

Drinking from the Firehose: Technical Assistance for Accessing State and Federal Resources

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Overview

- Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Overview
- Federal Funding
 - How much funding is available?
 - How do you access federal funding?
- Technical Assistance
 - TCTAC
 - Region 3 WaterTA
- Funding Opportunities

Environmental Finance Centers (EFC)

Environmental Finance Centers

- Network of centers across the country
- UMD EFC works throughout the mid-Atlantic
- Provide the information, tools and resources to build community capacity to pay for resource protection and restoration priorities



Capacity Building & Training

- Local Government Leadership Training
- On-line and Virtual Workshops
- Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Center



Policy Analysis & Financial Assessment

- Policy Review
- Financing Strategies
- Budget Analysis
- Program Evaluation



Community Outreach & Facilitation

- Designing outreach campaigns
- Facilitating stakeholder engagement
- Conducting focus groups
- Managing community surveys and interviews

Capacity Building Technical Assistance

- Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC)
- WaterTA Program (focused on IRA funds)
- Small Systems Capacity Building Program
- MOST Center
- Advancing Energy Justice in Maryland
- Maryland Local Government Climate Action Support Program
- Maryland Solar for All



Federal Funding

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- BIL
 - \$1.2 trillion
 - Infrastructure and jobs
 - 350 programs, 12+ agencies
 - Grants and Loans
- IRA
 - \$370 billion
 - Clean energy and jobs
 - 100s more programs
 - Grants, loans, rebates, and incentives



The Challenge...


Funding is not the only limiting factor:



- Navigating hundreds of programs
- Competing timelines
- Prioritizing needs
- Proposal development capacity
- Grants management capacity
- Loan payback requirements
- Procurement and reporting requirements

Finding Relevant Opportunities: Federal

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▾



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i **Informative status**

Reminder: Federal financial assistance award recipients are a crucial part of safeguarding Federal funds and maintaining a secure cyber environment. Check out our [latest blog post](#) to learn more.

Your Team. Your Workspace.

Applying for a funding opportunity is easier and more efficient when your team collaborates. Grants.gov Workspace makes it possible.

[Apply for a Grant Using Workspace](#)



Finding Relevant Federal Opportunities:

Search Filters on Grants.gov

- Opportunity Status
- Funding Instrument Type
- Eligibility
- Category
- Agency

Home Learn Grants Search Grants Applicants Grantors Sy

SEARCH GRANTS

BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA:

Keyword(s):

Opportunity Number:

CFDA:

OPPORTUNITY STATUS:

Forecasted (433)

Posted (2,549)

SORT BY:

Posted Date (Descending)

1

Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title
COTONO-ARF-FY2024002	AMBASSADOR'S RESIL FUND
	Cooperative Agreemer CESU-affiliated Partne

Finding Relevant Opportunities: Federal



Sign up for EPA's listserv:

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/forms/subscribe-epa-grants-update-listserv>



Consider partnering with the US Forest Service:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/partnerships>



Sign up for DoE's competitions and prizes listserv:

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/funding/eere-prizes-and-competitions>

Technical Assistance

Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTAC) Program

Program Goals:

- April 2023 - EPA announced TCTAC, which provides grant funding to establish technical assistance centers nationwide to provide TA, training, and related support to EJ communities
- 16 TCTACs in partnership with the US Department of Energy will receive a total of \$117 million to help overburdened communities
 - Region 3 received \$12 million

Region 3 Team:

- National Wildlife Federation (NWF), UMD Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice & Health (CEEJH), and UMD EFC

TCTAC Objectives

- Provide outreach to underserved, overburdened, rural, and capacity strained communities through TA to increase capacity to:
 - Assess environmental and energy justice concerns, obtain funding, and engage policymakers and government agencies to evoke change
- Technical Assistance Opportunities
 - Wayfinding – how to use grants.gov, how to register in SAM.gov
 - Training on grants administration
 - Capacity building and organization growth
 - Partnership development

TCTAC Approach

Community partners serve as “hubs” to ensure services are easily accessible both in location and culture.

