



Technical Assistance and Funding Resources Guide

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

April 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 April 13- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Partnership Grants

Apply by April 14- AARP Community Challenge Grants

Apply by April 16- USDA Urban and Community Forestry 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 April 30- New York's Great Lakes Basin Small Grants

Apply by May 4- HUD Older Adults Home Modification Program Grants

Apply by May 7- EPA Annual Environmental Justice Grants

Apply by May 17- EPA Technical Assistance for Wastewater Utility Systems

Apply by May 25- Housing-related Hazard Capital Fund Program

Apply by June 2- NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program Grants

Apply by June 2- Monitoring Methods for Air Toxics Research Grants

Apply by June 30- USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program

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](#).

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 \(COVID-19\)](#)
 - Updated! EPA's [Air Cleaners, HVAC Filters, and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) page now has information on [bipolar ionization technology](#)
- [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](#)

Cleaning and Disinfecting: Best Practices During the COVID-19 Pandemic

According to [a new science brief](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the risk of catching COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface is considered to be low. EPA's new factsheet (below) has cleaning and disinfecting best practices and tips you can use during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Cleaning and Disinfecting: Best Practices During the COVID-19 Pandemic \(PDF\)](#)

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

Read the jointly developed guidance from the CDC 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 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

For up-to-date information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: **join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov**.

Superfund Redevelopment Program Webinar Series – Equitable Redevelopment and Environmental Justice

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 (1:00-3:00PM EST)

See more details in the Webinars section!

Environmental Health Disparities Research Webinar Series

Monday, April 26, 2021 (3:00-4:00PM EST)

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

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](#).

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**

There are a few exciting new features on the tool including 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 deadline for the FY21 Fourth Quarter is- **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**.

Center on Rural Innovation (CORI) Community Toolkit

Rural communities may be interested in these tools available from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)'s National Technical Assistance partners, the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI) and Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI), who jointly created a variety of free materials to help communities plan and execute digital economic development strategies. Read in depth about **their model here**, and then use **their community toolkit** which guides local leaders through a readiness checklist for their town.

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

Coupling Manure Digesters with Renewable Natural Gas Systems

Friday, April 16, 2021 (2:30-3:30PM EST)

See more details in the Webinars section!

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

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions - EPA Public Listening Sessions and Roundtables

Virtual public listening sessions: **April 28, 2021 and May 5, 2021 (10:00AM-10:00PM EST)**.

Nomination letters for the community-focused or stakeholder roundtables are due **April 23, 2021**.

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

EPA Region 2 America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Section 2018 Virtual Workshop

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

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

New York's Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) is requesting proposals for projects that serve to benefit the environment and economy of New York's Great Lakes basin by demonstrating the application of ecosystem-based management (EBM) to local watershed challenges. This small grants program is made possible by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund and Article 14 of Environmental Conservation Law.

NYSG is soliciting proposals (up to \$25,000 in total costs) for projects that implement actions outlined in the goals of the GLAA. For this RFP, they are focusing our request for projects on those that engage youth (under 21) in either formal or informal educational experiences.

It is anticipated that a total of \$200,000 will be awarded to 8-10 proposal requests. More information on the grants and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Applications are due **Friday, April 30, 2021**.

EPA Technical Assistance for Wastewater Utility Systems

EPA is requesting applications for \$12 million in competitive funding for projects to provide training and technical assistance for small, rural, and tribal wastewater utility systems and onsite septic systems.

EPA is also making available more than \$1.1 billion in new federal grant funding for the [Drinking Water SRF](#). In 2021, EPA is also providing approximately \$1.6 billion in new federal grant funding for the [Clean Water SRF](#). EPA expects to award these cooperative agreements this summer.

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

Applications are due **Monday, May 17, 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.**

Measurement and Monitoring Methods for Air Toxics and Contaminants of Emerging Concern in the Atmosphere

EPA, as part of our Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking applications for research to advance measurement and monitoring methods for air toxics and contaminants of emerging concern in the atmosphere that pose health concerns. Air toxics are a subset of air pollutants known or suspected to be acutely toxic or cause chronic human health effects, or to have adverse environmental and ecological effects. There is extensive evidence that minority and low-income communities are disproportionately burdened with exposures to air toxics.

Specifically, we are looking for research that will provide:

1. Advancements in measurement techniques for real-time, continuous measurements of ambient air pollutant concentrations with minimum detection limits below background concentrations or health risk-based thresholds; and
2. Advancements in stationary or mobile near-source measurement methods for quantifying emission rates of fugitive emissions.

