

TX-07 GRANTS NEWSLETTER

September

The 117th Congress passed and President Biden signed into law transformative legislation, including the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, the *Inflation Reduction Act*, the *CHIPS and Science Act*, the *PACT Act*, and the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*, and more. Together with Congressional appropriations, these represent investments and opportunities for our communities and our future.

This monthly newsletter provides a guide to some of the funding opportunities that these landmark laws have made possible and other opportunities for federal funding and resources.

New and Improved: In this September's Grants Newsletter, we've improved your access to federal funding opportunities by including direct links to each grant name. Clicking these links will take you straight to the grants page where you can view the full funding announcement, making it easier to find the information you need. We hope this update enhances your experience with the newsletter.

New Resources

- The Environmental Protection Agency is launching a label program to promote cleaner, climate-friendly construction materials, funded by \$100 million from the Inflation Reduction Act. The program aims to reduce climate pollution from construction production, which accounts for more than 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The Label Program Approach will define "clean" construction materials for the Buy Clean Initiative, listing them in a publicly accessible registry for easier identification and purchase. For more information, please click [here](#).
- The Department of Transportation will soon open applications for the [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\) Grant Program](#). To help the Texas region prepare and gain insights from previously awarded projects, please click [here](#). Additionally, the Department of Transportation's "How to Compete" webinar from last year could be a valuable resource as you prepare for this year's competition.
- The Environment Protection Agency's Grantmakers program aims to reduce federal grants burden on small, resource-limited organizations serving underserved communities. 11 Grantmakers, including community-based nonprofits, will create competitive application processes, award environmental justice subgrants, set up tracking systems, and provide resources and support in collaboration with the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. Subgrants through the Grantmakers are expected to become available by Fall 2024. For more information, please click [here](#).
- The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$10 million to 16 technical assistance centers to improve accessibility and address barriers for environmental justice communities. The funding will enable these centers to provide training, support, and guidance on grant application processes, proposal development, and funding management. The centers will also establish communication channels for direct access to resources and information. For more information, please click [here](#).

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Active Grant Opportunities

The following grants and funding opportunities are active and available as of the publication of this newsletter.

The Inflation Reduction Act

- **Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program**
 - Description: This program offers cost-share grants to assist with infrastructure improvements to increase the sale and use of agricultural commodity-based fuels. These grants will cover up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs, but not more than \$5 million, to assist transportation fueling facilities and fuel distribution facilities with converting to higher blend friendly status for ethanol (greater than 10 percent ethanol) and biodiesel (greater than 5 percent biodiesel) by sharing the costs related to the installation, retrofitting, or otherwise upgrading of fuel dispenser or pumps and related equipment, storage tank system components, and other required infrastructure.
 - Who can apply?
 - Owners of transportation fueling facilities and owners of fuel distribution facilities may apply for this program. Eligible facilities must be located in the United States and its territories and include fueling stations, convenience stores, hypermarket retailer fueling stations, fleet facilities (including automotive, freight, rail and marine), and similar entities with equivalent capital investments, as well as fuel/biodiesel terminal operations, midstream operations, and heating oil distribution facilities or equivalent entities.
 - Deadline: September 30, 2024
- **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**
 - Description: This funding opportunity provides grants, guaranteed loans, and combined grant and guaranteed loan combinations thru the REAP program to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and helps meet the country's critical energy needs.
 - Who can apply?
 - Agricultural producers – An entity directly engaged in production of agricultural products where at least 50 percent of their gross income comes from agricultural operations.
 - Small businesses in an eligible rural area.
 - Deadline: Varies based on grant type.
 - Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements (RES/ EEI)
 - Deadline: September 30, 2024
 - RES/EEI and Energy Efficient Equipment and Systems (EEE) guaranteed loan applications.
 - Continuous application cycle.

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- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**
 - Description: This program protects the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land, and protecting and restoring and enhancing wetlands on eligible land. There are two components of this program. First, Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) help private and tribal landowners, land trusts, and other entities such as state and local governments protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements. Second, Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) help private and tribal landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.
 - Who can apply?
 - Eligible partners include American Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that have farmland, rangeland or grassland protection programs. Eligible landowners include owners of privately held land including land that is held by tribes and tribal members. All landowners, including required members of landowner-legal entities, must meet adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations and must be compliant with the HEL/WC provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.
 - Deadline: Year-round
- **Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program**
 - Description: The Community Change Grant aims to fund community driven projects that address climate challenges and reduce pollution while strengthening communities through thoughtful implementation.
 - Who can apply?
 - A partnership between two community based non-profit organizations (CBOs) defined as a partnership between a CBO and one of the following: a federally recognized tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education.
 - Deadline: November 21, 2024
- **NEW WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency**
 - Description: The WaterSMART Drought Response Program is designed to support projects that improve water management flexibility and reliability. It aims to assist organizations in preparing for and tackling the challenges of drought and water shortages by investing in existing infrastructure and addressing local water conflicts to ensure a dependable water supply.
 - Who can apply?
 - State governments, county, city or township governments, special district governments, Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, For profit organizations other than small businesses, Native American tribal organizations, small businesses, non-profits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
 - Deadline: October 7, 2024

