

Regional Grants Navigator (RGN) newsletter October 2, 2023

Note: All items in this newsletter including grants, webinars, and resources are curated. I have used input from meetings, phone calls, e-mails, and visits to develop a newsletter that is of interest and use to our community. If you are looking for a grant that is not listed here, please reach out to me.

How can I help?

The Regional Grants Navigator (RGN) position is a new position developed by the State of Colorado and administered by the local governmental agency (NECALG) to help support local communities receive ARPA, IJJA, and IRA funding. I provide support in grant research, guiding the grant application and writing process, and provide assistance through the life of the grant. Additionally, I am a resource among resources. In Region 1, we are well supported through many agencies including DOLA, USDA, and OEDIT. Working alongside these agencies and local community leaders helps create the network needed to ensure our communities are successful in receiving grants.

Webinars (recorded and upcoming)

Pathways to Recovery & Resiliency Funding Webinar Series recordings and upcoming events/webinars
<https://www.coresiliency.com/trainings-and-events>

Webinars for the FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program
<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/webinars>

Investing in Resilient Communities, October 10, 2023
<https://usmayors.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErduugpzspG9d2mmyAW9fAhMU18uxMDSjw#/registration>

Grants

Based on information I have received through visits, phone calls, and e-mails with most of the towns and counties in Region 1, I have created a curated list of new grants that might be of interest. I am happy to research specific grants for you.

USDA Rural Development Energy Grants

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs>

Several different grants provide funding to complete energy audits, provide renewable energy development assistance, make energy efficiency improvements and install renewable energy systems. Programs help convert older heating sources to cleaner technologies, produce advanced biofuels, install solar panels, build biorefineries, and much more.

USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans>

Due: Multiple due dates: Dec 31, 2023; Mar 31, Jun 30, and Sep 30, 2024

The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.

Prop 123 - <https://coloradoaffordablehousingfinancingfund.com/about/>

A ballot measure authorizing the state to retain money from existing state tax revenue to support affordable housing investment. These funds are split 60/40 between the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) through its Division of Housing (DOH), respectively. OEDIT manages the Affordable Housing Financing Fund in partnership with Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA), which serves as Contract Administrator. DOH manages the Affordable Housing Support Fund. Click the link above for more information.

EPA Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA)

https://www.epa.gov/wifia/wifia-available-funding?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Due: Available on an ongoing basis

Federal loan initiative overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Its primary goal is to expedite investments in the country's water infrastructure by offering extended-term, low-cost, supplementary credit support for projects of regional and national significance. For this latest funding round, the EPA has identified specific priority areas, including: increasing investment in economically distressed communities; accelerating lead service line replacement; Addressing issues related to PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) and emerging contaminants; mitigating the impacts of drought; and supporting water innovation and resilience.

Thriving Communities – helps with more than transportation.

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities>

Due: Nov 15, 2023

DOT is now accepting applications for its fiscal year (FY) 2023 Thriving Communities Program (TCP). TCP offers two separate response opportunities for potential applicants: a **Letter of Interest** and a **Notice of Funding Opportunity** (NOFO), which are described below. Under the NOFO, DOT is accepting applications for both the [Thriving Communities National Capacity Builder Program](#) and a new [Regional Pilot Program](#). Thriving Communities Program (TCP) will provide 2 years of deep-dive assistance and 3 years of facilitated peer learning support to selected communities to help them plan and develop a pipeline of comprehensive transportation, housing, and community revitalization activities.

DOE Carbon Capture Technology Program

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=343720&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

DUE: Nov 16, 2023

Assists energy providers and other eligible entities in lowering energy costs for families and individuals in communities with extremely high per-household energy costs (275 percent of the national average or higher.)

Innovative Finance and Asset Concession Grant Program (IFACGP or the Program)

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349860&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

- *This might be useful for rural infrastructure projects or airports.*

Due: Nov 17, 2023

Up to \$38.86 million will be awarded on a competitive basis to assist eligible public entities in facilitating and evaluating public-private partnerships and exploring opportunities for innovative financing and delivery for eligible transportation infrastructure projects, including highway, transit, passenger rail, certain freight facilities, certain port projects, rural infrastructure projects, airports, and transit-oriented development projects. Eligible applicants for this Program are public entities that own, control, or maintain assets that could be developed into enhanced assets. Eligible assets are those activities that would reasonably be deemed eligible to receive a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan through the Bureau.

FAA – Funding Aviation’s’ Sustainable Transition vis Sustainable (FAST) Aviation Fuels

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=350315&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Due: Nov 27, 2023

Focused on sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), to be termed FAST-SAF, and elements focused on low-emission aviation technologies, to be termed FAST-Tech. The amount of available funding for the FAST Grant Program is \$244.53M and \$46.53M for FAST-SAF and FAST-Tech, respectively. The purpose of the FAST Grant Program is to make grants available to eligible entities for projects that support sustainable aviation fuels and low-emission aviation technologies.

USDOT Thriving Communities Program (TCP)

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities>

Due: Nov 28, 2023

TCP provides technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to teams of community partners that may lack the staffing or technical expertise to scope, fund, and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. TCP will provide 2 years of deep-dive assistance and 3 years of facilitated peer learning support to selected communities to help them plan and develop a pipeline of comprehensive transportation, housing, and community revitalization activities.

Webinar registration: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/webinars>

- FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program Overview Webinar - September 15, 12:30-1:30 p.m. ET. *Let me know if you are interested in receiving the slide deck.*
- FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program Webinar for Interested Capacity Builders - September 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m. ET
- FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program Webinar for Communities Interested in Receiving Technical Assistance - September 27, 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

HUD Choice Neighborhoods

<https://www.hud.gov/cn>

Implement Grant **Due: Dec 11, 2023**, Supplemental Grant **Due: Mar 4, 2024**

The Choice Neighborhoods program leverages significant public and private dollars to support locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Local leaders, residents, and stakeholders, such as public housing authorities, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private developers, come together to create and implement a plan that revitalizes distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood. The program helps communities transform neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing and

catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant property, housing, businesses, services and schools.

Resources

Federal Grants, including IIJA and IRA grants/tax credits

Grants.gov - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

DOE IRA Tax Credits

<https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/federal-funding-incentives/inflation-reduction-act-tax-credits-incentives>

State Grants

- [OEDIT](#) (click on *Grants* under *I am Looking for . . .*)
- [USDA](#) (click on Programs & Services)
- [DOLA Local Community Funding Guide](#)
- [DOT](#) (In the search bar, type *Grants*)
- [CEO \(Energy Office\)](#) The Transportation, Clean Energy Programs, and Federal Funding tabs all list different grant opportunities)
- Colorado Division of Natural Resources– [Water Funding Opportunity Navigator](#)

Helpful Resources

[Colorado Resiliency Office](#)

[Local Infrastructure Hub](#) – US Conference of Mayors

[DOLA Local Community Funding Guide](#)

[USDA Rural Development](#) Programs and Services

[Local Match Assistance Program \(LOMA\)](#)

Meetings

[IIJA Office Hours](#) - third Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

[Local Government Coordination Call](#) - third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Newsletters/notifications

Senator Michael Bennet’s monthly local government IIJA newsletter, please email Alyssa Logan at

Alyssa_Logan@bennet.senate.gov to subscribe

[IIJA \(+IRA\) Funding Tracker](#) – subscribe to be notified the minute a NOFO is announced