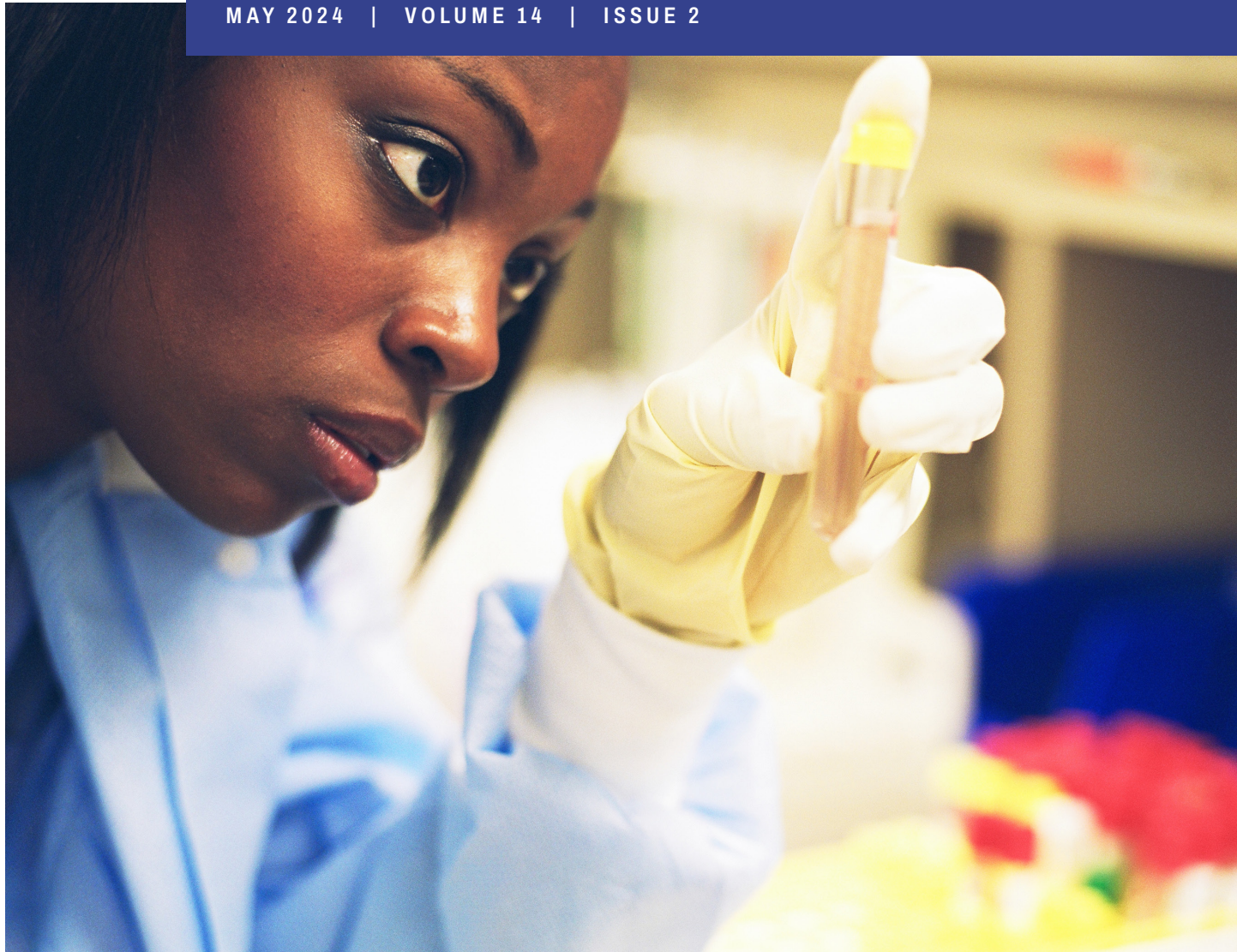


 A GRANTS OFFICE PUBLICATION

FUNDED

THE AMERICAS

MAY 2024 | VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 2



Building Research Capacity at Institutes of Higher Education

ALSO: Learn about the National Science Foundation, the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, the American Rescue Plan, funding to support the healthcare worker shortage, cyber security trends, grid resilience, funding opportunities in Brazil, and more...