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- **NEW Fisheries Citizen Science Funding**

- Description: Citizen science is a focus area of the NOAA, involving voluntary participation in scientific processes. The solicitation aims to support citizen science projects supporting federal fisheries stock assessments and climate-ready fisheries management. Funding will prioritize projects that provide information to supplement stock assessments and increase understanding of climate change impacts on fish stocks and communities.
- Who can apply?
 - Individuals, institutions of higher education, non-profits and for-profit organizations, foreign public entities or foreign organizations, and state, local, territorial and Indian Tribal governments.
- Deadline: November 4, 2024

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- **Emerging Contaminants for Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program**

- Description: This program provides grants to public water systems in small or disadvantaged communities to address emerging contaminants, including PFAS.
- Who can apply?
 - These federal funds are first disbursed to states who make awards to local communities. Local communities can contact their state agencies on how to apply for the Emerging Contaminants for Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program.
- Deadline: Rolling applications

- **Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment Financing Program**

- Description: This program provides loan guarantees for projects that support clean energy deployment and energy infrastructure reinvestment in the United States.
- Who can apply?
 - Project developers, clean tech manufacturers and service providers, regulated utilities, public power entities, and independent power producers.
- Deadline: Rolling applications

- **Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds**

- Description: This program provides low-cost financing to communities for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects.
- Who can apply?
 - These federal funds are first disbursed to states who make awards to local communities. Local communities can contact their state agencies on how to apply for the Clean Water SRF and the Drinking Water SRF.
- Deadline: Rolling applications

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- [Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current \(FMA Swift Current\)](#)
 - Description: The FMA Swift Current aims to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and within NFIP participating communities.
 - Who can apply?
 - States, federally recognized Tribal governments, and local governments.
 - Deadline: FY2023 January 15, 2025; FY2024 January 15, 2026.
- [WaterSMART: Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024](#)
 - Description: The Water Reclamation and Reuse grant provides financial and technical assistance to local water agencies for the planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse projects.
 - Who can apply?
 - States, Indian tribes, municipalities, irrigation districts, water districts, wastewater districts; and other organization with water or power delivery authority.
 - Deadline: September 30, 2024
- [WaterSMART: Desalination Construction Projects Under the WIIN Act for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024](#)
 - Description: The overall objective of this funding is to support desalination projects that will develop and supplement municipal and irrigation water supplies through the treatment of ocean or brackish water, thereby providing a local supply, providing flexibility during water shortages, and diversifying the water supply portfolio.
 - Who can apply?
 - States, Indian tribes, municipalities, irrigation districts, water districts, wastewater districts; and other organization with water or power delivery authority.
 - Deadline: September 30, 2024
- [WaterSMART Grant: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant](#)
 - Description: The Water and Energy Efficiency Grant will fund projects that result in quantifiable water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits. These projects conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the production of renewable energy, mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to resilience and sustainability.
 - Who can apply?
 - States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Non-profit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and with the agreement of any entity listed above.
 - Deadline: November 13, 2024

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- **Bridge Investment Program, Planning and Bridge Project Grant Fiscal Years 2023-2026**
 - Description: The Bridge Investment Program is a competitive, discretionary program that aims to reduce the overall number of bridges in poor condition and keep bridges in fair condition from deteriorating further. The program expands applicant eligibility which allows all levels of government to apply as direct recipients making it easier for local projects to advance the needs of the community.
 - Who can apply?
 - States and federal land management agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and tribes.
 - Deadline:
 - Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Application, October 1, 2024
 - Fiscal Year 2025 Application Deadline, November 1, 2024
 - Fiscal Year 2026 Planning Application, October 1, 2025
 - Fiscal Year 2026 Application Deadline, November 1, 2025
- **Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (CIFIA) Program: Future Growth Grants**
 - Description: The CIFIA program aims to fund infrastructure for large volume CO2 transport through various modes, including pipelines, rail, trucks, ships, and barges. This future growth grant provides financial assistance for developing and building CO2 transport capacity that may not be utilized in the initial years but becomes available when CO2 suppliers, conversion sites, or geologic storage facilities become operational.
 - Who can apply?
 - State and local governmental, Indian tribes, and for-profit entities.
 - Deadline: September 30, 2024
- **National Estuarine Research Reserve System Habitat Protection and Restoration Competition**
 - Description: This funding opportunity aims to protect and restore ecologically significant habitats, including conserving land that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilient to natural hazards.
 - Who can apply?
 - National estuarine research reserves must serve as primary applicants. However, funding can be passed through to non-federal public partners.
 - Deadline: January 9, 2025
- **National Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration Grant Program**
 - Description: The primary objective of this program is to meaningfully improve or restore anadromous fish passage through the replacement, removal, or repair of culverts or weirs, which may include infrastructure to facilitate fish passage around or over the weir and weir improvements.
 - Who can apply?
 - States, units of local government; and Indian Tribes
 - Deadline: September 23, 2024

