



Dear Stakeholder,

Below is my monthly grants message. If you know of someone who would find this email round-up useful, please forward this along and invite them to subscribe by emailing my office at [levenbergd@nyassembly.gov](mailto:levenbergd@nyassembly.gov).

If you are planning to apply for an opportunity that requires a letter of support from a state official, please feel free to contact my chief of staff, Victoria Cafarelli, at [cafarelliv@nyassembly.gov](mailto:cafarelliv@nyassembly.gov) with more details about your project.

Best,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg

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## Con Edison Small-Medium Business Energy Efficiency Programs

ConEd has announced a program through which they will cover up to 70% of the upfront costs of upgrades like LED lighting, HVAC systems, refrigeration, wi-fi thermostats, and heat pumps in facilities with an active ConEd electric or gas account. Businesses, not-for-profits, houses of worship, veterans' organizations, and schools with less than 300 kW demand are eligible to apply. [Click here for more details](#) or see the attached flier.

## Deadlines Approaching Soon

**Community Forest Conservation Grant Program:** This grant program funds municipal land acquisition for community forests, which are vital for wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, recreational opportunities, mental health, air quality, water quality, and to meet the obligations outlined in New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Community forests build local ownership of forests and local participation in forest management. Properties acquired through this grant program allow public access, which encourages local residents to enjoy the forests in their community and increase their connection to forest benefits. Grant funds are available from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and are managed and allocated by DEC. [Click here to learn more and apply](#). Applications for this grant are due at **2 PM on Wednesday, October 11**.

**Funding for Communities Impacted by Hurricane Ida:** Governor Hochul recently announced that \$20 million is now available as part of a State initiative designed to help make communities and homes more resilient against storms. The program has RFPs open for non-profits that help homeowners make storm-related repairs or secure reimbursement for completed repairs, as well as for local governments seeking technical assistance and/or planning funds to implement resiliency projects. Additional RFPs are expected soon. [Click here to learn more about this program](#). Proposals are due on **Friday, October 27**.

**DEC Grants for Recycling Coordination and Education Projects:** DEC is accepting applications for matching grant funding of recycling coordination, education, planning, and promotion projects to be conducted and completed during January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024. Funding will reimburse up to 50 percent of eligible projects, including salary costs for a municipal recycling coordinator, recycling education and outreach tools, recycling advertising, recycling websites, and promotional items. [Click here to learn more and apply](#). Email [RecyclingGrants@dec.ny.gov](mailto:RecyclingGrants@dec.ny.gov) with any questions. Applications must be submitted via [NYS Grants Gateway](#) no later than **3 PM on Tuesday, October 31**.

## **Additional Opportunities**

**Invasive Species Grant Program:** DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos has announced that [\\$3 million is available in the third round of the State's Invasive Species Grant Program](#). This grant program, supported by the State Environmental Protection Fund, is designed to advance projects that target aquatic and terrestrial invasive species across the state. There are six funding categories that address: invasive species spread prevention; early detection and rapid response; research; management planning; and education and outreach. Applications are due by **3 PM on Wednesday, November 1, 2023**. Visit DEC's [Invasive Species Grant Program webpage](#) for more information.

**Farmers' Market Resiliency Grant Program:** \$700,000 has been made available through the state budget for projects such as modernizing the delivery of products; repairing, replacing, or enhancing market infrastructure; and developing or scaling up marketing and outreach efforts. Projects that help the food system remain resilient, especially when supply chain disruptions occur, will be given priority. [Click here to learn more about the program and apply for a grant](#). The deadline to apply is **3 PM on Wednesday, November 15**.

**Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced that \$240 million is available for habitat restoration and coastal resilience projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. The grants will support efforts such as reconnecting rivers to their historic floodplains, outplanting corals to rebuild reefs, and building living shorelines that protect coasts from erosion and sea level rise. Applications are due by **Friday, November 17**,

**2023.** [Click here to find more information, including application details and scheduled webinars, on NOAA's website.](#)

**Building Decarbonization Grants:** Partners for Climate Action (PCA), a Columbia County-based nonprofit, has announced a new grant program to assist municipalities and nonprofits in the Hudson Valley that are reducing the carbon footprint of their buildings. Grants are in the range of \$5,000 - \$100,000. Municipalities and local nonprofits that own their buildings (schools, libraries, houses of worship, and organizations) are welcome to apply. Applicants must be in one of their target counties to apply; entities based in the Putnam County portion of our district would be eligible. [Click here to learn more about the program and apply.](#) Applications are due by **Tuesday, November 21** and there will be an online information session on **Friday, October 27 from 12-1 PM**; [click here to register for the session.](#)

**New York State Council on the Arts Capital Grants:** Governor Hochul recently announced that up to \$37 million is available to support capital projects for arts and cultural organizations through the New York State Council on the Arts' FY2024 Capital Projects Fund. Guidelines and details are available on the NYSCA website at [arts.ny.gov](https://arts.ny.gov). These grants are recommended for organizations that are in advanced planning stages of capital projects such as the construction of new facilities, the renovation or restoration of existing buildings, and the permanent installation of new, complete equipment systems. Applicants must be nonprofit 501(c)3 arts and cultural organizations in New York State with control of the building site in the form of a deed or lease. [Click here to learn more and apply for this opportunity](#); the application deadline is **4 PM on Thursday, January 11.**