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Letter From the Editor

As you have no doubt come to expect, this issue of FUNDED takes on a huge range of funding topics, and we've tried to include something for everyone – from those just starting out to more experienced grantseekers, beginning with **baseline-setting definitions of some common terms grantseekers encounter**, provided by Sandy Trowbridge.

A fair amount of this issue is dedicated to funding for security and resiliency, with Sam Rawdon and Amanda Day looking specifically at **cybersecurity funding through the American Rescue Plan** and broadening our perspective on **trends related to both the funding and deployment of cybersecurity** across the country. Continuing with that theme, Joe Phelan discusses the agencies that are prioritizing and **funding modernization of the nation's power grid**, and Shannon Day discusses the long-standing **Nonprofit Security Grants Program** from the Department of Homeland Security.

Liz Shay returns to her roots in academic research, presenting a field guide to building and **funding research capacity at institutions of higher education**. And for anyone new to the sometimes intimidating world of **National Science Foundation**, Marc Smithers provides an introduction to that agency and tips for getting started with NSF grantseeking. For those in K-12, Christina Fernandez clarifies the updates to in the second round of the **Renew America's School Program**, which funds clean energy improvements at public schools.

Workforce development is often one of the most collaborative and complex initiatives a grantseeker will work to fund, and Meghan Jacobsen provides a primer on some of that area's most prominent funders. And focusing in on healthcare and diversity specifically, Amber Walker has identified several programs that support increasing **diversity across the healthcare workforce**.

Stepping back to a more global orientation, Nátali Bahena Benck has written articles on two grant programs, Brazil's **More Production Plan** and the **Horizon Europe Program**, examined by and from the Brazilian perspective.

Be sure to check out the other timely and informative **Grantscasts** our team will be presenting on or review the replays of **past events** on topics you find interesting. As always, if you have comments, feedback, corrections, or topics for future issues, feel free to drop me a line at: mpaddock@grantsoffice.com.

I hope you enjoy this issue of FUNDED as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you!

Sincerely,

Michael Paddock

Editor and Publisher,
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Building Research Capacity at Institutes of Higher Education

Dr. Liz Shay, Senior Grants Development Consultant

For the past several years, institutes of higher education have been seeing a decline in student enrollment. The National Center for Education Statistics projects that undergraduate enrollment will decline by 9% between 2021 and 2031, continuing a trend that was also present in the previous decade (<https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=98>). Diversifying where income is coming from can help many institutions continue to provide their offerings. Although it is not a possibility for every institution, thinking about transitioning your organization from an education-focused school to a more research-intensive entity can open additional opportunities. For example, research grant funding that goes to faculty researchers also typically includes an indirect cost component that is used to support facilities and administration expenses for the institution to provide necessary overhead for the researchers to conduct their work, thereby enabling your organization to support that work. We have seen many schools working towards this goal by building research capabilities.

An easy way to quantify this type of goal is to consider your institution's Carnegie Classification. Many institutions are interested in moving up from a M1 (Master's Colleges and Universities – Larger programs) to D/PU (Doctoral/Professional Universities) or from the D/PU level to R2 (Doctoral Universities – High research activity) and from there to R1 (Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity). Although this system does not apply to some types of organizations, such as Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges and Universities, looking at similar levels of goals for research activity can be a beneficial way to measure moving from an education-focused institution to a more research-intensive organization.

To be competitive for receiving research monies (a key component of the Carnegie Classification for R2 and R1 institutions), your college or university must have sufficient research capacity for faculty to pursue funding for their work. The investments needed to provide additional research infrastructure and training can be costly, but there are ways to work towards these goals through grant-funded projects.



Research capacity-building grant funding can open up new capabilities and opportunities for your institute of higher education, including diversifying your income and moving from an education-focused school to a more research-intensive organization.



WAYS TO BUILD RESEARCH CAPACITY

There are many different ways that your institution can approach building research capacity. Each of these approaches can be done on their own or in concert with other efforts. Below are a few of these types of approaches and examples of grants that can support capacity-building work.