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- **Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program**
 - Description: The RCP program aims to advance and support the reconnection of communities divided by transportation infrastructure with a priority on helping disadvantaged communities improve access to daily needs such as jobs, schools, healthcare, grocery stores, and recreation.
 - Who can apply?
 - State, county, city or township governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, non-profits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, native american Tribal governments (federally recognized), native american Tribal organizations (other than federally recognized Tribal governments).
 - Deadline: September 30, 2024
- **Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program**
 - Description: The Railroad Crossing Elimination Program provides funding for highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods. This program will allocate funds to various entities for the planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of infrastructure to mitigate legacy impacts.
 - Who can apply?
 - State, a political subdivision of a state, federally recognized Indian Tribe, a unit of local government or a group of local governments, public port authority, and a metropolitan planning organization
 - Deadline: September 23, 2024
- **Restoration and Enhancement Grant Program**
 - Description: The Restoration and Enhancement Grant Program offers funding for initiating, restoring, or enhancing intercity passenger rail transportation operations.
 - Who can apply?
 - State, an entity implementing an interstate rail compact, public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more states, a political subdivision of a state, federally recognized Indian Tribe, Amtrak or another rail carrier that provides intercity rail passenger transportation.
 - Deadline: September 30, 2024
- **Carbon Utilization Procurement Grants**
 - Description: UPGs aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by demonstrating that various products can be replaced or supplemented with alternatives derived from anthropogenic carbon oxides. Public procurement incentives for carbon conversion products can stimulate a market for products with lower life-cycle CO2 emissions, calculated on a cradle to gate basis.
 - Who can apply?
 - State, local government, public utility or agency, institutions of higher education, for-profit and non-profit entities, and Tribal Nations.
 - Deadline: April 30, 2025

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- [Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program](#)
 - Description: The goal of the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program is to fund programs that ensure all communities have the access and skills needed to fully participate in the digital world, regardless of their background or circumstances.
 - Who can apply?
 - A political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a State, including an agency of a State that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities, or for providing public housing, in the State. An Indian Tribe, Alaska Native entity, Native Hawaiian organization, a foundation, corporation, institution, or association that is a nonprofit entity and not a school, a community anchor institution, local educational agency, or an entity that carries out a workforce development program.
 - Deadline: October 22, 2024

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The following grants and funding opportunities are upcoming and are not yet accepting applications. As more details become available for each of these programs, our team will be sure to include them in upcoming issues of this newsletter. *Please note that these dates are target announcement dates, and therefore subject to change.*

Upcoming Notices and Funding Opportunities

- Low-Carbon Transportation Materials Grants Program – Non-State Applicants
 - Description: The Low-Carbon Transportation Materials Grants Program, open to non-state applicants, will provide funding for construction materials with significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. The DOT will announce this funding opportunity in the upcoming months.
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program
 - Description: The RAISE grant aims to invest in surface transportation that will have a significant local or regional impact, consistent with the Department of Transportation strategic goals to improve safety, strengthen economical and global competitiveness, and sustainability. The DOT anticipates this new funding opportunity will be available for application through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to be released in Fall 2024.
- Reducing Truck Emissions at Port Facilities
 - Description: The Department of Transportation will provide funding to reduce truck idling and emissions at ports, including through the advancement of port electrification. The DOT anticipates this new funding opportunity will be available for application through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to be released in Fall 2024.
- National Advanced Packaging Manufacturing Program (NAPMP)
 - Description: The CHIPS Research and Development Office (CHIPS R&D) intends to announce, via a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), an open competition for new research and development (R&D) activities to establish and accelerate domestic capacity for semiconductor advanced packaging. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **NEW** Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT)
 - Description: The Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant program provides funding to ensure surface transportation resilience to natural hazards including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure. The DOT anticipates posting this funding opportunity in Fall 2024.

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General Resources

- [Grants.gov](#): This is the most complete list of federal grant opportunities. It is searchable and updated frequently. Grants.gov also has a [Grants Learning Center](#).
- [Department of Transportation Competitive Grant Funding Matrix](#): Look through program descriptions on the chart to identify programs for which you have relevant projects.
- [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Program Guide](#): Search keywords to identify relevant programs which will open throughout the next five years.
- [Inflation Reduction Act Program Guide](#): Search keywords to identify relevant programs and tax credits.
- [Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations Funding Opportunity Exchange](#): OCED has a number of funding opportunities for clean energy projects through the IRA and IIJA. The page is similar to the DOT funding matrix with grant information.
- [Infrastructure and Clean Energy Technical Assistance Guide](#): This guide provides comprehensive information about more than 100 federal technical assistance programs that can support efforts to win Federal funding and deploy it in communities across the country.
- [Department of Labor Grants](#): DOL has published its new grant platform which aim to connect, protect, train, support, and empower workers and job seekers.

Should you have any questions, please contact Grants Manager Dottie Hall at Dottie.Hall@mail.house.gov or (713) 353-8680.

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