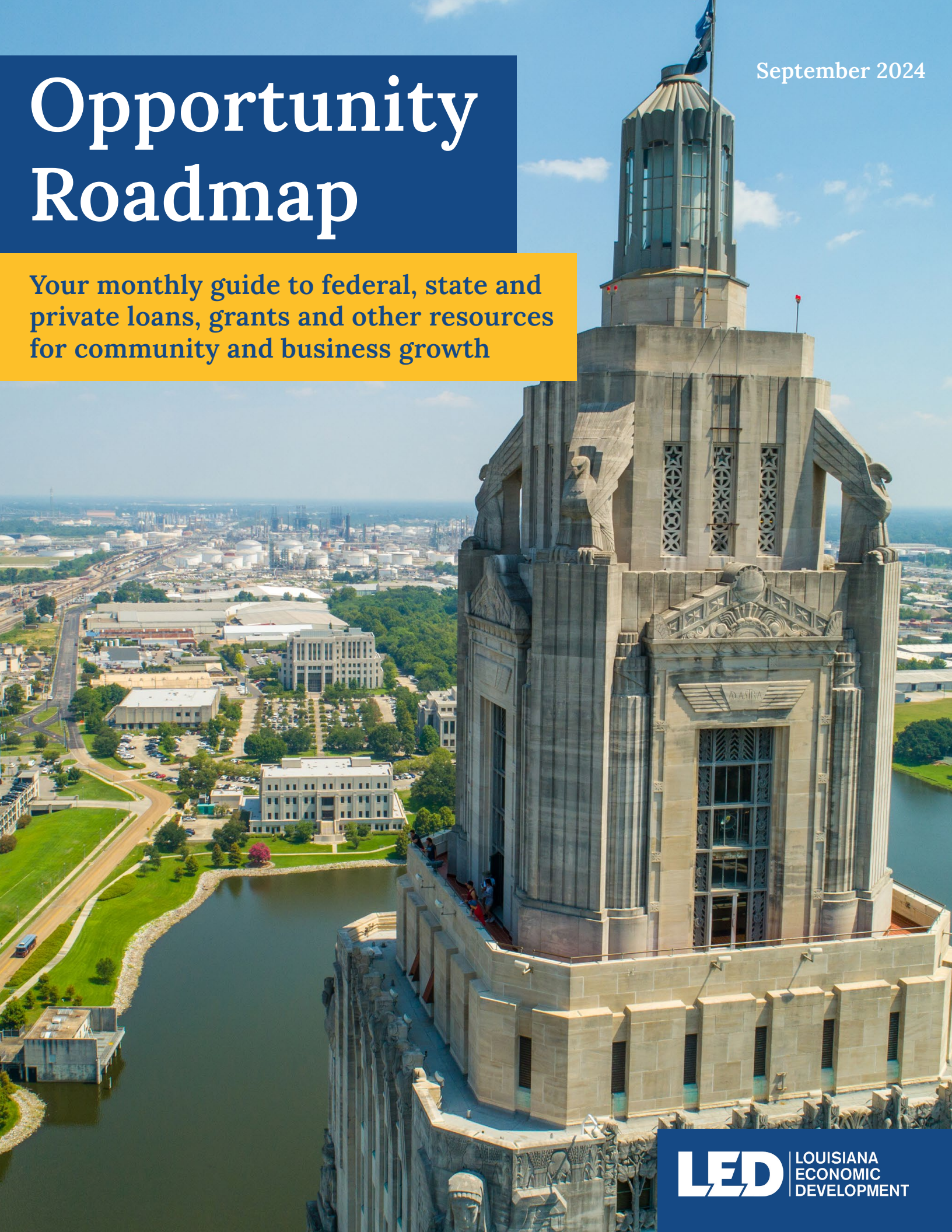


Opportunity Roadmap

September 2024

Your monthly guide to federal, state and private loans, grants and other resources for community and business growth





Searching for resources but don't know where to start?

You've come to the right place. At Louisiana Economic Development, we aim to support the efforts of regions that are continually capitalizing on opportunities, fostering job creation and enhancing the state's business environment. Sometimes, business and community leaders are unaware of all the resources available to help them grow. Or, they simply don't know where to look. To make it easier, we've created this go-to resource guide, updated monthly, that lists loans, grants, programs and other opportunities that federal, state, and private entities have made available in Louisiana. We hope you find it an essential reference as you maximize your community or business growth.