Our goal is that this research will support state, local and tribal air monitoring efforts to address community-based initiatives regarding air toxics and emerging contaminants of concern, as well as environmental justice issues. Additionally, we hope research from this grant opportunity will lead to improved source measurement methods that can be used to quantify emissions, develop emissions inventories, inform the development of effective emission control strategies, and ultimately improve public health.

How to Apply: [Measurement and Monitoring Methods for Air Toxics and Contaminants of Emerging Concern in the Atmosphere Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#)

[Learn more about the Air and Energy \(A-E\) Research Program](#)

[Learn more about EPA Research Grants](#)

Applications are due **Wednesday, June 2, 2021**.

[Register for the Informational Webinar](#) on Wednesday, April 28 (2:00PM EST)

EPA Climate Change Website

EPA's [climate change website](#) is back, with more content to come. Please return in the coming weeks as they add new information and features.

Understanding and addressing climate change is critical to EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment. EPA tracks and reports greenhouse gas emissions, leverages sound science, and works to reduce emissions to combat climate change.

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.](#)

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. As data and reporting is improved and refined, future Reports will be able to provide cumulative impacts and successes.

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 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](#).

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

USDA Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program

The USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program restores, sustains, and manages more than 140 million acres of urban and community forest lands for the benefit of communities in the United States. Increasingly, our urban and community forests are facing threats such as insects, diseases, extreme weather events and other hazards. Additionally, the lack of investment in urban forest disaster mitigation is contributing to community disasters such as urban flooding and human heat deaths in our cities-- disproportionately [affecting vulnerable populations](#). New systemic solutions are needed to create and enhance green infrastructure in the right place and at the right scale and encompass pressing social, economic, ecological, and historic factors holistically.

Grant Categories:

- **Increasing Resiliency of Urban Forests through Reforestation and Management.** The USDA Forest Service seeks innovative grant proposals for establishing climate resilient tree species in urban and community forests that are resistant to impacts of invasive pathogens, pests, and severe weather events. Applicants should consider long-term forest health as it aligns with species of choice, diversity, and genetic variation.
- **Planning Disaster Mitigation Strategies for Urban Forests.** The USDA Forest Service seeks innovative grant proposals for the critical management of our existing and future urban and community forests to promote disaster risk reduction and community resilience and better prepare communities for the increasingly destructive impacts of climate change.

Eligible Entities: city or township governments, county governments, state governments, special district governments, Native American tribal governments (federally recognized and not federally recognized), and others.

For more information, visit the funding opportunity [description](#).

Applications are due **Friday, April 16, 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 was held March 17. Click here to [watch the recording](#).

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**.

HUD Housing-related Hazard Capital Fund Program

The purpose of the Housing-related Hazards Capital Fund Program Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) is to help Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) identify and eliminate housing-related hazards in public housing such as mold and carbon monoxide.

In accordance with Section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (1937 Act) and the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, \$20,000,000 shall be available for competitive grants to public housing agencies to evaluate and reduce other housing-related hazards including carbon monoxide and mold in public housing.

HUD expects to make approximately **10** awards from the funds available under this NOFA.

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

Applications are due **Tuesday, May 25, 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](#).

CCLR Land Recycling Tools

The Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) is U.S. EPA Region 2's Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (TAB) provider. They support your redevelopment efforts through one-on-one technical assistance, educational programming and EPA grant review. They can connect you to practitioners and professionals and provide regulatory updates, success stories and grant information via blogs and newsletters. For more information contact: Jean Hamerman at jean.hamerman@cclr.org or visit www.cclr.org.

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.

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.

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 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 Community-Port Collaboration Resources to Address Diesel Pollution

Friday, April 9, 2021 (12:00-1:00PM EST)

Attend this webinar to learn more about:

- EPA's Community-Port Collaboration Toolkit and associated training materials to help communities and port operators develop collaboration skills and enhance understanding of stakeholder priorities and challenges associated with port-related activities.
- Lessons learned from successful community-port collaboration in Savannah, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Long Beach.
- Funding available to support communities living near port and rail facilities through EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants program.
- EPA's Ports Initiative program to accelerate adoption of cleaner technologies, planning practices such as conducting emissions inventories, and productive community engagement at ports across the country.

