



Federal Funding Sources

FOR MAIN STREETS

SUMMER 2024
Version 1.0



Interested in learning about federal programs that can positively impact your Main Street? Check out this resource for guidance on applying to public funding and an inventory of federal programs.

For inquiries, contact the Government Relations Department at advocacy@mainstreet.org

CONTENTS

Federal Funding Impacts Main Streets	1	U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)	22
A Practical Guide for Main Streets	2	Thriving Communities National Program	
Overcoming the Challenges.....	3	Capacity Builder Program (TCP-N).....	23
How Do Main Street Directors & Managers		Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program	
Tap Into Federal Resources?	4	(TCP-R).....	24
A Word on Federal Appropriations & Earmarks	5	Safer Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	25
How Can Main Street Directors & Managers		Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods	
Collaborate with Other Stakeholders?	6	(RCN) Grant Program	26
How to Start Your Application for a Federal		Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability	
Grant Opportunity	8	and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program ..	27
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban		Active Transportation Infrastructure	
Development (HUD).....	9	Investment Program.....	28
Hope VI Main Street Grant Program	10	U.S. Department of Interior (DOI)	29
Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants.....	11	Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants	30
Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants	12	Underrepresented Communities (URC)	
Community Development Block Grant Programs ...	13	Grant Program	31
Community Development Block Grant —		African American Civil Rights (AACR)	
Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)	14	Grant Program	32
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).....	15	History of Equal Rights (HER) Grant Program.....	33
Rural Community Development Initiative	16	U.S. Department of Commerce	34
Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge	17	Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA).....	35
Rural Business Development Grant.....	18	Disaster Recovery Supplemental Funding	36
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	19	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	37
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE)		Community Change Grant Program.....	38
Grants	20	Recreation Economy for Rural Communities	
Community Facilities Direct Loan &		Planning Assistance Program	39
Grant Program	21	National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)	40
		Our Town.....	41

Federal Funding Impacts Main Streets

Main Street America (MSA) leads a collaborative movement with partners and grassroots leaders that advances shared prosperity, creates resilient economies, and improves quality of life through place-based economic development and community preservation in downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts in almost 2,000 communities across the country.

Federal funding makes a difference in Main Street communities. Along with local, state, and private resources, federal funding can be used to rehabilitate decaying buildings, fill ground-floor and upper-floor vacancies, improve street infrastructure, build capacity for grassroots community leaders, and spur sustainable development. But it is not always clear how Main Street programs can use federal funds to support their operations and advance their mission. In effect, federal programs aimed at reaching grassroots organizations, rebuilding underserved communities, and helping smaller businesses often do not reach their intended audiences.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, historic levels of disaster recovery funding were made available to Main Street communities. This came from one-time funding sources like the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act), American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA). These bills supported existing programs, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants and created new programs to support community development and revitalize downtowns. In addition to regularly appropriated federal funding, the supplemental relief funding allows Main Street communities to support small businesses, improve local infrastructure, rehabilitate historic buildings, address environmental concerns, and more.

Main Street programs need to be aware of funds available to their communities and ways to build relationships to activate funding. This document intends to act as a resource for Main Street directors and managers to access federal resources at the local level.

A Practical Guide for Main Streets

Though many funding sources exist, matching the right federal program with the eligible use in a Main Street community is difficult. It can be unclear where to get started, what federal funding sources to target, and how to work with elected officials to tap into these sources. This document provides a list of federal funding sources that Main Streeters may use and key facts for each program. We offer tips and insights on ways to approach funding. This is not an exhaustive list, and we recommend that Main Streeters stay apprised of both public and private funding opportunities available to them at the local and state level. This can be accomplished through talking with elected officials, federal agency representatives in your state, your Main Street Coordinating Program, and aligned organizations in your community.

Funding opportunities listed here may not be directly available to each Main Street program. Because local and state Main Street programs come in a [variety of structures](#), eligibility for funding is varied. Additionally, funding sources are often available to public entities, and Main Street programs need to work with elected officials to ensure that the funding is disseminated with mutual benefit to Main Street districts and the community at large.

In addition to the programs listed in this resource, we encourage Main Streeters to sign up for newsletters that offer updates on federal funding opportunities. These can be found by perusing agencies and programs in various federal departments, including the Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, and the Department of Commerce. Additionally, [grants.gov email](#) updates will allow you to get notified for federal grant opportunities of interest to your community.

Note that Main Street America also offers funding opportunities for small businesses and economic development which do not come with the same requirements of federal funding. Check out existing Main Street America funding sources [here](#).

Overcoming the Challenges

There are several challenges for Main Street programs to be aware of when tapping into public funding sources. As we've heard from Main Street programs across the country, requirements for matching funds – which make recipients responsible for raising money to supplement public funding – are a huge impediment to some programs. We have listed where matching requirements exist and what is required for each. Federal agency web resources and staff can help you understand match requirements. For example, the Department of Transportation provides information on their page: [Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements](#).