- Community hubs include
 - Appalachian Voices
 - Centro de Apoyo Familiar (CAF)
 - Empower DC
 - Overbrook Environmental Education Center
 - Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health
 - South Baltimore Community Land Trust
 - Sussex Health & Environmental Network
 - UrbanKind
- HBCU hubs include
 - Morgan State University
 - Virginia State University
 - West Virginia State University

TCTAC Intake Process



Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center Programs

Contact Us

If you are an Environmental Justice community organization or individual in Region III seeking technical assistance, interested in offering pro-bono services, or a member of the media/press, click "Get Started" to begin.

GET STARTED

If you're unable to submit a form, please give us a call at: (202) 792-5350 or 1-800-757-1405

<https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Environmental-Justice/Region-3-TCTAC>

A screenshot of the 'Intake Survey National Wildlife Federation' form. The form title is 'Intake Survey National Wildlife Federation'. Below the title is a privacy notice: 'This collection of information is approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq, OMB Control Number 2025-1400. Response to the collection of information are voluntary. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response. Send comments on this collection of information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden to: Director, Information Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., 10th Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.' Below the notice is a paragraph: 'The intake survey is the initial process of introducing interested organizations and communities into the technical assistance center. The questions seek to identify general information about the interested communities and organizations, their locations, technical assistance needs, and preferred communications. From this information the Technical Assistance Center team can assess and match the interested communities and organizations with service providers.' The form itself is titled 'Intake Form' and includes a thank you message: 'Thank you for reaching the message center for the Region III Technical Assistance Center. Please completely fill in the prompts as they will help the Technical Assistance Center Team provide you with valuable information and resources.' The form fields are: 'Name *', 'Phone number *', 'Email address *', 'Organization name or Community name', 'Are you an environmental justice organization or community *', 'In which area of EPA Region III is your organization or community located? *', 'If you are not located in Region III, where are you located? *', and 'Best way to contact you *'. A red arrow points from the 'GET STARTED' button to this form.

Grants Database

Thriving Communiti...

- Grant Opportunities Timeline V...
- Grant Opportunities Calendar ...
- Grant Opportunities List View**
- Proposal Type View
- Request EFC Support
- How can we do better?

HUB Access - Grants / Grant Opportunities List View

Group Filter Sort Q ...

Closing Date	Program	Summary	Focus Area	Eligible Applicants	Individual Award Amount	Match or Cost Share ...	Application type
11/21/20...	Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change...	See page 6 of announcement for more info....	Climate/Resilience Pollution Reduction Environmental Justice Workforce	Community Based Organizations Partnership R	Track 1: \$10-20 million per award, \$20 million max...	None	Full Proposal
6/14/2024	C2C: Clean Energy to Communities: In-Depth Partnerships	The C2C program connects local governments, electric utilities, community-base...	Renewable Energy Buildings Mobility Environmental Justice	Local Government Community Based Organiza	Each award will be up to \$500,000 in subcontracting AND ...	Not stated	Full Proposal
4/17/2025	Clean Energy to Communities: Expert Match Program	Expert Match is most suitable for communities that could benefit from ...	Environmental Justice Buildings Mobility Grid Clean Power	Local Government Native American Tribal Orga	This is a technical assistance award, not a monetary award.	N/A	Online Application
6/26/2024	Science to Achieve Results (STAR): Air Quality Information...	Research Grant to characterize exposure to air pollution in underserved ...	Pollution Reduction Environmental Justice	Nonprofits Higher Educational Institutions	Up to \$1,250,000	None	Full Proposal
12/1/2024	Virginia Trees for Clean Water	Projects funded through the program include tree-planting activities of all ...	Tree Planting	Nonprofits Local Government State Govern	\$1,000 - \$50,000; Larger grants may be awarded, but must b...	No specific requirement, but some match ...	Full Proposal
6/21/2024	Growing Greener Plus Grants Program	The purpose is to restore Pennsylvania's impaired waters and protect ...	Stormwater Green Infrastructure Education Capacity Building	Nonprofits County Government Municipalit	\$500,000	15% match required; more than the minimum will ...	Full Proposal
12/31/20...	Urban Trees Mini-Grant Program	Mini grant to fund small tree planting projects in underserved urban areas ...	Environmental Justice Tree Planting	Faith-based organizations Nonprofits Com	Up to \$5000	Match is encouraged but not required	Online Application
12/31/20...	Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant	Provides funding for either the development of new community gardens or th...	Climate/Resilience Agriculture	Nonprofits Local Government Municipalities	Up to \$9500	Match is encouraged, but not required	Online Application
6/10/2024	HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants	Supports development of comprehensive plans to revitalize distressed publi...	Housing Community Development	Nonprofits Public Housing Authorities Local	Up to \$500,000	Yes (5%) -- *Matching funds in the amount of at ...	Full Proposal
7/12/2024	Peeco Sustainable Communities Grants	This program will provide \$75,000 support to fund	Conservation Pollution Prevention Community Engagement Open Space	Municipalities Nonprofits	Individual awards up to \$10,000 for	Encouraged but not required	Full Proposal