Funding opportunities can be used for projects ranging from infrastructure upgrades to strategic plans, workforce training, and community improvements. Target audiences include:

- » Regional Economic Development Organizations
- » Local Economic Development Organizations
- » Planning Districts
- » Communities
- » Parish and Municipal Governments

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Loans

USDA Rural Development Department of Agriculture

COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM

Use of funds:

- » Health Care Facilities
 - » Public Facilities
 - » Community Support services
 - » Public Safety Services
 - » Educational Services
 - » Utility Services (i.e. telemedicine or distance learning equipment)
 - » Local Food Systems
 - » For a complete list see Code of Federal Regulations 7 CFR, Part 1942.17(d) for loans; 7 CFR, Part 3570.62 for grants.
- *Applications accepted on a rolling basis**
***Grant award Maximum 55%**

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY LOAN GUARANTEES

Use of funds:

- » Business conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development.
 - » The purchase and development of land, buildings, and association infrastructure for commercial or industrial properties.
 - » The purchase and installation of machinery and equipment, supplies or inventory
 - » Debt refinancing when such refinancing improves cash flow and creates jobs
 - » Business and industrial acquisitions when the loan will maintain business operations and create or save jobs.
- *Applications accepted on a rolling basis**
***Grant award Maximum 80%**

COMMUNITY FACILITIES GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM

Use of funds:

Funds can be used to construct, enlarge, extend or otherwise improve essential community facilities. Guarantee funds can also be used for refinancing the debt of an essential community facility.

Examples of essential community facilities include:

- » Health care facilities and services, including but not limited to hospitals
- » rescue, and public safety facilities and services
- » Community, public, social, educational, or cultural facilities or services
- » Transportation facilities such as streets, bridges, roads, ports, and airports
- » Certain utility projects when not eligible for Rural Utilities Service financing, gas distribution systems, recycling and transfer centers or stations
- » Telecommunications end-user equipment when related to public safety, medical, or educational telecommunication links when not eligible for Rural Utilities Service financing
- » Water infrastructure facilities such as levees, dams, reservoirs, inland waterways, canals, and irrigation systems
- » Purchase and installation of renewable energy systems for use by an essential community facility (conditions apply)
- » Land acquisition and necessary site preparation including access ways and utility extensions to and throughout an industrial park site

- » Community parks, community activity centers, and similar types of facilities
 - *Applications accepted on a rolling basis
 - *Maximum 80% guarantee

ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN & LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Use of funds:

- » Maintenance
- » Upgrades
- » Expansion
- » Replacement of distribution, sub transmission and headquarters (service, warehouse) facilities
- » Energy efficiency
- » Renewable energy systems
- » For additional details, see the Code of Federal Regulations
 - *Applications accepted on a rolling basis
 - *Loan guarantees up to 100%

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS & LOAN GUARANTEES

Description:

- » This program provides financing for the construction, maintenance, improvement and expansion of telephone service and broadband in rural areas.
 - *Applications accepted on a rolling basis
 - *Max up to 80%

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM IN LOUISIANA

Description:

- » Provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas.
- » Funding can be used to establish Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs)
 - *Application deadlines for quarterly funding competitions are no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on: First Quarter, September 30; Second Quarter, December 31; Third Quarter, March 31; and Fourth Quarter, June 30.
 - *Maximum Grant amount \$300K
 - *Maximum Loan amount \$2mil

RURAL HOUSING SITE LOANS

Description:

- » USDA Rural Development offers specific loans to eligible entities to purchase and develop housing sites for low- and moderate-income families.
 - *Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

THE DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM (DWRLF)

Description:

- » Established to provide low-interest loans and technical assistance to public water systems in the state to assist them in complying with Federal and State drinking water regulations and to ensure that their customers are being provided with safe drinking water in order to protect the public health.
- » **Technical Assistance**
Some of the monies are designated for technical assistance to small public water systems serving under 10,000 population.
***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

Louisiana Public Facilities Authority

RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOW INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM

Description:

- » The LPFA's Rural Development Low Interest Loan Program helps provide local governments and non-profits with interim financing for capital and infrastructure projects until permanent financing is received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development Program.
***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**
***Max up to 40%**

LOW INTEREST LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOND BANK PROGRAM

Description:

- » The LPFA's Low Interest Local Government Bond Bank Program saves local governments money by providing up to 25% of a financing at a reduced interest rate.
***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**
***Max up to 25%**

Grants

USDA Rural Development Department of Agriculture

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Use of funds:

- » SECD supports projects that promote and implement strategic community investment plans. Rural Development also can assist by identifying additional resources, convening partners, and helping leverage federal, state, local and private funding.
***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

EMERGENCY COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Use of funds:

- » Water transmission line grants up to \$150,000 to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply
- » Water source grants up to \$1,000,000 are to construct a water source, intake or treatment facility
***Application Window Open**
***Water transmission line grants up to \$150K**
***Water source grants up to \$1mil**

WATER & WASTE DISPOSAL LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM IN LOUISIANA

Use of funds:

- » Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and distribution
- » Sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal
- » Solid waste collection, disposal and closure
- » Storm water collection, transmission and disposal

In some cases, funding may also be available for related activities such as:

- » Legal and engineering fees
- » Land acquisition, water and land rights, permits and equipment
- » Start-up operations and maintenance
- » Interest incurred during construction
- » Purchase of facilities to improve service or prevent loss of service
- » Other costs determined to be necessary for completion of the project
- » See 7 CFR Part 1780.7 and 1780.9 for a complete list.