Additionally, while the Main Street Approach has primary areas of focus, your Main Street program may have locally-determined goals that expand the boundaries of what we offer here. We attempt to provide federal funding sources that go beyond the Main Street Approach, but you may potentially identify additional sources we have not listed that align with your local needs. According to surveys of Main Street programs, program funding is a primary concern. Most federal programs are not designed to support the ongoing capacity of your program. When considering federal funding, ensure that you are accurately accounting for the program capacity needed to apply for or participate in a partner application.

Federal funding creates both an opportunity and need to engage state and regional organizations and representatives. Existing relationships and geographic proximity are key assets in pursuing federal funding. Many federal programs promote collaboration regionally, across county and state boundaries. Working through the Main Street network can help meet a funder's goals and positively impact the community. Main Street programs can act as a resource to regional or statewide organizations. Conversely, when Main Street programs collaborate with the regional or statewide organizations, the project's objectives can align with both community and regional vision. Navigating partnership requirements and demonstrating support for a federal funding application can be a time-consuming and burdensome process. It is important that collaboration and partnership are incorporated into your application planning timeline.

How Do Main Street Directors & Managers Tap into Federal Resources?

Main Street programs exist as both private non-profits and public government entities. Our [2023 Main Street Trends Survey](#) suggests that 58% of Main Street programs polled are 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, and just about 31% are housed within a governmental agency or organization. Whether a non-profit or government entity, Main Street programs are positioned well to work with public officials for the use of public funding in their Main Street districts.

The structure of the entity – whether public or private – and where it is housed in the government influences what public resources Main Street programs can obtain either independently or part of a partnership. Awareness of the federal resources on top of local and state funding is a first step to tapping into additional resources. It's also important that Main Streeters forge alliances and partnerships with like-minded organizations. If your program is housed in a governmental entity, you may not be in the right department or position to be the

applicant for federal funds. If you are a nonprofit, you may need to form a collaborative relationship with the city to apply on your behalf. That said, if you have partners with shared interests, they may be positioned to pursue funding that can benefit both your Main Street and their place-based interest. For ways to build a relationship with your elected officials, check out [this resource](#).

A Word on Federal Appropriations & Earmarks

In addition to the existing federal programs in this document, there are other opportunities to secure federal funding for your Main Street. Each year, the federal government allocates funding for numerous federal programs in its annual appropriations cycle. If interested, you can advocate for the programs you want to see funded by the federal government. To learn more about advocating for programs of interest to you, email advocacy@mainstreet.org.

Additionally, Congress allows for local advocates to apply directly for undesignated funds – commonly referred to as “earmarks,” but formally known as “Congressionally Directed Spending” in the Senate and “Community Project Funding” in the House of Representatives. This means that Main Street programs can reach out directly to Members of Congress to determine whether they offer earmarks and whether you can apply. It’s a valuable opportunity to get funding from an office directly for a specific project you’re working on, but it requires an understanding of the process.

If you are interested in pursuing these funds, there are a few considerations to keep in mind:

- A strong relationship with your Members of Congress is key. You should create and sustain these relationships throughout the year, not just when approaching funding requests. Members receive many requests and may only advance a few each year.
- Not all Members of Congress offer funding through the earmarks process. Many Members are ideologically opposed to this form of funding. You can inquire with individual offices as to whether they participate.
- Funding requests are accepted in the Spring, typically following the release of the President’s budget. At that time, Members of Congress will post guidance or email request forms to their constituents. Ask your Members’ offices to add you to their email list for appropriations requests.
- Requests for funding need to align with existing programs’ requirements. Guidance can change year to year and may be different between the House and the Senate.
- While funding is awarded outside of a typical grant application process, certain federal requirements will still apply. For example, a brick and mortar project on a historic building will be subject to rules such as [Section 106 review](#) even if received through this process.

THE BOTTOM LINE: earmarks are an incredible opportunity to fund transformational projects, but it requires pre-existing relationships with Members of Congress, should only be considered as a one-time source of funds, and should not supplant seeking other ongoing grant programs. If you are able to secure project funding, let the Main Street America team know so we can share your success with the network.

How Can Main Street Directors & Managers Collaborate with Other Stakeholders?

Whether housed in a government agency or operating as a non-profit, collaborating with elected officials and other stakeholders is key to securing federal resources and building transformational relationships to support Main Street goals. The following recommendations will position you well to receive federal funding for your Main Street program.



AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

Identify and research who your elected officials are.

- You can use [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) and [Govtrack.us](https://www.govtrack.us)

Understand what they care about.

- Research the current and past bills they've sponsored.

Determine what Committees they sit on.

- Align what they care about with the resources on this list that you're interested in.
- If there is legislator that holds a policy priority related to funding you're going after, ask them to write you a letter of support for your application.

Ask them to support these programs.

- During advocacy meetings, mention the programs you care about and ask for them to support future federal appropriations for the programs.

Ask them for earmarks for additional projects.

- If you're looking for funding for a project that's not eligible under existing federal programs, ask your elected officials whether they administer Congressionally directed spending.



AT THE STATE LEVEL

Talk with your elected officials and staff members of state agencies.

- Understand what programs you can tap into at the state level and what federal programs are being administered through the state.
- Meet with and work with federal agency representatives at the state level, such as your state's representative from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

If your program operates in partnership with a Coordinating Program, speak with your state Main Street Coordinator.