HUB Access - Grants: Grant Opportunities List View - Airtable

Start Date

4/30/2024

Program

[Urban Trees Mini-Grant Program](#)

Funder

Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT)

Focus Area

Environmental Justice **Tree Planting**

Summary

Mini grant to fund small tree planting projects in underserved urban areas of Maryland

Eligible Applicants

Faith-based organizations Nonprofits **Community Based Organizations**
Homeowner Associations Community Associations Schools Communities
Service, Youth, and Civic Groups

Match or Cost Share Requirement

Match is encouraged but not required

Total Funding Available

Applications accepted on a rolling basis
"until funds for this fiscal year are exhausted"

Individual Award Amount

Up to \$5000

Award Period

Lump sum -- "Most awardees will receive 90% of their funds up front... and 10% of the total award after the final report is submitted and approved."

Notes

- (1) Only specific areas of Maryland are eligible applicants (see map [here](#))
- (2) Full proposals are not required up front; provide CBT with basic information, and they will work with you to develop a more detailed plan

Application type

Online Application

Status

OPEN (Rolling basis)

Resources

- (1) Program Assistant: Bridget Robey, at (410) 974-2941 x 117 or brobey@cbtrust.org
- (2) [Website link](#): scroll down for an informational webinar
- (3) [MD underserved community map](#)

Region 3 WaterTA

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Search EPA.gov

Environmental Topics ▾ Laws & Regulations ▾ Report a Violation ▾ About EPA ▾

Water Infrastructure CONTACT US

Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA)



EPA WATER TA

All communities deserve access to clean, reliable water. Yet, too many communities across America face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to their residents. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) presents an unprecedented opportunity to address water infrastructure needs by providing \$50 billion in new funding – the [largest federal investment in water in the history of our nation](#). New and existing [EPA Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\)](#) programs will be utilized to support effective implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

What's New and Key Resources

- [WaterTA Community Fact Sheet](#) (May 2023) – General information for the public on WaterTA.
- [WaterTA Implementation Memo](#) (March 2023) –

<https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance-waterta>

EPA Region	EFC
1	University of Maine System
2	Syracuse University
3	University of Maryland
4	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
4	Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Inc.
5	WSOS Community Action Commission Inc.
5	Delta Institute
6	University of New Mexico
7	Wichita State University
8	National Rural Water Association
9	Rural Community Assistance Corporation
9	Hawaii Community Foundation
10	Rural Community Assistance Corporation

EFC's Region 3 WaterTA Goals

- Provide direct TA to communities
- Support communities to take steps toward accessing water infrastructure funding (state revolving funds)
- Coordinate and collaborate to support effective delivery of TA
 - If we aren't the right fit, connect communities with whoever is
- Prioritize underserved communities
 - 40% Justice40
- 10 “deep dive” and 30-50 “light touch” annually



