

Announcements from the New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Partnership



<https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/urban-waters-and-lake-pontchartrain-areanew-orleans-louisiana>

Greetings Partners,

Below is the Quarterly Newsletter sent on behalf of the New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This newsletter is distributed to partners including Federal agency staff, local and state government employees, non-profit organizations and watershed community members.

Rochelle Cole has recently accepted a new position at the Louisiana Office of Public Health. Colby McClain will be the new point of contact for the New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Partnership newsletters. If you have opportunities or updates you would like to share with the partnership, please begin emailing them to mcclain.colby@epa.gov.

Have a great weekend!

Colby McClain

ORISE Participant *assigned to*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Gulf of Mexico Division

EPA Announcements



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE WWW.EPA.GOV/NEWSROOM

EPA Announces Availability of Up to \$6 Million in Annual Environmental Justice Grants

WASHINGTON (March 2, 2021) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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](#).

“These grants are crucial to supporting vulnerable and overburdened communities disproportionately affected by environmental health risks,” said Office of Environmental Justice Director Matthew Tejada. “With renewed leadership to address environmental justice under the Biden-Harris Administration, we are excited to support community efforts to address historically challenging issues.”

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, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>.

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, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program>.

Applicants interested in either opportunity must submit proposal packages on or before **May 7, 2021** to be considered for the available funding. Applicants should plan for projects to begin on October 1, 2021.

For more information on environmental justice grants, funding, and technical assistance: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>.

EPA Lake Pontchartrain Village Blue Launch: Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring to Help Communities Better Understand Local Water Quality

EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) initiated the [Village Blue](#) project to demonstrate the use of water quality sensors to increase community awareness about local water quality. In partnership with the [Pontchartrain Conservancy](#), the agencies installed water sensors at a site near the New Canal Lighthouse on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain in February 2021 and the data are now available [here](#). The sensor will record measurements of algae, chlorophyll, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, temperature, and pH every hour.

Although water sensor data from the new site are not representative of the entire lake's water quality, data from this site and an existing [USGS site on the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge](#) could be combined, allowing river and lake conditions to be evaluated under normal conditions on the river, and when river and lake waters come together during openings of the Bonnet Carré Spillway. Real-time water quality information about nutrients and potential algal blooms will help users develop a greater understanding of water quality issues, such as the ways heavy rainfall can contribute to changes in nitrate, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen levels in water bodies.

If you would like to learn more about this project, you can visit the [Village Blue website](#), read the [Village Blue Lake Pontchartrain Fact Sheet](#), or contact the team at villageblue@epa.gov.

EPA Region 6 2021 Stormwater Conference - New Orleans, Louisiana: Call for Presentations

USEPA Region 6, in partnership with the City of New Orleans, the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish, Texas A&M University Kingsville, and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) and States in Region 6, are requesting submittal of presentation abstracts for the 23rd Annual EPA Region 6 Stormwater Conference to be held August 8-12, 2021, in New Orleans, Louisiana. **Abstracts are due Monday, April 26, 2021.**

For additional information, please visit: <https://tamuk-isee.com/conferences/epa2021conference/>

EPA Gulf of Mexico Division: 2022 Gulf Guardian Awards

The EPA Gulf of Mexico Division is now accepting nominations for the 2022 Gulf Guardian Awards. Nominations are open in the following categories:

- Business/Industry
- Environmental Justice/Cultural Diversity
- Civic & Non-Profit Organizations
- Youth Environmental Education
- Partnerships
- Individual

The deadline to email nominations to GulfGuardian@epa.gov is **June 30, 2021**. Please visit the [website](#) to obtain and complete the proper documents for your nominations.

EPA's Quality Program Virtual Meeting

The [registration is now live](#) (free) for the US EPA's Quality Program Virtual Meeting, taking place **April 27-29, 2021**.

Join your fellow quality practitioners in exploring topics as diverse as emerging technology, partnerships, Lean, and best practices. This meeting will feature plenary sessions on scientific integrity and innovate practices, as well as breakouts ranging from panels to tool demonstrations. See the [draft agenda](#) for more details.

[Register now!](#)

Funding Opportunities

National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant Program 2021 Request for Proposals

The National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant Program has announced a [funding opportunity](#) with \$1 million funding available and award amounts of \$75,000 to \$250,000 (3 to 10 possible awards). Letters of Intent are due **June 7, 2021** and full proposals by invitation are due September 20, 2021. There is a match requirement and the project must address one or more of the following priorities: harmful algal blooms; loss of habitat; and/or flooding and coastal erosion.