- Almost half of State Coordinators (45.7%) help to secure funding for local programs.

Build relationships with regional economic development entities.

- Identify the regional economic development organizations in your area.
- Federal economic development strategies are created at the regional level. Coordinate with your regional Economic Development District to ensure Main Street priorities are included in regional strategies and applications.



AT THE CITY/COUNTY LEVEL

Meet with your city council members and Mayor.

- Understand the history of federal funding in your community – where has it been used? For what? How has it positively impacted your Main Street? What does the future hold?
- Share your needs for Main Street improvement and opportunities listed below that may positively work for the community.

Create or strengthen partnerships in your community.

- Identify like-minded organizations that have similar interests and pose the opportunity for partnership and collaboration on future efforts to secure federal funding.
- Most grant applications ask for letters of support from program participants, local elected officials, or other stakeholders. Consider the time it takes to secure these letters and incorporate into your timeline.

How to Start Your Application for a Federal Grant Opportunity

Prepare

Research the program and find the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) on grants.gov. Determine the application deadline (via the NOFO).

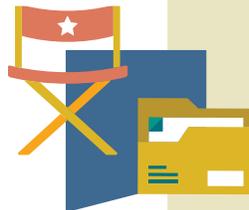
Confirm that you're an eligible entity. If you're not, determine whether there's a partner you know who would be an eligible entity

Identify what you need to submit as part of the application. Develop a workplan to complete application requirements in advance of the deadline.

Consider the compliance requirements. Is there a match requirement? Does someone need to be a point contact? When must the funding be spent?



Establish Roles



With your staff and partners, determine who is the lead entity and individual in applying and managing the funding.

Reach out to your state coordinator. Ask whether staff know of additional details about the program, who has been awarded in the past, and what you may need to know as a recipient of the grant.

Reach out to local representatives of the federal agency or the program contact. Express your interest and ask any questions.



Communicate

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD programs have been a vital resource to Main Street programs since the 1980's when the first Main Street Coordinating Programs were created through HUD funding. Main Street programs are eligible for a variety of HUD grants, including competitive grants, formula funding, and disaster supplements.

“Formula funding” refers to dollars that are distributed to every recipient in a group (such as all 50 states) to accomplish the same purpose. Formula grants are not competitive because the funding amount for each recipient is calculated based on specific parameters set by Congress, such as state population. You cannot apply directly for formula grants with HUD. However, you can contact your state or local community development office to find out what you may qualify for.

“Disaster supplemental” refers to dollars that are set aside by Congress for communities impacted by a disaster. After a disaster occurs, Members of Congress may appropriate funding to impacted areas through existing federal programs. Disaster supplemental funding can be either competitive or formula funding, depending on the agency and program awarded.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Hope VI Main Street Grant Program

The program provides grants to communities smaller than 50,000 in population to assist in the renovation of a historic, traditional central business district, or “Main Street” area by replacing unused, obsolete, commercial space in buildings with affordable housing units.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award ceiling (FY23): \$1,000,000

Total available (FY23): \$2,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

- Build new affordable housing.
- Reconfigure obsolete or surplus commercial space (or extremely substandard, vacant housing) into affordable housing units.

**The grant funds cannot be used on general infrastructure or commercial development.*

***The funds in the NOFO must be used to assist Units of Local Government that have existing Main Street area rejuvenation projects.*

****Main Street housing units must be affordable to the initial residents that occupy the Main Street housing project.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Local Government with a population of 50,000 or fewer, and is neither served by a Public Housing Agency (PHA) or is served by a single PHA which administers 100 or fewer public housing dwelling units within the local government’s jurisdiction.

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

A match of firmly committed cash or in-kind property or services of at least 5% of the requested grant amount is statutorily required to be considered for an award. Match must be used only to carry out eligible activities under the NOFO.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/hope6/grants/mainstreet

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING**

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants

The program supports locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with severely distressed public housing and/or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Local leaders, residents, and other stakeholders, such as public housing agencies, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private developers, come together to create and implement a plan that revitalizes distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award ceiling (FY23): \$500,000

Total available (FY23): \$10,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

- Support communities to develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy (called a Transformation Plan).

**The application must target a severely distressed public and/or assisted housing project, and the target housing must be located in a neighborhood with at least 15 percent of residents estimated to be in poverty or have extremely low incomes*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Public Housing Agencies (PHA)
- Local governments
- Tribal entities
- Nonprofit organizations

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

Matching funds in the amount of at least 5% of the requested grant amount in cash or in-kind donations must be secured and used by the end of the grant term.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn/fy23funding

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING**

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants

The program supports communities that have undergone a comprehensive local planning process (see Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants) and are ready to implement their “Transformation Plan” to redevelop the neighborhood.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award ceiling (FY23): \$50,000,000

Total available (FY23): \$259,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

Revitalize a severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted multifamily housing project located in a distressed neighborhood into a viable, mixed-income community. See the link for more detail on eligible uses.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Public Housing Agencies (PHA)
- Local governments
- Tribal entities
- Nonprofit organizations

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

Matching funds in the amount of at least 5% of the requested grant amount in cash or in-kind donations must be secured and used by the end of the grant term.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn/fy23funding

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING**

Community Development Block Grant Programs

The program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Annual formula-based grant funding; award amount depends on jurisdiction

ELIGIBLE USES

- 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
- Each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- **Principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)**
- **Other metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000**
- **Qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities)**
- **States and insular areas**

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

No matching requirements for entitlement communities grants.

