

# Federal Funding for Resilience Projects

This document was created for Resilience AmeriCorps VISTA members. It is intended to supplement the [Resource Development VISTA Blend Course](#).

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## Identifying federal grants

[Grants.gov](#) – the unified portal for announcing federal funding opportunities, as well as submitting grant applications. You can search by category, agency, eligibility, and funding instrument type, and can receive [email notifications](#) about new grants that fit specific criteria. NOAA has helpful [guidance for first-time Grants.gov users](#).

[Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance \(CFDA\)](#) - lists all federal programs, and identifies their types, objectives, legal authorities, application procedures, and financial information. Each program has its own 5-digit CFDA number, which can be used for searching for specific funding opportunities in Grants.gov.

**Curated resilience funding opportunities** - The following lists and databases are updated on a regular basis to reflect new opportunities.

- [Climate Resilience Toolkit: Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Florida Climate Institute](#)
- [University of California Funding Wizard](#)

It can be beneficial to be broad-minded when looking for funding for resilience projects. For example, Georgetown Climate Center produced [a guide to federal grant programs that can be used to fund urban heat adaptation projects](#). Most of these grant programs could be used to fund other types of resilience work as well. Similarly, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) [Art Works Grants](#) have been used for green infrastructure projects.

## Writing successful applications for resilience-focused federal grants

**Basic Tips** - The following tips come from individuals in the federal government who review resilience-focused grants. However, these tips can be applied to most federal grant applications, whether or not the application is focused on resilience. Many of these are obvious, but you'd be surprised by the number of applications that don't do them!

- **Follow directions:** Read the entire opportunity closely, and follow the directions **exactly**. Use the template provided, and answer all questions (write "not applicable" if needed).
- **Be compelling:** Identify and document the specific need for your project. Explain ties to broader organizational goals. Include strong plans for engaging relevant stakeholders throughout the life of the project. Make it clear how the work will be applied and result in positive changes for your community. Include letters of support from organizations or individuals that will benefit from the project
- **Be clear and concise:** Use clear, concise language and explain any acronyms. Provide clear, detailed budgets. Enlist multiple people to edit and proofread your application
- **Seek help:** Use contact information provided on the application or the program webpage for any and all questions you may have during the application process.

## **Tip sheets and guides**

- [NOAA Office of Coastal Management funding resources and tips](#)
- [U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services grant writing tips](#)
- [CFDA guide for "Developing and Writing Grant Proposals"](#)

## Select funding opportunities by agency

*Note: Some grants may not be available in a particular year. Check [Grants.Gov](https://www.grants.gov) for current opportunities.*

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

[Community Development Block Grants](#): Flexible grants made to states and units of general local government that must primarily benefit low- and moderate-income individuals

- Section 108 – Loans made to states and units of general local government for economic development activities that must primarily benefit low- and moderate-income individual.
- Section 203(k) - The Section 203(k) program is the Department's primary program for the rehab and repair of existing single-family properties. Section 203(k) is a mortgage insurance product offered by the Federal Housing Administration. Insured loans can be used 1) to purchase a dwelling and the land and rehabilitate it, 2) to purchase a dwelling on another site, move it to a new foundation and rehabilitate it, and 3) to refinance existing liens secured against the property and rehabilitate it. These loan products can be used for hazard mitigation of single-family homes throughout the United States. Potential hazards to address include: flood, seismic, wildfire, and wind.

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

[Brownfields Area Wide Planning Grant](#): This grant can be used to conduct research and/or technical assistance activities that culminate in an area-wide plan for brownfields assessment, cleanup and subsequent reuse. Grant-funded activities must be directed to one or more catalyst, high priority brownfield site(s) located within a specific area, such as a neighborhood, downtown, business or arts district, a local commercial or industrial corridor, a community waterfront, one or more city blocks, etc.

[Clean Water State Revolving Funds](#) and [Drinking Water State Revolving Funds](#): These are grants and loans for water infrastructure projects, managed by states. States are required to set aside part of these funds for green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency, or environmentally innovative projects. However, not all states advertise this funding, so it is worth a conversation with your state environmental department (or whatever department has jurisdiction over water issues) to see what's available. Make sure you let them know that you know there may be money available for these types of projects.

[Learn more about EPA grants via regular webinars.](#)

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

[Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#): provides funding for rural renewable energy programs. It offers funding to complete energy audits, provide renewable energy development assistance, make energy efficiency improvements and install renewable energy systems.

### **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)**

[Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#): a percentage of this funding can be used for low cost weatherization, energy efficiency improvements, and deployment of renewable energy.

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

[Regional coastal resilience grants](#) are intended to help coastal communities address increasing risks from extreme weather events, climate hazards, and changing ocean conditions. Awards are made for project proposals that advance

resilience strategies, often through land and ocean use planning, disaster preparedness projects, environmental restoration, hazard mitigation planning, or other regional, state, or community planning efforts.

[Coastal and Ocean Climate Applications \(COCA\)](#): COCA supports projects in which researchers work closely with decision makers to develop tools and methodologies for identifying vulnerabilities, risks, impacts, and options for enhancing preparedness and response. These partnerships ensure that new climate products and services are developed to address the specific needs of decision makers facing climate-related challenges on the coasts.

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

[Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#): The purpose of the HMGP program is to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures following a Presidential major disaster declaration. U.S. States and Territories, and Federally-recognized tribes, apply for the grant. Non-profits and local governments access funding for individual projects by going through their respective state, tribe, or territory.

[Pre-disaster mitigation \(PDM\) grant program](#): The purpose of the PDM grant program is to assist States, U.S. Territories, Federally-recognized tribes, and local communities in implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program. U.S. States and Territories, and Federally-recognized tribes, apply for the grant. Non-profits and local governments access funding for individual projects by going through their respective state, tribe, or territory.

[Emergency management performance grant \(EMPG\) program](#): The EMPG Program provides resources to assist state, local, tribal and territorial governments in preparing for all hazards. EMPG funding supports projects such as strengthening a community's emergency management governance structures; updating and approving specific emergency plans; and initiating or achieving a whole community approach to security and emergency management. State emergency management agencies apply for the grant.

#### **Economic Development Administration (EDA)**

[Planning and Local Technical Assistance Programs](#): assists in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of a region. The Planning program helps support investments designed to guide the eventual creation and retention of high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the Nation's most economically distressed regions. The Local Technical Assistance program strengthens the capacity of organizations to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility studies and impact analyses.

[Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance](#): designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that creatively advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. EDA gives particular consideration to applications for communities with low income and high unemployment, and where severe weather has impacted businesses. Projects must include a focus on encouraging job growth.