Collaborative Opportunities

For institutions relatively new to pursuing research funding in earnest, collaborating with more experienced institutions is a great way to build capacity and grant funding skills and knowledge. Build relationships with the more research-intensive institutions within your region or state and start having conversations about collaborating on research capacity-building efforts. Often these types of organizations are interested in leading projects and collaborating with smaller and more under-resourced institutions as sub-recipients. If you are a more research-intensive institution in a region or state where there are few, if any, other organizations of that type, consider building collaborations with those smaller institutions and developing plans to pursue funding to build research capacity across the region.

Several funding opportunities could support this type of work. For example, the **Established Program to Stimulate**

Competitive Research (EPSCoR). This program is designed to support research capacity-building, usually across an entire state that currently receives relatively little in the way of research dollars. There are a few different versions of this program from different federal funding agencies, but they are all interested in supporting efforts to build capacity in states that receive the lowest percentage of that agency's research dollars each year. The exact list of eligible states varies from funder to funder and year to year, but it usually includes the lowest half of states and territories for research dollars received from that agency in the previous year. Applications are usually led by a larger relatively research-intensive institution within that state (usually the large public research university) and projects will include both research infrastructure and training components.

Another popular program is the **Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*)** program from the National Science Foundation. This program supports networking, compute, and storage hardware purchases to support science and engineering research, as well as related education. Some of the funding tracks allow a leadership institution (again, usually a large public research university) to lead a project to provide shared networking, compute, or storage resources to smaller and under-resourced institutions within their region.



Internal Infrastructure Opportunities

Institutions that have some current research occurring but want to build out additional research capacity can consider opportunities that will expand the cyberinfrastructure on the campus to better support their researchers. These grant programs will add networking, compute, or other infrastructure resources to enable researchers to conduct cutting-edge work. The availability of this equipment will allow researchers to approach important questions in their field, which will make them competitive for research grant monies to support that work. The additional research infrastructure capacity can also help with recruiting new faculty researchers to the institution to further build expertise.

The grant that is probably the most popular to support campus research cyberinfrastructure upgrades is one that was already discussed in the previous section above, **Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*)**. In addition to the Region funding tracks, there are also opportunities focused on individual institutes of higher education campuses. This program supports networking, compute, and storage hardware purchases to support science and engineering research on a college or university campus. Successful applicants are institutes of higher education with current science and engineering research that would be better enabled with additional cyberinfrastructure.

The National Science Foundation also understands that other expensive, shared-use research equipment is necessary to enable

research. The most popular program within this category is the **Major Research Instrumentation (MRI)** grant. MRI supports the purchase of one piece of shared-use research equipment, which can be an integrated instrument (pieces that only work when they work together, such as with high-performance computing). The National Institutes of Health (NIH) have similar programs as well, coded as **S10 grants**. These programs can all support researchers in a specific field of interest to each agency or could support researchers across multiple fields who need similar equipment. Competitive applicants are institutions that already have relevant research being conducted on their campuses that would be improved or expanded through access to the proposed shared-use equipment.

The Department of Defense (DOD) has a similar group of grants called the **Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP)**. These grants are funded by the Army, Navy, and Air Force and support the purchase of a single piece of shared-use research equipment. Unlike MRI or the S10 grants, DURIP is more focused on research-related education in DOD-relevant fields that will be enabled by the equipment. Applicants will focus on how graduate and undergraduate students will be better able to be involved in research with the purchase of the instrumentation. The additional student researchers will also enable more research to be conducted at recipient institutions, ultimately opening up more research grant opportunities to faculty researchers.

Building Personnel Capabilities

In addition to building research capacity through additional cyberinfrastructure, institutions must also consider building expertise for members of their research community. Research-intensive institutions must have sufficient information technology employees who can support the research cyberinfrastructure. They must also have faculty members and graduate students with relevant skills to conduct research.

Both of these types of considerations are potentially grant-fundable. Several funders have started to consider the importance of training to support the United States' research capabilities. Individual grant programs typically focus on particular aspects of training. Workforce development grants, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) **Training-Based Workforce Development for Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Grant**, focus on providing generalist and specialist knowledge to support research infrastructure. In the case of this particular grant, projects can focus on formal or informal training for cyberinfrastructure professionals and contributors, as well as cyberinfrastructure users (such as faculty researchers and graduate students). These skills will allow individuals to effectively develop, support, and utilize advanced cyberinfrastructure for research applications. The effective utilization of available equipment will open up additional funding to support more research at an institution.