**For states that use more than \$100,000 for administrative expenses, they may use up to 3% of the total grant amount but must match these additional expenditures dollar-for-dollar.*

**Not less than 70% of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.*

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Community Development Block Grant — Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

CDBG-DR assistance is not permanently authorized. In response to extraordinary impacts from disasters, Congress sometimes appropriates additional funding to CDBG-DR. Dollars are intended to meet the recovery needs caused by a disaster(s) specifically stated in the appropriation. Typically, appropriations further limit use of funds to the “most impacted and distressed” areas resulting from a major disaster. HUD uses damage estimates and other data from FEMA and SBA to determine the eligible grantees, geographical areas to be served or prioritized, and allocation amounts.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Varies based on specific disaster.

ELIGIBLE USES

The special appropriation provides funds to the most impacted and distressed areas for:

- Disaster Relief.
- Long Term-Recovery.
- Restoration of Infrastructure.
- Housing.
- Economic Revitalization.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Neither individuals nor communities can apply for funds.
- HUD will notify eligible States, cities and counties if they are eligible to receive CDBG-DR grants.
- Those who receive grant money include state agencies, non-profit organizations, economic development agencies, citizens and businesses.

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

N/A

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-dr/overview/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development (RD) offers a wide range of programs and that support rural areas, businesses, and individuals. Broadly, these programs include loans and loan guarantees for economic development and housing, loans and grants to support small businesses, housing programs, and technical assistance.

The USDA RD offers several programs for which Main Streets are eligible. The office uses population as one criterion to determine whether recipients are eligible for grants. The population thresholds range from no more than 5,000 residents to no more than 50,000 residents depending on the program. Areas with populations at or below the population threshold are considered eligible rural areas, whereas areas with populations above the threshold are considered non-rural and therefore ineligible areas. You can find further guidance [here](#).

Rural Community Development Initiative

The program helps non-profit housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities and federally recognized tribes support housing, community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor: \$50,000

Award ceiling: \$500,000

ELIGIBLE USES

Improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Training sub-grantees to conduct:

- Home-ownership education
- Minority business entrepreneur education

Providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on:

- Strategic plan development
- Accessing alternative funding sources
- Board training
- Developing successful child care facilities
- Creating training tools, such as videos, workbooks, and reference guides
- Effective fundraising techniques

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- **Public bodies**
- **Non-profit organizations**
- **Qualified Private (for-profit) Organizations**

**an eligible area is any area other than (i) a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and (ii) the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town*

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

- Matching fund requirement equal to amount of grant
- In-kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds
- Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private and nonprofit entities are encouraged

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/rural-community-development-initiative-grants>

Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge

The program provides planning support, technical assistance and training to foster placemaking activities in rural communities.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award ceiling (FY22): \$250,000

Total award (FY22): \$4,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

- Provide technical assistance and training to help rural communities develop actionable placemaking plans, convene partners and identify community needs.

**USDA encourages applications that support communities' planning projects that enhance capacity for broadband infrastructure, deployment and/or access.*

***The assistance must be provided for up to two years.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Federally recognized Tribal Entities
- Institutions of higher education including 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) IRS status
- Public bodies
- Small private entities that meet the size standards established by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

A minimum 15% match of the grant amount requested is required, in cash, confirmed funding commitments with third parties, or in kind contributions

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives/rural-placemaking-innovation-challenge>

Rural Business Development Grant

The program promotes economic development and job creation projects through the awarding of grant funds to eligible entities. There are both business opportunity grants and business enterprise grants for use in funding various business and community projects that serve rural areas.

FUNDING AMOUNT

No award ceiling

ELIGIBLE USES

There are two types of RBDG projects, Opportunity grants and Enterprise grants.

Opportunity types funds can be used for:

- Community economic development
- Technology-based economic development
- Feasibility studies and business plans
- Leadership and entrepreneur training
- Rural business incubators
- Long-term business strategic planning.

Enterprise type funds can be used for:

- Training and technical assistance
- Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, renovation of buildings
- Pollution control and abatement
- The capitalization of revolving loan funds
- Rural distance learning
- Rural transportation improvement
- Community economic development
- Leadership and entrepreneur training
- Rural business incubators
- Long-term business strategic planning

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Public Body/Government Entities
- Indian Tribes
- Nonprofit entities primarily serving rural areas

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

Requirements set at the state level; see the link to see your state's requirements.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants>

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

The program provides loans and grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) to help microenterprises startup and growth through a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund; and, provide training and technical assistance to microloan borrowers and micro entrepreneurs.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award ceiling: \$100,000 (annually)

**Loans of \$50,000 to \$500,000 may be used for establishing a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund managed by the Microenterprise Development Organization.*

***Total aggregate debt is capped at \$2,500,000.*

ELIGIBLE USES

Microlenders may make microloans for qualified business activities and expenses including, but not limited to:

- Working capital.
- Debt refinancing.
- Purchasing equipment and supplies.
- Improving real estate.

