



U.S. EPA REGION 7

COMMUNITY INFORMATION DIGEST

June 2022

Welcome to the latest EPA Region 7 Digest!

EPA Region 7's Community Information Digest provides communities with the latest news about funding and technical assistance opportunities, webinars, conferences, and other activities related to human health and the environment.

The Community Information Digest comes from the Communities Section located in EPA Region 7's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Regional Administrator's Office. This small but mighty group leads Environmental Justice, Environmental Education, and Children's Environmental Health activities for the region.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

1. The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
2. Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn and work.

Still have questions? [Contact your Regional Staff.](#)

*An * indicates a new item*

Please Note: Headings are linked to more detailed source information.



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Headlines



[EPA Perspectives: Celebrating 25 Years of Protecting Children's Health](#)

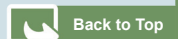
At EPA, we understand that children are not little adults. Pound for pound, children breathe more air, drink more water, and eat more food than adults. Children also have unique behaviors: they spend more time close to the ground and more time outdoors than adults. And we all know that babies and toddlers put nearly everything in their mouths. [Read the EPA Perspectives article](#)



[White House Releases Technical Assistance Guide to Help Communities Unlock Resources from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

On May 18, the White House released a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law [Technical Assistance Guide](#) to help state, local, tribal, and territorial governments navigate, access, and deploy infrastructure resources that will build a better America. The Biden administration has identified over \$700 million in dedicated funding across more than 65 technical assistance programs. In addition to highlighting

federal government technical assistance, the White House Infrastructure Implementation Team has engaged with a range of external stakeholders including, philanthropic, labor, and nonprofit organizations to highlight available nongovernmental resources and create a pipeline to assist communities in quickly and equitably accessing and deploying federal infrastructure funding.



[Biden-Harris Administration Makes \\$500 Million Available for Clean School Buses Through EPA Until Aug. 19, 2022](#)

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Creates New EPA Program to Protect Children's Health, Reduce Pollution, and Boost American Manufacturing. On May 20, 2022, the Biden-Harris administration, through EPA, announced that \$500 million is now available for school districts and other eligible school bus operators and contractors to begin replacing the nation's fleet of school buses with clean, American-made, zero-emission buses. This \$500 million represents the first round of funding out of the unprecedented \$5 billion investment for low- and zero-emission school buses over the next five years, secured through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

[USDA and EDA Launch Resource Guide to Boost Economic Development in Rural Communities](#)

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development just released a [Joint Planning Resource Guide](#) to help community organizations access USDA and EDA resources to build strategies to boost economic development in rural America.

[Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure](#)

The White House issued guidance to federal agencies on April 18, outlining obligations to procure materials domestically for infrastructure projects. See EPA's [Build America Buy America \(BABA\) website](#).

[EPA Announces \\$48 Million WIFIA Loan to Expand Water Supplies in Oxnard, California](#)

[EPA Trash Free Waters Program releases May 2022 edition of The Flow of...Trash Free Waters](#)

[EPA Announces \\$284 Million WIFIA Loan to Modernize Water Infrastructure in DeKalb County, Georgia](#)



[Report Environmental Violations](#)

Please contact EPA if you see what appears to be a possible violation of an environmental law or regulation. Environmental Justice Hotline: toll-free at 1-800-962-6215 or email at EJHotline@epa.gov
More information, visit: [EPA Hotlines](#)

Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities

[Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Climate Resilience 2022 Annual Awards Program Request for Proposals – \\$46 Million](#)

Due date: July 6, 2022

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Trust Services, Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience (TCR Branch), solicits proposals from federally recognized tribes and authorized tribal organizations to receive awards to support: 1) tribal climate resilience planning and strategy implementation, and 2) ocean and coastal management planning. The Branch supports tribes as they prepare for climate change impacts on Tribal Treaty and Trust resources, economies, regenerative agriculture and food sovereignty, conservation practices, infrastructure, and human health and safety. The Branch's Annual Awards Program will provide funding for projects that support tribal climate resilience as tribes incorporate science, including Indigenous and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK), Indigenous languages, and technical information. [Description](#)

[America the Beautiful Challenge](#)

Due date: July 21, 2022

The America the Beautiful Challenge coordinates funding from multiple federal agencies and private philanthropy into one competitive grant program. It is a public-private grant program for locally led ecosystem restoration projects that invest in watershed restoration, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation, consistent with the [America the Beautiful Initiative](#).

[DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program – \\$550 Million](#)

Due date: TBD

This U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funding is meant to assist states, local governments, and tribes to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency. The estimated program opening date is fourth quarter 2022. Contact stateandlocal@hq.doe.gov with any questions.