For all inquiries related to this solicitation, please contact Suzanne Simon at ssimon@estuaries.org. For additional information about the program, please visit <https://estuaries.org/initiatives/watershedgrants/>.

FY 2020 EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs including CARES Act Funding
Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration- Applications Accepted on a Rolling Basis

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) invites applicants to submit applications under its Public Works program and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) programs. Through these programs, EDA invites applications to request grant assistance for clearly defined construction or non-construction assistance projects that will advance job creation, job retention and private investment or enhance economic development decision-making, respectfully. Through EDA's grant programs construction may support the construction of new public assets or the renovation of existing public assets, which include *but are not limited to* water/sewer lines, tanks, systems, pumps; incubators; access roads; workforce training facilities; commercialization centers; and port improvements. EDA's non-construction projects can support a wide array of activities, including highest and best use analysis, cluster and supply chain mapping studies, and regional technical assistance projects. Matching share funds are required and must be committed at the time of the project and for the same scope of work. For Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs the match is generally 50 percent, although communities may qualify for a higher grant rate. Applications accepted on a rolling basis. To learn more and to discuss potential projects, please contact Hillary Sherman at hsherman@eda.gov.

[*FY 2020 EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs including CARES Act Funding](#)

Common Counsel's Grassroots Exchange Fund — no submission deadline —

The Grassroots Exchange Fund is a rapid response small grants program which supports collaboration between grassroots social change and environmental justice organizations. A Grassroots Exchange Fund grant is typically \$1,000 and is distributed twice monthly on a rolling cycle. Visit the [Exchange Fund](#) webpage for more information.



Additional Funding Opportunities

For additional funding opportunities that may be of interest, please see the attached PDF. Let me know if you have questions in regards to the attached funding opportunities.

Webinars & Conferences



Stormwater and Electronic Data: The E-Reporting Rule for the MS4 Sector and the Value of Data Standards

Thursday, April 22nd, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CDT

The National Municipal Stormwater Alliance (NMSA) is hosting a no-charge webinar along with U.S. EPA, ESRI, and 2NDNATURE Software that will provide an overview of the U.S. EPA Electronic Reporting Rule (or “E-Reporting”) for the MS4 Sector, a discussion on the value of a GIS-based data standard for stormwater assets, and a view from the MS4 perspective on electronic data in stormwater programs. Brief presentations will be provided along with a Q&A opportunity to engage with webinar participants. 1.0 PDHs will be provided through this event.

Please register for this no-charge webinar by using the link provided below:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/927172390068662800>

For questions, contact Seth Brown, NMSA Executive Director, seth.brown@stormandstream.com.

Virtual River Rally 2021 – May 17-20



The River Network will host their second Virtual River Rally from **May 17-20, 2021**. The conference will feature ‘live’ content including plenaries, workshops, discussions, and inspiring reflections from award recipients, along with access to a huge library of recorded workshops, opportunities to connect with peers, and an innovative new community platform that will connect the network for years to come.

To register, please visit their website [here](#).

Upcoming Events



Pontchartrain Conservancy Storm Sweep and Friends of Lafitte Greenway Storm Sweep – May 2021

The Pontchartrain Conservancy will hold its Sixth annual Storm Sweep (previously known as Spring Sweep) as a month designated to clean up the Lake Pontchartrain Basin this May to promote education and storm preparedness. Join Pontchartrain Conservancy for a catch basin and neighborhood clean-up, become an event sponsor, or both!

Local teams of volunteers will concentrate on clearing streets and waterways of litter within their communities. Volunteers will track where, how much, and what kinds of litter are collected in the Clean Swell App or by emailing Pontchartrain Conservancy. To register or find out more information, please visit their Storm Sweep 2021 webpage [here](#). Once you have registered, **emails with the locations and dates of cleanups around the Pontchartrain Basin will be sent out by the end of April.**

In partnership with Pontchartrain Conservancy, the Friends of Lafitte Greenway will be hosting a Greenway Storm Sweep to pick up trash and litter along the Greenway on **May 15th 2021 from 6pm to 9pm**. For more information, please contact miguel@lafittegreenway.org.