Near-port communities that bear the brunt of air pollution from diesel engines are often comprised of low-income populations and people of color. EPA is working to support effective and meaningful engagement between communities, the port industry, and other port stakeholders to improve air quality and health outcomes for disadvantaged communities

[Register here.](#)

Toolbox Webinar on Aquatic Invasive Species

Monday, April 12, 2021 (1:00-2:00PM EST)

Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response in Pennsylvania: A Case Study of Successes and Lessons Learned. When aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention efforts fail, it is critical that a structure be in place to address new infestations quickly and effectively before they have an opportunity to establish and spread. The development of the Pennsylvania AIS rapid response plan was led by Pennsylvania Sea Grant and approved by the Governor's Invasive Species Council of Pennsylvania in September 2014. Since that time, Pennsylvania Sea Grant has worked to streamline and improve this process through the development of mock rapid response exercises and trainings for state agencies and organizations involved with invasive species. This presentation will review the rapid response process in Pennsylvania and highlight specific rapid response examples that have utilized the process to respond to real infestations.

[Register here.](#)

Great Lakes Sediment Team Webinar Series

The Great Lakes Regional Sediment Team is hosting a series of webinars focused on water quality, nutrient reduction, and regional sediment management in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Regional Sediment Management Team is a collaboration of agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA – GLNPO, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture – NRCS and the Great Lakes Commission.

Tuesday, April 13 (2:00-3:00PM EST): [Coastal Systems and Sediment Transport](#)

Tuesday, April 20 (2:00-3:00PM EST): [Habitat and Restoration](#)

Tuesday, April 27 (2:00-3:00PM EST): [Agricultural Nonpoint Source Runoff](#)

Register [here.](#)

Peconic Estuary Partnership's Virtual Biennial Conference

Excess nutrient loading from land causes water quality to decline, climate change causes sea levels to rise, and all these issues combined with other human activities harm our wildlife and habitats. As a result – the natural resources we depend on and the real estate and recreational opportunities we enjoy suffer. The [PEP's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan](#) outlines goals and actions that guide the work of our partnership to combat these issues. This free virtual conference is all about starting discussions that put these goals and actions into motion!

In lieu of a series of presentations, the virtual conference will focus on discussions between PEP's partners that will drive action towards combatting the challenges the estuary faces. Register for one, two, or all three of the virtual sessions. When you register, you can submit a relevant question that you would like the panelists to discuss. This is an interactive conference.

For more information and a full list of panelists, please go to the [PEP Biennial Conference 2021 webpage](#). Click the links to register.

Wednesday, April 14 (2:00-4:00PM EST): [Water Quality](#)

Thursday, April 15 (2:00-4:00PM EST): [Climate Change](#)

Friday, April 16 (2:00-4:00PM EST): [Habitats and Wildlife](#)

EPA Region 2 AWIA Section 2018 Virtual 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.](#)

Coupling Manure Digesters with Renewable Natural Gas Systems

Friday, April 16, 2021 (2:30-3:30PM EST)

Anaerobic digestion is an established technology to treat animal manure. Biogas (a methane and carbon dioxide mixture) is a digestion byproduct with a positive energy value. The success of on-farm digestion relies on choosing a digester design compatible with the farm scale and operations, careful digester operation and management, implementing biogas end-use that maximizes farm revenue, and economic incentives to support project financing.

Due to the favorable economic incentives from the Low-carbon fuel standard (LCFS), there is strong interest in converting biogas to high-purity methane, renewable natural gas (RNG), and injecting it into natural gas pipelines. Across the US, many new on-farm AD projects are going online that integrate RNG technology, individually or as part of a group of digesters, to sell the biogas methane as RNG.

This webinar by the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Community explores where, how, and when it makes sense to merge manure digesters with natural gas pipelines. The webinar will share national, project specific and farm-level perspectives.

[Register here.](#)

Break the Cycle Virtual Conference 2021 – COVID-19 and Children’s Health Disparities

Monday and Tuesday, April 19-20, 2021

COVID 19 has infected over 123 million people and killed nearly 3 million worldwide and in the USA over 30 million people have been infected and over 500,000 have died. Examination of those who have been infected and have died clearly points to a disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations such people living in low-income communities and from minority groups in the USA and around the world.

This symposium will explore the patterns of illness among different populations and use the knowledge gained to develop strategies to reduce health disparities and promote health equity for all children.

[Register and view the conference program here.](#)

Superfund Redevelopment Program Webinar Series – Equitable Redevelopment and Environmental Justice

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 (1:00-3:00PM EST)

One of EPA's key objectives is to make sure everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards. Given that Superfund sites disproportionately impact communities of color and low-income communities, the Superfund redevelopment process provides an opportunity to facilitate equitable redevelopment by involving impacted communities in the planning process and identifying how to reduce burdens and increase benefits through the redevelopment process.