**Maximum loan term is 20 years. Two-year payment deferral. Must establish a loan loss reserve fund.*

***ultimate recipients can receive up to \$50,000 w/ a fixed interest rate limited to 75% of project cost*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Nonprofits
- Federally-recognized tribes
- Institutions of higher education
- The following are eligible to apply for a loan from the MDO as an ultimate recipient: businesses located in an eligible area with 10 or fewer full-time employees

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

At least 15% matching funds are required.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program>

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants

The program offers grant assistance to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor: \$500,000

Award ceiling: \$2,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

- Build or support a business incubator facility
- Provide worker training to assist in the creation of new jobs
- Train the existing workforce with skills for higher-paying jobs
- Develop a base of skilled workers and improve their opportunities to obtain high-wage jobs in new or existing local industries

**The RISE project must serve a rural region small enough to allow close collaboration among partners. It also must include important elements of the region's prioritized industry cluster (concentrations of related industries).*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Rural jobs accelerator partnerships with expertise in delivering economic and job training programs, consisting of the following:

- Non-profit entities
- State entities
- Tribal entities
- Institutions of higher education
- Public bodies

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

At least 20% of the total project funding must come from non-Federal sources.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-innovation-stronger-economy-rise-grants>

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

The program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Both low interest direct loans and grants are available, as well as a combination of the two.

ELIGIBLE USES

Purchase, construct, and / or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities
- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements
- Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Public bodies
- Community-based non-profit corporations
- Federally-recognized Tribes

**Rural areas including cities, villages, townships and towns including Federally Recognized Tribal Lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census Data are eligible for this program.*

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

Yes, dependent on population and median household income.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

The Department of Transportation (DOT) comprises eleven operating units, including the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. DOT's wide breadth of programs are aimed "To deliver the world's leading transportation system, serving the American people and economy through the safe, efficient, sustainable, and equitable movement of people and goods."

Through the Office of the Secretary and the Build America Bureau, DOT provides valuable technical assistance, financing opportunities, and guidance. Additionally, DOT, along with several other federal agencies, has several new programs intended to invest in electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and infrastructure.

Many DOT funding programs and initiatives are awarded through State Departments of Transportation, below you will find a selection of competitive grant programs, those to which you or your city can directly apply.

Thriving Communities National Program Capacity Builder Program (TCP-N)

The program aims to advance community-driven, transformative investments in underserved and overburdened communities using a coordinated place-based approach that strengthens local capacity to develop and execute infrastructure projects from cradle to grave. The TCP-N program will fund non-profit organizations, philanthropic entities, and other technical assistance providers to provide direct no-cost planning, technical assistance, and capacity building support to TCP communities selected by DOT and located across the country.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award ceiling: \$5,000,000

Total award (FY23): \$22,000,000

Award floor: \$4,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

- Provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to disadvantaged and under-resourced communities, enabling them to advance transportation projects that support community-driven economic development, health, environment, mobility, and access goals.

**The TCP-N will support selected communities over a 3-year period, including 2 years of deep-dive technical assistance and a final year focused on program evaluation, reporting, and transition activities.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Non-profit organizations
- Philanthropic entities
- Academic institutions or private sector organizations with demonstrated experience developing and providing TA, planning, and capacity building to a range of communities located across multiple states and regions

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

None.

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities>

Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program (TCP-R)

TCP-R is a new component of the program. The focus of this program is to enable state, Tribal, local, and regional governments to support the advancement of transportation opportunities in disadvantaged communities that align with broader regional housing, economic development, public health, climate, and other community development goals.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor: \$1,000,000

Award ceiling: \$2,000,000

Total award (FY23): \$22,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

- Provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to communities within their state, Tribe, or region.

**Funding is provided over 3 years to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support and peer learning opportunities to communities located within their own jurisdiction or service area and selected by the applicant.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- State governments and their agencies
- Indian Tribes
- Governmental planning, economic development, or transportation organizations working at the regional or metropolitan level
- Regional, Tribal, or statewide planning non-profit organizations

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

None.

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities>

Safer Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

The program supports the development of a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan) that identifies the most significant roadway safety concerns in a community and the implementation of projects and strategies to address roadway safety issues. Action Plans are the foundation of the SS4A grant program. There are both planning and implementation grants (see eligible uses for more detail).

FUNDING AMOUNT

Total award: \$5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years, 2022-2026.

ELIGIBLE USES

Planning and Demonstration Grants provide Federal funds to:

- Develop, complete, or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan.

**The goal of an Action Plan is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality, Tribe, or region. Planning and Demonstration Grants also fund supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities that inform the development of a new or existing Action Plan.*

Implementation Grants provide Federal funds to:

- Implement projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan to address a roadway safety problem.

**Projects and strategies can be infrastructure, behavioral, and/or operational activities. Implementation Grants may also include demonstration activities, supplemental planning, and project-level planning, design, and development. Applicants must have an eligible Action Plan to apply for Implementation Grants.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Counties, cities, towns, transit agencies, and other special districts that are political subdivisions of a State
- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs)
- Federally recognized Tribal governments

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

At least 20% of the total project funding must come from non-Federal sources.