Other grant programs are more specifically focused on training current and future researchers to be as capable as possible in their chosen field. For example, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has a full set of **Research Career Development Awards**, coded as K grants. These grants provide specialized training for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and early career researchers to allow them to be effective researchers. There are also opportunities to support mentorship to allow current researchers to expand upon or shift their research expertise and focus. These opportunities are usually collaborations between experienced research-intensive institutions and institutions looking to build research capacity to allow for the exchange of knowledge.

NEXT STEPS

As was discussed in the sections above, there are multiple pathways that your institution can pursue to build research capacity. Each of these approaches can be worked individually or in concert. The best method to consider will depend on where your organization currently stands with research capabilities, both from an infrastructure perspective and with faculty researchers receiving grant funding.

If your organization is very new to research or you would like to just have a small component of research happening on your campus, a great place to start is to build collaborations with larger research-intensive universities in your region and work with them on collaborative opportunities such as those described above. As you start to have some experience, continue to build those collaborations, and pursue those types of opportunities, but begin to evaluate opportunities to build personnel capabilities. Most of these grant programs will be most successful if you apply in collaboration with more experienced institutions.

For organizations with some research experience, you are in a position to apply for programs that will support your internal infrastructure. You can also consider opportunities to build personnel capabilities and many of these grants will be ones that you can pursue independently. Finally, if your organization is already quite research-intensive (R1 or perhaps R2), then consider leading collaborative opportunities and help other institutions build research capabilities in coordination with your efforts.

Wherever you are currently with research on your campus, considering grant opportunities that build research capacity can be fruitful. These programs will allow your faculty to be at the forefront of their fields, which can lead to additional research funding to support their work and the recruitment of additional experienced researchers to your faculty.

Merit and Impact: An Introduction to NSF Funding

Marc Smithers, Grants Development Associate (Higher Education)

For institutions of higher education, the National Science Foundation is a large source of federal funding, providing a quarter of the federal government's budgetary support for colleges and universities. With the recent passing of the federal budget, Congress continues to strongly support the mission of the NSF, allocating over 9 billion dollars, of which \$8.3 billion is to be spent on research and STEM education. Many colleges and universities, K-12 schools, and other research institutions have not explored the plethora of programs offered by the NSF and may not even know where to begin to search for NSF opportunities.

Of the \$9.06 billion allocated to the National Science Foundation:

- \$7.17 billion will fund research programs such as \$332 million on quantum information science, \$250 million on the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program, and programs studying artificial intelligence, sustainable chemistry, and immersive technologies; and
- \$1.17 billion will fund STEM Education programs such as \$62.5 million for the Advancing Informal STEM Learning Program, \$75 million for the Advanced Technological Education Program, and \$36.5 million for the HBCU Undergraduate STEM Program.

The first step an institution should take on its funding journey is to understand the mission and goals of the NSF. The agency exists to “promote the progress of science, advance national health, prosperity, and welfare, and secure the national defense.” The main way they achieve this mission is by awarding grants for scientific research and education, fueling innovation and exploration at colleges and universities, primary and secondary schools, and research institutions. (<https://new.nsf.gov/about>) In addition to administrative offices, the NSF

is divided into eight directorates, each focused on a different aspect of scientific research and education, that release funding opportunities, review proposals, and ultimately make awards. These range from the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering to the Director for STEM Education. By reviewing the mission and organization of the NSF, colleges, and universities who have never explored NSF funding will learn that a project must have a strong basis in scientific research to be a competitive proposal.



The second step in seeking NSF funding is to connect with faculty at your institution who may serve as the principal investigator, or PI, for your project. A PI typically has an advanced degree in the area that your project is focused on though the NSF does not require PIs to have a terminal degree. While the PI serves as the project lead, many programs within the NSF require some form of partnership either within the institution or external partnerships, such as researcher-practitioner partnerships that are required in the **Computer Science for All** program. These

partnerships consist of computer science faculty researchers and pre-K-12 practitioners, such as teachers, administrators, and counselors. In this program, and nearly all other NSF funding opportunities, collaboration will be an essential component of a competitive proposal.