Technical Assistance Services

Planning & Assessment

Community Engagement

Plan Development & Coordination

Studies & Assessments

Asset Management

Project Development

Preliminary Engineering Reports

Asset Management Inventories

Project Design

Environmental Reviews

Partnerships & Engagement

Ongoing Engagement & Outreach

Decision-Maker Education

Partnerships

Capacity Building & Training

Funding & Financing

Rates & Revenues Analyses

Financial Planning

Identify Funding Options

Application Support

Program Management

Bid Support

Change Order Review

Project Inspection

Domestic Preference & Davis Bacon Assistance

How to Reach Us

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & PRESERVATION

NAVYLAND'S BEST INNOVATION SCHOOL

Technical Assistance

Region 3 WaterTA Program

The Region 3 Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) program is offering direct support to municipalities, firms, and water utilities in US EPA Region 3 to help them secure federal and state funding to address water infrastructure needs. This assistance will be delivered over the coming five years at no cost to recipients, through an award from the US Environmental Protection Agency. Assistance is available for a wide range of water infrastructure and wastewater treatment projects.

Available services include assistance identifying water challenges; developing plans; building technical, financial, and managerial capacity; and completing funding application materials. See the graphic below for a full list of available services.

Planning and Assessment	Project Development	Partnerships and Engagement	Funding and Financing
Community Engagement	Waterline Engineering Needs	Organic Engagement and Outreach	Rate and Revenue Analysis
Plan Development and Coordination	Lead Service Line Inventories	Decision Making and Board Education	Financial Planning
Studies and Assessments	Project Design	Water Systems Partnership	Identify Funding Options
Asset Management	Environmental Review	Capacity Building and Training	Application Support

The Region 3 WaterTA team includes the following technical service providers:

- University of Maryland & Environmental Finance Center (team lead and community support)
- University of Maryland Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health
- The Water Center, University of Pennsylvania
- Woodward Clow
- Southwest Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.
- ICAP Solutions Northeast
- West Virginia Community Action Partnership

Request assistance

To request direct technical assistance, [please complete this form](#). After reviewing your submission, a Region 3 WaterTA provider will respond with general next steps. Response times may vary depending on the volume and type of requests received. Please note that every request may be offered WaterTA, and participation in this or other TA programs does not guarantee funding through the State Revolving Funds (SRF) or other programs. If you need assistance or have questions about this form, please contact water@um.edu.

Partners

ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

EPA Intake Form

<https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form>



UMD - EFC Intake Form

<https://arch.umd.edu/research-creative-practice/centers/environmental-finance-center/project-areas/technical-assistance/region-3-waterta-program>



State Referral

Direct Email

<https://arch.umd.edu/research-creative-practice/centers/environmental-finance-center/project-areas/technical-assistance/region-3-waterta-program>

Funding Opportunities

Community Change Grants

- Provide resources for **community-driven projects to address environmental and climate challenges** in communities facing disproportionate and adverse health, pollution, and environmental impacts, and suffering from generations of disinvestment.
- Invest in strong **cross-sectoral collaborations** with partners who bring a robust commitment to working with and for communities.
- Unlock access to **additional and more significant resources** to advance environmental and climate justice goals.
- Empower communities and **strengthen their capacity** to drive meaningful positive change.
- Strengthen community **participation in government decision-making** processes that impact them.

The Basics: Two Tracks

Track One: Community-Driven Investments for Change

- Awards of \$10-20 million *each*
- Climate action and pollution reduction strategies that improve the environmental, climate, and resilience conditions affecting disadvantaged communities.

Track Two: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

- Awards of \$1-3 million *each*
- Facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes to advance environmental and climate justice.

The Basics: Timeline

- Rolling submissions through November 21, 2024
- Approximately monthly reviews
- Originally suggested first reviews in February 2024, awards March/April 2024, and projects to begin May/June 2024
- Projects must be completed within 3 years. There are *no extensions*.
- Lead applicants can submit 2 proposals, max

The Basics: Submission

- Submission is through Grants.gov, which requires registration.
- Submission through Grants.gov requires SAM.gov registration and a UEI number (Unique Entity ID).
- Registering with SAM.gov will generate a UEI.

