of key concepts. Upon completion, you will be prompted to generate a downloadable certificate of completion. You can access the online course on EPA's [Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#) website.

EPA Guide: Tips on Virtual Community Engagement for Grantees

Community engagement is a requirement for many grants. EPA recently released a guide of virtual tools and other approaches to continue to perform outreach during COVID-19. View the guide [here](#).

Other Resources

General tips on writing a winning grant submission from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development can be found [here](#).

General information on federal funding and grant writing resources from the USDA can be found here in their [Guide to Funding Resources](#).

Grants.gov provides a variety of content on the **basics of grant writing** in their community blog [here](#) and also links to **other grant writing resources** [here](#).