Institutions considering applying for NSF funding should keep two key questions as a central focus in their planning. The first question to ask is: what is the project's intellectual merit, or how is this project ultimately advancing scientific knowledge in this area? The second question to ask is: what are the project's broader impacts, or how will this project benefit other scientific fields and greater society beyond our institution? These two questions are important criteria by which the NSF makes funding decisions, and institutions that are seeking NSF funding clearly and concisely must describe their project's intellectual merit and its potential for broader impact. If an institution is considering applying for the **Advancing Informal STEM Learning** program for example, institutions should develop a project that seeks to expand scientific knowledge and has impacts beyond their campus rather than just considering ways that their students, faculty, or staff may benefit from the program.

Funding available through the National Science Foundation can enable institutions to meet some of their technology needs and ultimately help them to innovate their educational offerings and research opportunities. By understanding its mission and organization, having a strong Principal Investigator, and understanding the two key questions by which they evaluate proposals, institutions of higher education can create a competitive proposal.

The National Science Foundation funded 11,000 awards in 2023, amounting to over \$6.3 billion in grants and \$2.3 billion in cooperative agreements. (<https://nsf.gov/resources/nsf.gov/files/2025-Budget-Rollout-Fact-Sheet.pdf>)



Program Snapshot

Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*)



SUMMARY

The Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*) grant supports coordinated campus-level cyberinfrastructure improvements, innovation, integration, and engineering to support science and engineering research. Science-driven requirements are the primary motivation for any proposed activity. Most funding categories support either Campus implementations to benefit a single institution's campus researchers or Region implementations to benefit the small and under-resourced institutions within a region.

For the 2024 funding cycle, awards will be supported in five program areas:

- Area (1) Data Driven Networking Infrastructure (Campus or Region): network infrastructure improvements to enable rapid, unimpeded movement of diverse and distributed scientific data sets and advanced computing.
- Area (2) Computing and the Computing Continuum (Campus or Region): coordinated approaches for new and shared computing resources.
- Area (3) Network Integration and Applied Innovation (Small or Large): integration of existing and new technologies and applied innovation to enabled specified researchers in a networking context.
- Area (4) Data Storage and Digital Archives (Campus or Region): coordinated approaches in scientific storage, data management, and digital archives.
- Area (5) Strategy (Campus or Region): coordination and development for future CC*-related activities.

ELIGIBILITY

Institutes of higher education, typically with significant science and engineering research experience. Non-profit, non-academic organizations (such as Regional Optical Networks) may be involved in Region submissions.

DEADLINE

Applications were due on April 22, 2024 and will be due on October 15, 2024. Similar deadlines are anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/campus-cyberinfrastructure-cc>

Funded Project Highlight

Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*)

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

San Diego State University

PROJECT TITLE

“CC* Regional Computing: The California State University System Technology Infrastructure for Data Exploration”

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$991,749

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Technology Infrastructure for Data Exploration (TIDE) creates a pioneering computational core facility within the California State University (CSU) system, focused on machine learning and Artificial Intelligence research. This computational core will be housed at San Diego State University and will include substantial compute and storage capacity for researchers. TIDE will enable scientific drivers across the CSU system including artificial intelligence, computational chemistry, hyperdimensional computing, and digital archeology. This system will allow for equitable access to cyberinfrastructure for all science and engineering researchers.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2346701

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.sdsu.edu/>



How Public Schools Can Utilize ARP Funding for Cybersecurity

Sam Rawdon, Grants Development Associate (K-12 Education)

According to the Cyber Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), cyber-attacks on school districts increased by 323% in 2022. When surveyed as to the cause of this drastic increase in cyber threats, 81% of public schools cited a lack of funding for network security solutions, making K-12 one of the most vulnerable sectors to cyber-attacks. While programs like the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) have seen increased funding and allow for investment in cybersecurity technology, grants with this focus are generally few and far between. Luckily, this is where the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding can truly help.

The US Department of Education made nearly \$122 billion available for schools across the country as part of its third and final cycle of the **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Education Relief Fund** (ESSER III). Additionally, the US Treasury Department allocated \$65.1 billion in funds to local governments as part of the **Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** (CSLFRF). Many public schools have utilized these funding sources for a variety of purposes, such as investing in health and safety equipment, classroom furniture and equipment to keep educators and students safe and/or socially distanced, providing teacher salary raises or hiring new teachers, and long-term projects such as water or sewer upgrades.