These processes take time, and you need to budget for them in your timeline.

Important Things to Consider

- ***Are you registered with Grants.gov and SAM.gov?***
- ***Can you meet the timeline?*** There is a lot of writing, plan development, and required documentation. This is not a proposal you can start 2 weeks or even a month before it is due.
- ***Do you have the capacity to manage this large amount of money?*** You can not apply for less than the minimum amount. Awards of this size come with a lot of reporting, auditing, and financial implications.
- ***Do you know who your partners would be?*** There are specific partner eligibility requirements, including a formal partnership agreement.
- ***This might not be the best opportunity to take a new partnership with no history for a “test drive.”***

Track One: Summary

Community-Driven Investments for Change

Anticipating: 150 awards of \$10 - \$20 million

Goals:

- Increase community resilience
- Reduce local pollution
- Center meaningful community engagement
- Build community strength
- Reach priority populations
- Maximize integration across projects

Track One: Required Elements

In addition to the project narrative, every application must include the following six elements:

1. Climate Action Strategy
2. Pollution Reduction Strategy
3. Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan (10 pages)
4. Community Strength Plan (5 pages)
5. Readiness Approach
6. Compliance Plan (5 pages)

Track Two: Summary

Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Anticipating: 20 awards of \$1 - \$3 million

Goals:

- Build capacity of communities to have a meaningful voice.
- Support direct community participation in the development and implementation of solutions, policies, and programs.
- Break down systemic barriers to community participation.
- Create two-way engagement and feedback mechanisms.
- Inform communities about issues.
- Develop mechanisms to ensure community needs are integrated into government processes and policies.

Resources

- EFC's proposal templates with guidance
- EFC Track One and Track 2 recordings
- Environmental Protection Network's resources
 - [Application guides](#)
 - Informational webinars
 - Example documents
 - <https://www.environmentalprotectionnetwork.org/ffog-january-25-2024/>

Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program

Provides funding to historically underserved communities that have been disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards. Grants may address a wide range of environmental issues including (but not limited to) the following:

- Air quality & asthma
- Fence line air quality monitoring
- Monitoring of effluent discharges from industrial facilities
- Water quality & sampling
- Improving food access to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Lead and asbestos contamination
- Pesticides and other toxic substances
- Healthy homes that are energy/water use efficient and not subject to indoor air pollution
- Illegal dumping activities, such as education, outreach, and small-scale clean-ups
- Emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency

The Basics

Grants will be available for three (3) distinct tiers of community readiness and action. The criteria and process for the severely capacity-constrained communities will be managed outside of this RFA process.

Tier	Award Focus	Expected # of Awards	Amount	Award Period	Application Deadline
I	Assessment Projects	60	Up to \$150,000	1 Year	Rolling and no later than April 30, 2025
II	Planning Projects	51	Up to \$250,000	1-2 Years	Rolling; 2-year grants: no later than November 30, 2024 1-year grants: no later than April 30, 2025
III	Implementation Projects	50	Up to \$350,000	2 years	Rolling and no later than November 30, 2024
N/A	Noncompetitive Capacity-Building for severely capacity constrained communities	10	\$75,000	1 year	

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants and projects must be in EPA Region 3, which includes DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, and WV
- Proposed activity must be in and benefit an area considered disadvantaged, as defined by the [Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)
- Eligible entities include:
 - Nonprofit organizations
 - Community-based and grassroots organizations
 - Philanthropic and civic organizations with nonprofit status
 - Local governments
 - Institutes of higher education

Application

- Submit applications through GHHI's Thriving Communities application portal located on [GHHI's Thriving Communities website](#)
- Required materials include:
 - Proposal Narrative
 - Budget
 - Work plan
 - Most recent organization financial statement is required for Tier II and Tier III applicants. Tier I applicants who do not have a financial statement may explain how the project will be financially managed.

Questions???

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