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant Program

The program is dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic initiatives by transportation infrastructure.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor (FY23):

\$2,000,000 for Community Planning Grants

\$5,000,000 for Capital Construction Grants

Total award:

\$188 million to Community Planning Grants

\$2.718 billion to Capital Construction Grants

\$450 million to Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants

ELIGIBLE USES

The RCP Program provides technical assistance and grant funding for planning and capital construction to address structure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve people’s lives.

The NAE Program provides technical assistance and grant funding to improve walkability, safety, and affordable transportation through context-sensitive strategies for improving community connectivity; mitigating or remediating negative impacts on the natural environment; and assisting economically disadvantaged or underserved communities with planning and capacity activities.

Community Planning Grants will award RCP and/or NAE funding for planning activities for future construction projects and allow active community planning to address localized transportation challenges. Capital Construction Grants will award RCP and/or funding to carry out a project to remove, retrofit, mitigate, or replace an existing eligible dividing transportation facility with a new that reconnects communities; mitigates a burdening transportation facility that is a source of air pollution, noise, stormwater, heat, burdens; or implements a strategy to reduce environmental harm and/or improve access through transportation improvements.

Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants will award NAE funding to a project led by two or more eligible applicants to address a regional challenge related to equitable access and mobility. Eligible activities for Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants are as those listed under Capital Construction and Community Planning Grants but must have a regional focus, and clearly state regional coordination and leveraging of local, State, and Federal resources and policies.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Community Planning Grants: a State; a unit of local government; a Tribal government; a Metropolitan Planning Organization; or a non-profit organization.

Capital Construction Grants: owner(s) of the eligible facility proposed in the project for which adequate planning; such as public involvement, user data evaluation, and conceptual design have been completed; or a partnership with a facility owner (#1 above) and any eligible RCP Community Planning Grant applicant.

NAE Grants: a State or territory, a unit of local government; a political subdivision of a State; a Tribal government; a purpose district or public authority with a transportation function; a Metropolitan Planning Organization; a non-profit organization or institution of higher education that has entered into a partnership with an eligible entity (#1 above) and is applying for a grant for planning and capacity building activities in disadvantaged or underserved communities.

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

Community Planning Grants: 80% RCP funds; 20% local match, Capital Construction Grants: 50% RCP funds; 50% local match
 NAE Grants: 80% NAE funds; 20% local match

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/rcnprogram>

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program

The program aims to help sponsors complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects. It supports planning or constructing surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation.

This program was previously known as both TIGER grants and BUILD grants.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Total award: \$1,500,000,000 annually for FY 2022-2026

ELIGIBLE USES

- Highway or bridge projects
- Public transportation projects
- Passenger and freight rail transportation projects
- Port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry)
- Surface transportation components of an airport project
- Intermodal projects whose components are otherwise an eligible project type
- Projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the RAISE program.
- Projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government.
- Any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- States
- District of Columbia
- Territories of the U.S.
- Local governments
- Public agencies or publicly chartered authorities established by one or more States
- Special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function
- Transit agencies
- Multi-State or multijurisdictional groups

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

Federal share of costs of an eligible project carried out using a RAISE grant shall not exceed 80%

<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/about>

Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

The ATIIIP grants will allow communities to identify, prioritize, and implement improvements to the largest barriers to safe, accessible, and equitable pedestrian and bicycle network connectivity through the development of infrastructure that will provide substantial additional opportunities for walking and bicycling. Eligible organizations will be able to create plans or implement active transportation networks that connect destinations within or between communities or create plans or implement an active transportation spine connecting two or more communities, metropolitan regions, or States.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award Floor: \$100,000

Award Ceiling: \$15,000,000

Total award: \$44,500,000

ELIGIBLE USES

- Create plans or implement active transportation networks that connect destinations within or between communities or create plans or implement an active transportation spine connecting two or more communities, metropolitan regions, or States.
- Enhance overall transportation network by integrating active transportation facilities with transit services, where available, to improve access to public transportation.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Local or Regional Governmental Organizations
- Multicounty Special Districts
- States
- Multistate Group of Governments
- Indian Tribes

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

Yes, awardees must provide at least a 20 percent matching share of the total project cost.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/atiip/

U.S. Department of Interior (DOI)

The Department of the Interior (DOI)'s mission is to protect and manage the country's natural and cultural resources. The National Park Service (NPS), a bureau of the DOI, administers historic preservation policies and funding at the federal level. Funding offered through the NPS can help Main Streets preserve and rehabilitate of buildings and landmarks.

NPS offers competitive grants and annual formula grants to states and tribes, through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). HPF offers financial assistance to, states, Tribes, Territories, local governments, and non-profits to carry out activities related to preservation, including annual allocations to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). Note that in applying for funding for preservation projects, local Main Street organizations should seek an understanding of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards on Rehabilitation and a strong relationship with the SHPO and/or THPOs.

Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants

The program fosters economic development in rural communities through the rehabilitation of historic buildings in those communities. The program provides recipients (referred to as prime grantees) with a single grant that is then regranted in smaller amounts to individual projects (subgrants).