This webinar will discuss strategies for incorporating equitable redevelopment and environmental justice into Superfund site cleanup and redevelopment. The webinar will cover the key components of equitable redevelopment, the role EPA, local government, and developers can play in equitable redevelopment, examples of equitable redevelopment and EPA tools and resources available to address environmental justice at Superfund sites. For more information and to register, see <https://www.itrcweb.org> or <https://clu-in.org/live>.

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, 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 PM_{2.5} Sensor Data During High Concentration Smoke Events

View all available recordings [here](#).

EPA-Hosted Brownfields Stakeholder Session

Friday, April 23, 2021 (1:00-3:00PM EST)

EPA is hosting an online discussion with nonprofits and community foundations across the country to learn about nonprofit leadership in brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment projects.

Registration is required; information is available at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>. Due to the limit of 250 participants, attendance will be on a first-come, first served basis.

Register here.

NIH-EPA Environmental Health Disparities Webinar Series

Presented by the NIH-EPA Environmental Health Disparities Research Centers of Excellence Program. This series seeks to highlight the research, training, and community-engagement accomplishments at the Centers collaboratively funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), and EPA. Furthermore, the webinar series is intended to raise awareness of, and prompt dialogue on, opportunities to examine and address environmental contributions to health disparities.

Monday, April 26 (3:00-4:00PM EST): Intersections Between Chemical, Physical, Built and Social Environments

Monday, May 24 (3:00-4:00PM EST): Exploring Exposure to Metals to Advance Native American Health Equity

Monday, June 28 (3:00-4:00PM EST): Exposure Pathways & Environmental Health Disparities

The webinars are open to anyone interested in learning more about environmental health disparities and strategies to reduce them. [Register here](#).

Puerto Rico 2021 Virtual Asthma Summit Series

Asthma is a chronic lung condition that restricts breathing. It leads to chest tightness, wheezing, and coughing. It has no cure, but can be managed with proper medication, self-management education, and the elimination or reduction of the asthma triggers from the environment at home and school. Over 128,500 children in Puerto Rico have asthma. Join us and hear from the experts!

Tuesday, April 27 (12:30-5:00PM EST): Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Connection to Asthma

Tuesday, May 4 (8:30AM-12:30PM EST): World Asthma Awareness Day Celebration

Tuesday, May 11 (8:30AM-12:30PM EST): The Road Ahead – Ensuring Healthy and Safe Communities

[Register 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. Recorded versions are available after the live webinar.

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.

Water Utilities as Anchor Institutions Webinar

Friday, April 30, 2021 (1:00-2:30PM EST)

Join this webinar to hear from utility leaders about how water utilities can use their physical structures, (built capital), economic and financial assets (financial capital), and human or social capital to create maximum shared value in their communities.

[Register here.](#)

EPA Public Listening Sessions and Roundtables on the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

EPA has announced upcoming public listening sessions and roundtables to ensure that communities and stakeholders have the opportunity to provide their perspectives to the agency on protections from lead in drinking water. The impact of lead exposure, including through drinking water, is a public health issue of paramount importance and its adverse effects on children and public health are serious and well known. The goal of public engagement is to obtain further input on EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), including from individuals and communities that are most at-risk of exposure to lead in drinking water.

Virtual public listening sessions will be held on **April 28, 2021 and May 5, 2021 (10:00AM-10:00PM EST)**. Members of the public interested in sharing their thoughts and concerns can sign up for a 3-minute speaking slot on EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/safewater.

EPA will then host community-focused virtual roundtables, starting in May of 2021. The roundtables will facilitate discussion of their unique perspectives on LCRR-related topics among EPA and local organizations including but not limited to, local government entities, public water utilities, community-organized groups, environmental groups, and elected officials.

Starting in June of 2021, EPA will also host virtual roundtables with other important stakeholder groups, including drinking water utilities, intergovernmental associations, environmental organizations, environmental justice organizations, public health organizations, and consumer associations. Finally, EPA also intends to host a national co-regulator meeting with primacy agencies (e.g., states, tribes, and territories) in July 2021 to discuss the feedback received from communities and stakeholders.

EPA requests that communities or organizations that would like to be considered for a community-focused or stakeholder roundtable **submit a nomination letter to the Agency not later than April 23, 2021.**

Members of the public that are unable to attend any of the events will be able to submit comments via the docket at: <http://www.regulations.gov>, Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0255 until **June 30, 2021.**

For details on what should be included in the nomination letters, meeting materials, and for additional event details visit: www.epa.gov/safewater.

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 submission [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](#).