So where does cybersecurity come in? To start, ESSER III funds are essentially low-hanging fruit since districts already have this on hand. Also, at least 20% of ESSER III must go towards rectifying learning loss associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. These include investments in classroom devices such as laptops or tablets for students and instructors for remote or hybrid learning purposes. Protection of these learning tools is paramount to achieve the purpose of mitigating learning loss, therefore cybersecurity solutions are justifiable investments with ESSER III funds. Many districts have already obligated their ESSER III funds, however, others are still figuring out where their biggest needs are and which gaps to address when it comes to navigating through post-pandemic times. Since districts need to obligate these funds by September 30, 2024, they still have time to identify their priorities. After all, the cost to implement



cybersecurity measures is a lot less costly now than the cost if or when the district is hit with a cyber-attack.

Local governments received CSLFRF to assist in the recovery efforts from the pandemic, mainly to offset revenue losses resulting from COVID-19. Since then, these local governments concluded that they had excess funding, and brought this to the attention of the Treasury Department. In January 2023, the final ruling from the Treasury Department stated that an allowable expense of this funding is the modernization of cybersecurity. Hardware and software dedicated to combating cyber risks and threats offer critical network protection on a district-wide scale, and CSLFRF can be leveraged for this. Since school districts are considered a part of local government, they are also capable of taking advantage of these funds if they develop a partnership with their respective county or municipality. A partnership could mean several things, such as creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the county or obtaining letters of support from relevant stakeholders, so it is strongly recommended for schools that want to access this funding to reach out to their county or municipality for these details. CSLFRF must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026, so like with ESSER III, schools have time to form those partnerships.

Being too exposed to the risk of a cyber-attack, school districts must be vigilant in the ways they utilize funding allocated to them since grants that solely focus on cybersecurity investments remain less plentiful. ESSER III funding can be leveraged through financing technology related to remote and hybrid learning to aid learning loss that resulted from COVID, and solutions to protect these technologies are justified as part of that. CSLFRF specifically calls out cybersecurity enhancements as an eligible expense for local governments. Since school districts are classified as a part of their local government, they are also able to take advantage of this funding, so long as they create a partnership with their county or municipality. Heading into the fall and winter months of 2024, it is hopeful that more schools put this money into cybersecurity so that students, faculty, and staff will feel safer and more secure online.

Program Snapshot

State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

SUMMARY

Our nation faces unprecedented cybersecurity risks, including increasingly sophisticated adversaries, widespread vulnerabilities in commonly used hardware and software, and broad dependencies on networked technologies for the day-to-day operation of critical infrastructure. Cyber risk management is further complicated by the ability of malicious actors to operate remotely, linkages between cyber and physical systems, and the difficulty of reducing vulnerabilities.

The goal of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) is to assist state, local and tribal governments with managing and reducing systemic cyber risk. This goal can be achieved over the course of the four years of SLCGP funding as applicants focus their Cybersecurity Plans, priorities, projects, and implementation toward addressing the SLCGP objectives. Once CISA confirms that a recipient has met their objective requirements for each fiscal year, the recipient moves to the next set of program objective(s).

Considering the risk and potential consequences of cyber incidents, strengthening the cybersecurity practices and resilience of state, local and territorial (SLT) governments is an important homeland security mission and the primary focus of SLCGP. Through funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the SLCGP enables DHS to make targeted cybersecurity investments in SLT government agencies, thus improving the security of critical infrastructure and improving the resilience of the services SLT governments provide their communities.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are:

- A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government;
- An Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization;
- A rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.