FUNDING AMOUNT

Grants range from \$200,000 to \$750,000.

Total award (FY23): \$12,500,000

ELIGIBLE USES

Rehabilitation of buildings.

**Prime grantees determine the focus and criteria for their subgrant program and develop their own application process and criteria for choosing which buildings will receive subgrants.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Nonprofit, tax-exempt US organizations, with or without 501(c)(3) designation
- Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
- State Historic Preservation Offices
- Certified Local Governments (list provided at [go.nps.gov/clglist](https://www.nps.gov/clglist))
- Special district governments, excluding school districts
- Eligible subgrant recipients include:
 - Properties listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
 - Properties located in rural areas, which include all areas of a state outside of cities and towns with populations of 50,000 or more and adjacent urbanized areas as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.
 - Properties within the grantee's jurisdiction

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

None.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/paul-bruhn-historic-revitalization-grants-program.htm>

Underrepresented Communities (URC) Grant Program

The program works towards diversifying the nominations submitted to the National Register of Historic Places. Projects include surveys and inventories of historic properties associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register, as well as the development of nominations to the National Register for specific sites.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor (FY23): \$15,000

Total award (FY23): \$1,250,000

Award ceiling (FY23): \$75,000

ELIGIBLE USES

Support the survey, inventory, and designation of historic properties that are associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and among National Historic Landmarks.

**Projects must result in the submission of a new nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmark Program, or an amendment to an existing National Register or National Historic Landmark nomination to include underrepresented communities.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- State Historic Preservation Offices
- Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
- Certified Local Governments
- Federally Recognized Indian Tribe
- Alaska Native Villages/Corporations, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and Non-profit Organizations

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

None.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/underrepresented-community-grants.htm>

African American Civil Rights (AACR) Grant Program

The goal of the program is to preserve and protect sites associated with the struggle for equality from the transatlantic slave trade forward.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor (FY23): \$75,000

Award ceiling (FY23): \$750,000

Total award (FY23): \$24,000,000

**20% may go toward pre-preservation costs such as architectural or engineering services.*

***Grant applications that solely involve pre-preservation work must range from \$15,000 to \$75,000.*

****History grant projects must range from \$15,000 to \$75,000 in federal share.*

ELIGIBLE USES

Physical preservation of a historic site to include historic districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects. Projects must comply with laws, such as Section 106 and NEPA, and execute a preservation covenant/easement.

**Eligible costs: pre-preservation studies, architectural plans and specifications, historic structure reports, and the repair and rehabilitation of historic properties according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation.*

***Properties must be listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or designated a National Historic Landmark either individually or as part of a district.*

****Eligible costs for History Projects include survey, planning, and documentation of historic sites/events, creation of interpretive and educational materials around significant sites (including oral histories), and conservation of significant civil rights collections.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- States and Territories
- Indian Tribes
- Native Hawaiian Organizations
- Local Governments, including Certified Local Governments, and Non-profit Organizations

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

None.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/african-american-civil-rights.htm>

History of Equal Rights (HER) Grant Program

The goal of the program is to preserve sites related to the struggle for any or all people to achieve equal rights in America. It funds physical preservation work and pre-preservation planning activities for sites that are listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or as a National Historic Landmark.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor (FY23): \$75,000

Award ceiling (FY23): \$750,000

Total award (FY23): \$5,000,000

**20% may go toward pre-preservation costs such as architectural or engineering services.*

***Grant applications that solely involve pre-preservation work must range from \$15,000 to \$75,000.*

ELIGIBLE USES

Physical preservation of a historic site to include historic districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects. Projects must comply with laws, such as Section 106 and NEPA, and execute a preservation covenant/easement.

**Eligible costs: pre-preservation studies, architectural plans and specifications, historic structure reports, and the repair and rehabilitation of historic properties according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation.*

***Properties must be listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or designated a National Historic Landmark either individually or as part of a district.*

****Significance must be associated with equal rights. Projects that are not listed on the National Register or are not listed in association with equal rights must include a nomination or amendment to an existing nomination as part of their project.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- States and Territories
- Indian Tribes
- Native Hawaiian Organizations
- Local Governments, including Certified Local Governments, and Non-profit Organizations

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

None.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/history-of-equal-rights.htm>

U.S. Department of Commerce

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the Department of Commerce seeks to lead federal economic development through innovation and competitiveness, working with American regions to be successful in the global economy. With its focus on collaboration, EDA offers funding opportunities using a regional economic development model.

EDA funds are distributed through one of six offices located in Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia, and Seattle. Most EDA funding is awarded based strategies developed within a region called Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). At the local level, Main Streeters should consider working with regional economic development organizations and other partners to ensure Main Street projects and priorities are included in CEDS documents or other regional planning documents.

Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA)

The program helps plan, build, innovate, and put people into quality jobs by addressing pressing economic development challenges in communities.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor: \$100,000

Total award (FY21): \$500,000,000

Award ceiling: \$10,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

- Non-construction and construction activities in regions experiencing severe economic dislocations.
- This includes construction activities such as water and sewer system improvements, industrial parks, high-tech shipping and logistics facilities, business incubators and accelerators, brownfield redevelopment, technology-based facilities, wet labs, multi-tenant manufacturing facilities, science and research parks, workforce training facilities, and telecommunications infrastructure (e.g., broadband) and development facilities.
- This also includes non-construction activities such as design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategy development, and capitalization of revolving loan funds (RLFs).