[Request for Proposals from Google.org, Environmental Justice Data Projects Welcome on a Rolling Basis](#)

Due date: Sept. 16, 2022

The Environmental Justice Data Fund is an \$8 million fund, created and seeded by Google.org, that aims to bolster data efforts of frontline communities – communities historically underserved and disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental injustice – in the United States. Grants from the Fund will support projects that use data to unlock resources; increase grantees' access to [Justice40](#) benefits and federal infrastructure funding; and advocate for new policies that empower communities to address past environmental harm and pave the way to a more sustainable, climate-resilient future. The Fund will consider a broad range of approaches on the use of data to advocate for environmental justice at the local and regional level. It will provide organizations with flexible project funding to increase their organizational capacity to incorporate quality data work into their environmental impact programming. The Fund anticipates that it will make one-time grants to approximately 60 to 100 organizations in 2022 through an open request for proposals (RFP), which will run on a rolling basis from April through September. Please visit the [EJDF webpage](#) if you are interested in learning more or in submitting a proposal. If you have any questions, please email: ejdatafund@windwardfund.org.

[HHS Grants Available for Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems](#)

Due date: June 11, 2022

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a notice that it expects to publish a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on May 13 to "Strengthen U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems." This funding is a first of its kind, non-categorical and cross-cutting programs, intended to help meet critical infrastructure and workforce needs in the short term; and it should also make possible strategic investments that will have lasting effects on public health agencies across the United States. To that end, it will support strategically strengthening public health capacity and systems related to the workforce, foundational capabilities, data modernization, physical infrastructure, and support from national public health partners. This program will also help to address the historic underinvestment in communities that are economically or socially marginalized, rural communities, and communities with people from racial and ethnic minority groups. This program also should support larger efforts to rebalance these investments and serve communities and populations that deserve more and better public health services. [Workforce Resources for Organizations](#)

[DOI Drought Resiliency Grants Available Under Fiscal Year 2023 WaterSMART Drought Response Program](#)

Due date: June 15, 2022

The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI's) WaterSMART Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought by providing financial assistance to develop and update comprehensive drought plans (Drought Contingency Planning) and implement projects that will build long-term resilience to drought (Drought Resiliency Projects). This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) supports Drought Resiliency Projects that will build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response activities. [Drought Response Program](#)

[EPA Regions Announce \\$1.13 Million in Regional Source Reduction Assistance Grant Opportunities](#)

Due date: July 22, 2022

EPA is announcing a grant funding opportunity for EPA Regions 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10 to advance innovative, cost-effective, and replicable source reduction approaches that save energy and water, reduce pollution, and improve human health and the environment. Source reduction, also known as pollution prevention (P2), means preventing pollution at the source rather than managing waste after it is produced. EPA Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) anticipates awarding approximately 1 to 4 grants, ranging from approximately \$40,000 to \$180,000, subject to the availability of funds, quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations. There is a total of \$1,135,000 in federal funds available across all participating EPA Regions. Applications require a cost share or match of 5% of the federal funds requested. EPA is particularly interested in receiving applications for projects that are designed to achieve measurable reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, result in reduced generation and use of hazardous materials, address reducing use of natural resources such as energy or water, and support environmental justice for underserved communities. An informational webinar on this funding program will be held on Monday, June 13, at 1:30 p.m. CDT. You can register for this webinar at <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1603847538>. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Dunning, Region 7 Interim Pollution Prevention Program Coordinator, at dunning.lisa@epa.gov.

[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Fiscal Year 2022 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)

Due date: July 28, 2022

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants support the development of comprehensive plans to revitalize severely distressed public housing and/or HUD-assisted housing and the surrounding neighborhood. Communities will develop a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan, to achieve the program's three core goals: housing, people and



neighborhood. The Transformation Plan will become the guiding document to carry out subsequent implementation of the plan for the target housing units, while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and positive outcomes for families. [HUD Choice Neighborhoods](#)

[EPA Seeks Applications for Brownfields Job Training Grants](#)

Due date: Aug. 2, 2022

EPA announced that approximately \$12 million in funding for environmental job training grants is now available under the Fiscal Year 2023 Brownfields Job Training Program. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 25 grants nationwide at amounts up to \$500,000 per award. "EPA's Brownfields Job Training Program boosts the environmental workforce while helping to transform communities that need it the most," said Carlton Waterhouse, EPA deputy assistant administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management. "This grant cycle, we were able to increase the amount of funding available so that organizations can apply for more resources as they work to create a skilled workforce in communities where assessment, cleanup, and preparation of brownfield sites for reuse activities are taking place." The funding available during this grant cycle comes from the historic \$1.5 billion investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This budget boost provides communities, states, and tribes with the opportunity to apply for larger grants to build and enhance the environmental curriculum in job training programs to support job creation and community revitalization at brownfield sites. Ultimately, this investment will help trained individuals access jobs created through brownfield revitalization activities within their communities. EPA is committed to meeting and exceeding the Biden-Harris administration's Justice40 goal that at least 40% of the benefits of certain government programs flow to disadvantaged communities. The Brownfields program will strive to meet this commitment and advance environmental justice and equity considerations into all aspects of our work.