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

MUTUAL SELF-HELP HOUSING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Description:

- » Provides grants to qualified organizations to help them carry out local self-help housing construction projects. Grant recipients supervise groups of very-low- and low-income individuals and families as they construct their own homes in rural areas. The group members provide most of the construction labor on each other's homes, with technical assistance from the organization overseeing the project.

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

MULTIFAMILY HOUSING RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Description:

- » This program provides payments to owners of USDA-financed Rural Rental Housing or Farm Labor Housing projects on behalf of low-income tenants unable to pay their full rent.

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT LOANS & GRANTS

Description:

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

***Application Window: September 30, 2024**

***Loans up to 75%**

***Grants up to 50%**

EMERGENCY COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Description:

- » This program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water.

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

Division of Administration

SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT CONSOLIDATION PLANNING GRANT

Description:

- » Provides funds to assist units of general local government in the consolidation of non-profit/municipal water systems to create sustainable, financially solvent, and stable potable water systems. Examples of eligible costs are engineering fees to develop a preliminary engineering report, legal and recordation fees, and administrative costs relating to the consolidation of potable water systems.

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM

Use of funds:

- » Acquisition of real property
- » Relocation and demolition
- » Rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures
- » Construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes
- » Public services, within certain limits
- » Activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources
- » Provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

SECTION 108 LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Description:

- » The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108) provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients with the ability to leverage their annual grant allocation to access low-cost, flexible financing for economic development, housing, public facility, and infrastructure projects.

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

U.S. Economic Development Administration

Good Jobs Challenge:

Description:

- » Supports regional workforce training systems to establish sectoral partnerships that train and place workers in good jobs. Good jobs align with the Departments of Labor and Commerce Good Jobs Principles. Highlights workforce development as key to accelerating local economic growth and rebuilding regional economies so they are more resilient to future challenges, while providing good job opportunities for American workers to achieve economic mobility and security.

***Application deadline: September 27, 2024, at 4:59 EST.**

***Grant award up to \$8 mil**

Environmental Protection Agency

WATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Description:

- » Using this [Water TA Request Form](#), communities can request no-cost direct water technical assistance (TA) to evaluate their drinking water, wastewater, stormwater infrastructure, and water quality improvement needs.

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

Department of Transportation

FY23-24 RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION GRANT PROGRAM

Description:

- » The purpose of this notice is to solicit applications for Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grants. Funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 SS4A grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning and demonstration activities, as well as projects and strategies to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians; bicyclists; public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users; motorists; and commercial vehicle operators.

***Application Deadline: September 23, 2024**

RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT (RCP) PROGRAM

Description:

- » The RCP Program aims to advance and support reconnection of communities divided by transportation infrastructure – with a priority on helping disadvantaged communities improve access to daily needs (jobs, schools, healthcare, grocery stores, and recreation). Funds are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning and capital construction activities that aim to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation or replacement of highways, roadways, or other infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access or economic development.

***Application Deadline: September 30, 2024**

***Max amount \$1 mil**

Non-governmental entities

Entergy

MICRO GRANTS

Description:

- » Through Entergy's Micro Grants Program, we accept requests for up to \$1,000 in all program areas: arts and culture; community improvement/enrichment; economic development, education/literacy, environment and healthy families.

***Application Window: Open Applications are accepted on a rolling basis**

***Micro Grants \$1000 max**

OPEN GRANTS

Description:

- » Entergy's Open Grants Program focuses on improving communities as a whole. We look for giving opportunities in the areas of arts and culture, education and workforce development, poverty solutions and social services, healthy families, and community improvement.

***Application Window: Open Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis**

SC Johnson

SC JOHNSON GRANTS

Description:

Primary focus is on institutions or organizations that serve or directly affect communities where we have operations. Our giving pillars include creating:

- » **A Healthier World:** Help society thrive by addressing vector-borne disease, strengthening healthcare systems with increased access, addressing food insecurity and enabling healthier outcomes.
- » **A More Sustainable World:** Promote sustainability, with a focus on reducing, reusing and recycling plastic waste and supporting environmental conservation with a focus on healthy oceans and forests and carbon reduction initiatives
- » **A World with More Opportunity:** Open doors for those in need by strengthening communities while advancing economic and social mobility through equal access to education and housing.

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation

THE FRUIT TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM

Description:

- » Municipal entities, local nonprofits and public schools are eligible to apply to support the planting of fruitful trees and plants to alleviate hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities and improve the surrounding environment. Trees can be planted at community gardens, city and state parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, schools, and other locations where they will serve the greater community. The Foundation provides high-quality trees and shrubs, equipment, on-site orchard design expertise and oversight, horticultural workshops, and aftercare training and manuals.

***Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

Walmart

LOCAL COMMUNITY GRANTS

Description:

There are eight (8) areas of funding for which an organization can apply. Please review the areas listed below to ensure your organization's goals fall within one of these areas.

- » Community and Economic Development
- » Diversity and Inclusion
- » Education
- » Environmental Sustainability
- » Health and Human Service
- » Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating
- » Public Safety
- » Quality of Life

***Applications accepted on a quarterly basis**

***Max Grant award is \$5k**

Programs and Initiatives

National Endowment for the Arts

SUMMER STIPENDS

Description:

- » The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Research Programs is accepting applications for the Summer Stipends program. The purpose of this program is to stimulate new research and publication in the humanities. Summer Stipends support continuous, full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months. NEH funds may support recipients' compensation, travel, and other costs related to the proposed scholarly research.

***Application Deadline: September 18, 2024**

***Max award \$8k**

CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Description:

- » This program supports community-based efforts to address the impacts of climate change and COVID-19 by safeguarding cultural resources and fostering cultural resilience through identifying, documenting, and/or collecting cultural heritage and community experiences. The program prioritizes projects from disadvantaged communities in the United States or its jurisdictions, and NEH encourages applications that employ inclusive methodologies.

Dates:

- » **Forecasted Post Date: February 20, 2025**
- » **Estimated Application Due Date: May 20, 2025**

***Max award \$150K**

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Description:

- » This program supports community-based efforts to address the impacts of climate change and COVID-19 by safeguarding cultural resources and fostering cultural resilience through identifying, documenting, and/or collecting cultural heritage

and community experiences. The program prioritizes projects from disadvantaged communities in the United States or its jurisdictions, and NEH encourages applications that employ inclusive methodologies.

Dates:

- » Forecasted Post Date: February 20, 2025
- » Estimated Application Due Date: May 20, 2025

*Max award \$350K

U.S. Economic Development Administration

PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS INCLUDING CARES ACT FUNDING

Description:

- » Under this NOFO, EDA solicits applications from applicants in order to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works program and EAA program
- *Application accepted on a rolling basis

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RNTA

Description:

- » EDA provides strategic investments on a competitive merit basis to support economic development, foster job creation, and attract private investment in economically distressed areas of the United States
- *Application accepted on a rolling basis

USDA Rural Development Department of Agriculture

SEARCH-SPECIAL EVALUATION ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND HOUSEHOLDS IN LOUISIANA

Description:

- » This program helps very small, financially distressed rural communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects.
- *Application accepted on a rolling basis

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION ACT (WIFIA)

Description:

- » WIFIA program can fund development and implementation activities for eligible projects
 - » Development phase activities, including planning, preliminary engineering, design, environmental review, revenue forecasting, and other pre-construction activities
 - » Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and replacement activities
 - » Acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, and acquisition of equipment
 - » Capitalized interest necessary to meet market requirements, reasonably required reserve funds, capital issuance expenses and other carrying costs during construction
- *Application accepted on a rolling basis
*49% of project cost MAX

U.S Department of Energy

LOW- INCOME COMMUNITIES BONUS CREDIT PROGRAM (48(E))

Description:

- » Provides up to a 20 percentage point boost to the investment tax credit for small-scale (less than five megawatts) solar and wind energy projects in Low-Income communities, in Indian Land, that are part of federally subsidized residential buildings, or in which at least 50 percent of the financial benefits of the electricity go to low-income households.
- » Program goals include increasing the adoption of and access to renewable energy facilities in low-income communities and communities with environmental justice concerns; encouraging new market participants; and providing substantial benefits to communities and individuals who have been historically marginalized from economic opportunities and overburdened by environmental impacts.

Department of Health and Human Services

RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TRAINING

Description:

- » The purpose of this program is to recruit and train EMS personnel in rural areas with a particular focus on addressing substance use disorders (SUD) and co-occurring disorders (COD) substance use and mental disorders. Recipients will be expected to train EMS personnel on SUD and COD, trauma-informed, recovery-based care for people with such disorders in emergency situations and, as appropriate, to maintain licenses and certifications relevant to serve in an EMS agency.

*Application Deadline: May 1, 2025

*\$200k Max award

U.S Department of Transportation

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

Description:

- » The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program provides funding for a variety of generally smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities; construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas; community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management; environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trails; safe routes to school projects; and vulnerable road user safety assessments.

*Application accepted on a rolling basis



For further information please contact:

Nikita Deloach

Special Projects Officer, Economic Competitiveness

225.342.0205

Nikita.Deloach@la.gov

Tedra Cheatham, CEcD

Executive Director - State Economic Competitiveness

225.342.5405

Tedra.Cheatham@la.gov