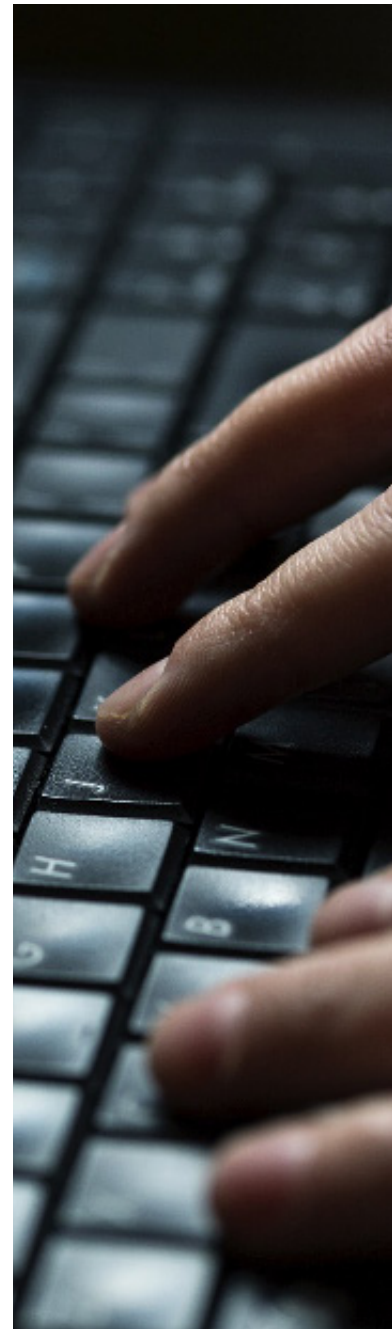
DEADLINE

States and territories have applied for the first two years of funding and will be invited to apply for the third year in the fall of 2024. Local deadlines vary as states and territories create their subgrant programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/department-homeland-security-notice-funding-opportunity-fiscal-year-2023-state-and-local>

<https://www.cisa.gov/cybergrants>



Cybersecurity Trends for 2024 and How Grant Funds Can Help

Amanda Day, Grants Development Consultant (Cybersecurity)

As American workers increasingly use digital platforms, and depend on mobile devices, exposure to various cybersecurity risks has become a major threat. Cyber criminals can capitalize on security vulnerabilities to obtain personal information and data from state, local, and tribal governments, public safety agencies, K-12 schools, Institutes of Higher Education, and healthcare organizations. This can result in increased instances of financial fraud, unauthorized access to systems, and identity theft. Adopting cybersecurity technologies and providing cybersecurity training for the U.S. workforce is essential in combating hackers, preventing the need for ransom payments, preventing data theft, and reducing the threat of system disruptions or outages. Cybersecurity involves employing technology, methods, and safety protocols to counter and safeguard against various cyber threats such as phishing, malware, ransomware, and other forms of cyberattacks. As threat actors and cybercriminals evolve, the technologies to combat them must evolve as well.

In FY24, the U.S. government is poised to spend \$11.8 billion to secure federal networks and combat cyber threats and hackers. This represents an increase in cybersecurity spending from the \$11.3 billion spent on the same activities in fiscal 2023. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), specifically its Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), is receiving a sizable portion of the budget, amounting to \$3.15 billion. Additionally, other top-funded agencies include the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Treasury Department. These agencies are deeply involved in areas such as data privacy and financial security enforcement, so funds enable these agencies to implement security measures, conduct investigations, and develop policies aimed at safeguarding sensitive information and ensuring the integrity of financial systems.

What are the most important cybersecurity trends in 2024?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is set to become increasingly important in the field of cybersecurity. AI's sophisticated data analysis capabilities are being employed to detect and forecast cyber threats and to strengthen early warning systems. These technologies are evolving to better identify and counter new cyber threats.

The Internet of Things (IoT) is rapidly expanding as well, linking an infinite number of devices. However, this growth also introduces increased security risks. The broad range of IoT devices makes them appealing targets for cyberattacks, while their interconnectedness heightens vulnerabilities.

The ongoing expansion of remote work remains a defining aspect of the professional landscape. This transition underscores the critical importance of cybersecurity, particularly in ensuring secure remote access to work environments.

Phishing attacks have remained a persistent threat in the cybersecurity realm as they continually evolve. Improved phishing methods are circumventing traditional security measures, employing personalized and technically advanced tactics.

With mobile devices becoming essential to both personal and professional life, the emphasis on mobile security has intensified. The increased reliance on mobile devices for a multitude of tasks, including financial transactions, remote work, and personal communications, makes them appealing targets for cybercriminals.

Zero Trust security has gained significant momentum as it operates on the principle of "never trust, always verify." Traditional cybersecurity models focus on securing the perimeter, while Zero Trust assumes that threats come from outside and inside networks.

Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) constitutes an endpoint security solution that persistently monitors devices to identify and counteract cyber threats such as ransomware and malware. In addition, Managed Detection Response (MDR) is the continuous monitoring of an organization's network to identify any threats and immediately address cybersecurity threats in real-time.