**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program:** The EECBG Program is designed to assist states, local governments, and tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency. [Click here](#) to learn more about the program. If you have completed a [pre-award information sheet](#) for the program, you have until **January 31, 2024** to submit a full application for funding. Note that all local governments are eligible to receive technical assistance to develop their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). For more information, see [the EECBG Program Technical Assistance Webpage.](#)

**EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG):** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched \$4.6 billion across two implementation grant competitions to fund state, local, and Tribal programs and policies that cut climate pollution, advance environmental justice, and deploy clean energy solutions across the country. These competitions will enable community-driven solutions to the climate crisis, helping to accelerate America's clean energy transition. As part of its evaluation of applications, EPA will prioritize measures that achieve the greatest amount of GHG emissions reductions. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 30 to 115 grants ranging between \$2 million and \$500 million in the general competition. **The deadline to apply to the general competition is Tuesday, April 1, 2024.** EPA estimates that the implementation grants will be awarded in Fall 2024 for the general competition. [Click here to](#)

[view the general competition Notice of Funding Opportunity and apply. Click here to sign up for notifications about the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program.](#)

## Coming Soon

**Community Change Grant Program:** EPA's [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) [Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program](#) is opening soon and to aid potential applicants, they have released information on their website to provide a preview of important parts of the Community Change Grants. This includes eligibility and submission requirements, definitions, a [frequently asked questions PDF](#), and more. [Click here to learn more about the upcoming opportunity at the EPA website.](#)

## Grants Action News

Every month, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie's office produces a newsletter, [Grants Action News](#), that contains a round-up of state, federal and private grants and scholarships along with details on how to access them. [Here](#) is a link to the October 2023 edition. This month, it contains opportunities for municipalities, school districts, not-for-profits, institutions of higher education, 501(c)(3) museums and cultural organizations, teenagers between the ages of 14-18, college seniors, first-year graduate students, post-undergraduate gap year students, Hispanic high school seniors, and more. To get this newsletter sent directly to your inbox, email [grants@nyassembly.gov](mailto:grants@nyassembly.gov).

## Other Relevant Opportunities

**Free Vacuums to Reduce Spotted Lanternflies:** Earlier this year, the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation acquired high-powered vacuums to help reduce the number of Spotted Lanternflies in County Parks and has since acquired 10 more designated to [loan](#) to Westchester municipalities. Municipal employees can request vacuums through a [request form](#); equipment is given out on a first come, first served basis.

**Free Technical Assistance to Protect Drinking Water Sources:** DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos and State Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner Dr. James McDonald have [announced the availability of free technical assistance](#) for municipalities to protect public drinking water supplies through the [Drinking Water Source Protection Program \(DWSP2\)](#). Up to 30 volunteer communities will work with technical assistance providers to develop and implement Drinking Water Source Protection Programs that proactively protect their public drinking water sources. Public water suppliers can apply by submitting an [online application](#) by **4 PM on Tuesday, November 14**. To learn more, [register for the DWSP2 webinar](#) to be held Wednesday, October 25 at 11 AM.

**Public Comment Period for the Environmental Justice Provisions of the CLCPA:** DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos has announced the release of a [new draft policy to implement environmental justice provisions](#) of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act). The proposed [Division of Environmental Permits Policy](#)

["Permitting and Disadvantaged Communities \(DEP-23-1\)"](#) is available for public comment until **Monday, November 27, 2023**, and provides guidance in DEC's permitting processes for considering impacts and existing burdens on New York's most vulnerable communities. Find details about how and where to send comments [in this edition of the \*Environmental Notice Bulletin\*](#).

**Funding for Electric School Buses:** The 2023-2024 state budget includes funding to help with the transition to all-electric buses with an additional \$500 million from the Environmental Bond Act that passed last fall. Click [here](#) for more information from NYSERDA about available programs.

**Revolutionary Westchester 250:** As County-wide planning for 2026 begins, [Revolutionary Westchester 250](#) wants to make sure they are reaching historical societies, heritage groups, reenactors, historic sites and museums in Westchester County, and is soliciting help with their outreach. If you have updated contact information for relevant organizations, please email [1776RW250@gmail.com](mailto:1776RW250@gmail.com) with the details or invite them (or anyone) to sign up for their newsletter [here](#).

**State Energy Financing Fund:** The State Energy Financing Fund provides a complementary funding opportunity for entities working with or applying to the [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) Loan Programs Office \(LPO\) Title 17 Clean Energy Financing Program's Section 1703](#). This program is intended to increase access to the federal Title 1703 loan guarantee program, making it easier to finance projects that reduce emissions from the built environment (including buildings and other infrastructure) in New York State. NYSERDA expects to deploy up to \$20 million of direct capital and credit enhancements to eligible entities, at an amount not to exceed the lesser of \$5 Million or 3% of an eligible applicant's proposed project portfolio amount. [Click here to learn more about the program, including eligibility criteria, and apply.](#)

**New York Forward Loan Fund II:** In August, Governor Hochul announced the New York Forward Loan Fund II program for qualifying small businesses and nonprofits. Qualified recipients with fewer than 100 employees and less than \$5 million in gross annual revenue can apply for loans up to \$150,000 with affordable, fixed-rate interest rates. As part of New York's broader State Small Business Credit Initiative efforts led by Empire State Development, the fund will be in place for the next eight years and will focus on helping small businesses and nonprofits, particularly those in low-income, rural and historically underbanked communities, to access flexible working capital to cover a wide range of expenses. Additionally, free support services from experts will work with businesses throughout the life of the loan. [Click here to learn more about the program and pre-apply.](#)