Approximately $23 Million in Funding Available for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

This message announces the availability of approximately $23 million in current opportunities for state, local, and tribal governments from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Endowment for the Arts, Bureau of Land Reclamation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Economic Development Administration (EDA) that can be used to support climate and energy initiatives, including community sustainability, water efficiency, and climate vulnerability assessments. For full eligibility and application details, please visit the links provided below.

In addition, please visit the calendar of 2012 EPA grant opportunities that may be of particular interest to communities.

***EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program – $1.5 million
Application Due: January 7, 2013
Eligible Entities: Federally recognized tribal governments; tribal organizations working to educate, empower, and enable their communities; or incorporated nonprofits.

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program provides funding for projects that address local environmental and public health issues within an affected community. The grants enable award recipients to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution.

For more information, visit the grant opportunity webpage.

***National Endowment for the Arts FY 2013 Our Town Initiative – Grants ranging from $25,000 to $200,000 each
Application Due: January 14, 2013
Eligible Entities: All applications must involve two primary partners: a local government entity and a nonprofit organization. Local governments include counties, parishes, cities, towns, villages, or federally recognized tribal governments.

The National Endowment for the Arts will provide a limited number of grants, ranging from $25,000 to $200,000, for creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. The Our Town initiative will invest in creative and innovative projects in which communities, together with their arts and design organizations and artists, seek to improve their quality of life, foster stronger community identity and a sense of place, and revitalize economic development.

For more information, visit the grant opportunity webpage.

Application Due: January 17, 2013
Eligible Entities: State, Indian tribe, irrigation district, water district, or other organization with water or power delivery authority. Applicants must also be located in the western United States or Territories: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant program provides funding to communities in the western United States to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, and carry out activities to address climate-related impacts on water.

For more information, visit the grant opportunity webpage.

***FHWA Pilot Projects: Climate Change and Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessments and Adaptation Options Analyses - $75,000 to $300,000 per pilot project
Application Due: January 22, 2013
Eligible Entities: State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs), and tribes must be leads on the project. Partnerships and collaboration with local governments, public transportation agencies, universities, airport authorities, and non-profits are encouraged.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is soliciting pilot projects to conduct analysis in one of two areas related to climate change and extreme weather adaptation: 1) assessments of transportation vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, or 2) developing options for improving resiliency of transportation facilities or systems to climate changes and/or extreme weather events. It is anticipated that 8 to 15 pilots will be selected and funded.

For more information, visit the pilot project solicitation.

***EDA Economic Development Assistance Programs Federal Funding Opportunity – Total funding available TBD
Application Due: Varies by program year; next due date is March 13, 2013
Eligible Entities: State and local governments, federally recognized tribes, non-profits, institutions of higher education.

Under the Economic Development Assistance Programs (EDAP) Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement, EDA will make construction, non-construction, and revolving loan fund investments under the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs. Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America’s ability
to compete in the global marketplace. Through the EDAP FFO, EDA solicits applications from rural and urban communities to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions. EDA’s investment priorities include environmentally-sustainable development and economically distressed and underserved communities.

For more information, visit the grant opportunity synopsis.