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Non-profits
- State governments
- City or township governments
- Private institutions of higher education
- County governments
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Special district governments

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

EDA generally expects to fund at least 80%, and up to 100%, of eligible project costs.

**In determining whether to fund a project's Federal share above 80%, EDA's Grants Officers in the applicable Regional Office will consider on a case-by-case basis whether the circumstances of the proposed project warrant a Federal share in excess of 80%*

<https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/american-rescue-plan/economic-adjustment-assistance>

Disaster Recovery Supplemental Funding

The program aims to help communities and regions devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through a variety of non-construction and construction projects, as appropriate, to address economic challenges in areas where a Presidential declaration of a major disaster was issued under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor: \$0

Total award (FY23): \$483,000,000

Award ceiling: \$30,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

Disaster recovery, including economic recovery strategic planning grants, and public works construction assistance.

**This is a flexible resource that responds adaptively to pressing economic issues and is well-suited to help address challenges faced by regions recovering from natural disasters.*

***To be competitive, applications must clearly incorporate principles for enhancing the resilience of the relevant community/region or demonstrate the integration of resilience principles into the investment project itself.*

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- County governments
- City or township governments
- Nonprofits
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

EDA generally expects to fund up to 80% of the eligible costs of such assistance. However, EDA's consideration of factors such as scale of the project, the extent of the impact of the relevant disaster on the region, total project cost, relative distress of the community, or geographic distribution of disaster funds, may cause EDA to fund projects at a grant rate that is lower than 80%. EDA may increase the investment rate up to a maximum of 100%.

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and the environment. For Main Streets, this can mean support for Brownfield remediation or Smart Growth initiatives supporting local development that reduces pollution and creates sustainable communities. Beyond funding, EPA offers technical assistance opportunities to support community planning and decision making that can support Main Street goals along with broader community needs. Main Street programs are eligible for funding related to climate resilience and access to outdoor recreation.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Community Change Grant Program

The program supports environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor: \$0

Total award: \$2,000,000,000

Award ceiling: \$20,000,000

ELIGIBLE USES

- Climate resiliency and adaptation.
- Mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events.
- Community-led air and other (including water and waste) pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation.
- Investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure.
- Workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.
- Reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution.
- Facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Partnerships between two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs)
- Partnerships between a CBO and one of the following:
 - a Federally-Recognized Tribe
 - a local government
 - an institution of higher education.
- Other organizations and entities may be able to participate and be involved in the Community Change Grants projects as collaborating subrecipients and/or procurement contractors selected in compliance with competition requirements.

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

None.

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Planning Assistance Program

The program helps communities identify strategies to grow their outdoor recreation economy and revitalize their main streets.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities is not a grant program. Communities selected to receive assistance through this program will not receive funds from EPA. Partner communities will receive help from a planning team to consider challenges and opportunities, convene a community workshop, and develop an action plan for community revitalization through the recreation economy.

ELIGIBLE USES

- The RERC planning assistance process involves developing a local steering committee in each partner community and pairing them with a team of federal agency partners and consultants, who then work with the community over several months.
- The team supports the steering committee to identify the community's vision, goals, and actions they wish to take to boost outdoor recreation, revitalize their main streets, and promote equitable access to the outdoors for residents and visitors alike.
- Through the planning process, all partner communities develop a Community Action Plan, which identifies specific actions and next steps.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- **Communities located anywhere in the U.S. are eligible for this planning assistance**
- **Regional organizations**

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

None.

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/recreation-economy-rural-communities>

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is an independent agency of the U.S. government that supports the creation, dissemination, and performance of the arts. Main Street programs have been successful in utilizing the Our Town grant program for specific support to planning and community development activities related to the development of placemaking and arts district projects. If your community has adopted a strategy related to the arts, consider reviewing additional NEA opportunities and initiatives at <https://www.arts.gov/grants>.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Our Town

The program supports activities that integrate arts, culture, and design into local efforts that strengthen communities over the long term. Our Town projects engage a wide range of local stakeholders in efforts to advance local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes in communities.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Award floor: \$25,000

Award ceiling: \$150,000

ELIGIBLE USES

Creative placemaking projects that integrate arts, culture, and design into local efforts that strengthen communities over the long-term. May include activities like:

- Artist residencies; arts festivals; community co-creation of art; performances; and public art. These activities may honor traditions and customs shaped by the lived experiences of a community's residents.
- Cultural planning; cultural district planning; creative asset mapping; and public art planning.
- Artist/designer-facilitated community planning; design of artist spaces; design of cultural facilities; and public space design.
- Creative business development and professional artist development.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- All applications must be submitted by one organization (the eligible applicant) and require one partner organization (the required partner).
- The applicant/partner pair must include 1) a nonprofit organization and 2) a local government or quasi-government entity.

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

Nonfederal cost share/match equal to the grant amount.

<https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town>