[National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Disaster Resilience Research Grants](#)

Due date: Aug. 19, 2022

With this joint solicitation, the NSF and the U.S Department of Commerce (DOC) National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) call for proposals for research to advance fundamental understanding of disaster resilience in support of improved, science-based planning, policy, decisions, design, codes and standards.

[U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) Announces Intent to Release \\$13 Million to Support Community Geothermal Projects](#)

Due date: Aug. 30, 2022

Geothermal district heating and cooling systems use geothermal energy to provide climate control to buildings, including residences and businesses, through an underground distribution network. The intended Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will support community coalitions with community, workforce, design/analysis, and deployment expertise to implement such systems.

[Fiscal Year 2022 Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant](#)

Due date: June 13, 2022

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) [FY22 Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant](#) provides technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups through cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers

[WaterSMART Drought Response Program](#)

Due date: June 15, 2022

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Reclamation's [Fiscal Year 2023 WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects \(15.514\) in the West](#)

[Fiscal Year 2022 Energizing Insular Communities Grant Program](#)

Due date: June 15, 2022

New DOI's Office of Insular Affairs [Fiscal Year 2022 Energizing Insular Communities Grant Program](#) provides grant funding for sustainable energy strategies that mitigate climate change; reduce reliance and expenditures on imported fuels; develop and utilize domestic energy sources; and improve the performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency in the territories.

[EPA Announces Request for Applications for \\$68M in Grant Funding to Support Environmental Finance Centers; Selected Grantees Will Provide Technical Assistance to Communities Across America](#)

Due date: June 17, 2022

[EPA's WIIN 2104: Grants to Improve Drinking Water Quality in Small, Underserved and Disadvantaged Communities \(SUDC\) Grant Program](#)

Due date: June 30, 2022

[U.S. Department of the Interior \(DOI\), Bureau of Reclamation's Fiscal Year 2023 WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants Funding in the West](#)

Due date: July 28, 2022

[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fiscal Year 2022 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program](#)

Due date: July 28, 2022

[U.S. Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\), Federal Emergency Management Agency's Fiscal Year 2022 Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA Swift Current\) for Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania \(States Affected by Hurricane Ida\)](#)

Due date: Aug. 1, 2022

Provides pre-disaster funds to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

[New EPA 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates Open](#)

Due date: Aug. 19, 2022

[Online application information](#)

[U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\) Discretionary Grant Program](#)

Due date: Summer 2022

Funded with \$1 billion over the next five years, the program's funds can support planning, capital construction, and technical assistance to restore community connectivity equitably and safely through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.

Water Environment Federation

Do you know a small utility in need of an autosampler? The Water Environment Federation is providing FREE autosamplers to at least 225 small utilities, supporting wastewater surveillance efforts in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

[Apply online while supplies last](#)

Combined Sewer Overflow

[Combined Sewer Overflow \(CSO\) Technical Assistance](#) is available from EPA's Office of Wastewater Management on monitoring/modeling; smart sewers and smart data; asset management; operation and maintenance; regulatory/compliance questions; and small CSO community spreadsheet-based tools (CSO model, long-term control plan review checklist, post-construction compliance monitoring checklist)

[See flyer for more information](#)

Environmental Finance Center Network

The Environmental Finance Center Network offers free help on training and technical assistance to small wastewater and decentralized wastewater treatment works serving approximately 10,000 or fewer people.

[Request assistance here](#)

EPA Cybersecurity Assessments and Technical Assistance

Interested water and wastewater utilities can sign up for FREE, confidential cybersecurity assessments and technical assistance services provided virtually.

[Register here](#)



[Technical Assistance for Clean Water Act \(CWA\) Integrated Planning until September 2022](#)

Available to state NPDES permitting authorities reviewing a CWA integrated plan or municipalities in the process of alternatives analysis. [See website for more details](#). Learn more from EPA's Environmental Finance Center workshop posted online: [Getting Started: Integrated Planning Community Workshop for Small- to Medium-Sized Municipalities](#)

[U.S. Department of Energy's National Community Solar Partnership \(NCSP\) States Collaborative](#)

[U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Coalition Network Technical Assistance](#)

To assist with alternative fuels, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies.

[EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities Program](#)

[White House Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook](#)

A roadmap to the funding available under the law and program-by-program information is now available, including the downloadable guidebook data and EPA's [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law page](#).

[EPA Announces Additional \\$1.9 Billion in State Revolving Loan Funds for Water Infrastructure Upgrades](#)

\$1.9 billion in annual appropriations adds to \$7.7 billion in SRF funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2022.

[Explore 2022 Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds \(SRFs\) Using Interactive Tool](#)

[EPA Selects Recipients for \\$21.7 Million in Technical Assistance Grants to Support Clean, Safe Water for Rural Communities](#)

Meetings, Conferences and Events

[Register for Brownfields 2022 Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma](#)

Aug. 16-19, 2022

2022 is the year to take your community to the next level with unprecedented financial and technical resources. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included an unprecedented \$1.5 billion investment in EPA's Brownfields program over the next two years. Brownfields 2022 is the premier event to learn how you can access these grants and maximize your economic, environmental, and social performance. This funding will transform communities into sustainable and environmentally just places, enhance climate resiliency, and more. Join us and discover Brownfields in the Modern Frontier! Preregister by August 15.

[Register here](#)

Webinars and Conference Calls

[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's \(HUD's\) 2022 National Healthy Homes Month \(NHHM\) Webinar Program: A Healthy Home @ Any Age](#)

Dates:

June 14, 2022, 2 to 3 p.m. EDT: Creating Lead-Safe and Healthy, Affordable Homes at Any Age (Part 1)

June 16, 2022, 2 to 3 p.m. EDT: Insights on How to Be Successful Once You Have a Grant (Part 2)

June 21, 2022, 2 to 3 p.m. EDT: Overcoming COVID and Other Major Grant Program Stressors – Now and in the Future (Part 3)



HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) invites its current, former, and prospective grantees, and its housing, health, and environmental stakeholders and partners, to participate in any or all five FREE webinars, each of which will include a live Q&A segment. These webinars cover the importance and contributions of OLHCHH's grant programs and the Office's technical assistance and regulatory support for HUD's housing assistance programs. They will also highlight grantees' approaches to success and feature some of the challenges grantees have dealt with – and solutions they developed – during the pandemic. In addition, our presenters will provide their insights on implementing healthy homes concepts – and what they have learned in doing so. The theme for 2022 NHHM is "A Healthy Home @ Any Age," which highlights how healthy homes principles are relevant to any resident, at any age, in a home of any age. OLHCHH encourages agencies and organizations to consider applying to become a grantee in the future, such as through the Office's 2022 notices of funding opportunity to be published in the spring and summer at Grants.gov. OLHCHH partners with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Healthy Homes Partnership in holding these webinars.

[Register here \(links on Pages 3 and 4\)](#)

U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Webinars: New Safe Streets and Roads for All

Dates:

June 13, 2022, 1 p.m. EDT: How to Apply for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Opportunity: General Overview ([register here](#))

June 15, 2022, 1 p.m. EDT: How to Apply for SS4A Opportunity: Focus on Action Plan Grants ([register here](#))

June 23, 2022, 1 p.m. EDT: How to Apply for SS4A Opportunity: Focus on Implementation Grants ([register here](#))

DOT's new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program provides dedicated funding to support regional, local, and tribal plans, projects and strategies that will prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

[EPA's Intro to ECHO \(Enforcement and Compliance History Online\) Webinar: Behind the Scenes](#)

Date: June 14, 2022, 1:30 p.m. EDT

Answering questions about environmental data such as:

- From which EPA systems does ECHO retrieve data?
- How frequently is the data updated and how do I make corrections?
- How can I download ECHO data?
- What are the ECHO web services?

[Register here](#)

[EPA Tools & Resources Webinar: Understanding Environmental Justice Through Two EPA tools – EJSCREEN and EnviroAtlas](#)

Date: June 15, 2022, 3 to 4 p.m. EDT

Environmental justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. It's vital that as a society we fix the problems created by decades of environmental injustice. Understanding patterns of how different sectors of the population are impacted inequitably by environmental issues is a necessary step toward a solution. This webinar will examine two of the tools EPA has developed to help users understand and address EJ – EJSCREEN and EnviroAtlas. EJSCREEN is an EJ mapping and screening tool that provides a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators. EnviroAtlas is a data-rich, web-based decision support tool that combines maps, analysis tools, downloadable data, and informational resources. EJSCREEN and EnviroAtlas can be used together, and we will demonstrate how to use EJSCREEN data in EnviroAtlas and vice versa, with a focus on EJ issues.

[Register here](#)

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