So, where can public entities apply for grant funding to help bolster their systems and improve cybersecurity training for their workforce?

Several grant resources will fund cybersecurity, including three main funders: federal grants, state grants, and foundation grants. We see most cybersecurity funding coming from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the form of pass-through grants such as the **State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)**, the **Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program (TCGP)**, the **Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)**, **Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)**, and the **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)**. Additional sources of cybersecurity funding come from programs like the American Rescue Plan's Coronavirus **State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** and the **HAVA Election Security Funds**. Additionally, cybersecurity can be funded as part of larger, more comprehensive, projects such as water and sewer improvements, broadband infrastructure, transportation projects, and law enforcement initiatives.

As hackers and cybercriminals become more proficient, technology to fight them must advance as well. Continuous innovation and flexibility are essential for effectively countering cyber threats. For many public entities, cybersecurity measures are underfunded. Local governments, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and public safety agencies should regularly monitor grant announcements, stay informed about funding opportunities, and actively pursue partnerships to secure resources for cybersecurity initiatives and workforce training.



Brazil's More Production Plan: BRL 300 Billion to Finance the New Industrial Policy until 2026

Nátali Bahena Benck, Grants Development Consultant (Brazil)

Brazil is gearing up to reach even greater heights in its industrial journey with the launch of the Brazil More Production Plan, an ambitious initiative aimed at boosting the national industrial sector. Under this new industrial policy, known as **New Industry Brazil**, the Brazilian government will allocate a total of BRL 300 billion in financing until 2026, demonstrating a firm commitment to economic growth and technological innovation.

The management of these resources will be in the hands of the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES), the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (Finep), and the Brazilian Company for Research and Industrial Innovation (Embrapii). Of this amount, BRL 271 billion will be made available in the form of reimbursable loans, while BRL 21 billion will be directed towards non-reimbursable financing. Additionally, BRL 8 billion will be provided through capital market resources, further expanding investment opportunities in the sector.

The New Industry Brazil program will utilize public policy instruments such as grants, loans with reduced interest rates, and increased federal investments. This new approach also includes the use of tax incentives and special funds to stimulate various segments of the economy, promoting a more balanced and sustainable development.

Some of these initiatives have already been launched, such as the **More Innovation Program** (BRL 60 billion), operated by BNDES and Finep, with BRL 40 billion in credit at Referential Rate (TR) +2%. This modality represents the lowest interest rates ever applied for innovation financing in the country.

Within the program, BRL 20 billion has already been allocated to non-reimbursable resources. In this modality, Finep launched 11 public calls, totaling BRL 2.1 billion. There are 10 continuous flow calls for companies and one specific health sector call for institutes of science and technology. The aim of the non-reimbursable resource is for the government to share with companies the costs and risks inherent in research, development, and innovation activities, which generate significant benefits to society.



In summary, the Brazil More Production Plan represents a significant milestone in the country's industrial history, opening doors to a future of sustainable economic growth and technological innovation. With strategic investments and assertive policies, this initiative provides a great opportunity for Brazilian companies to stand out in an increasingly competitive market.

Charting New Horizons: Brazil's Journey and Current Engagement in Horizon Europe

Nátali Bahena Benck, Grants Development Consultant (Brazil)

Science and technology in Europe have deep roots. The European Union's Framework Programs for Research and Innovation have undergone a remarkable evolution from isolated initiatives to fundamental pillars of European research. Over the years, these programs have not only grown in size, scope, and ambition but have also become essential catalysts for global research collaboration. Particularly noteworthy is the substantial increase in the budget of these programs, starting at EUR 3.3 billion in FP1 (Framework Program 1) and reaching its peak in Horizon Europe, with an allocation of EUR 95.5 billion.

Since **Framework Program 2 (FP2)** in 1987, Brazil has played an active role in projects under the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation (R&I). Collaboration between Brazil and the EU has grown significantly over the years, reflecting an average increase of 112% in collaboration with the EU in R&I efforts from 1987 to 2020. Among Latin American countries, Brazil leads in collaboration with the EU Framework Program for R&I and ranks 9th among all non-associated third countries.

Horizon Europe, spanning 2021 to 2027, represents one of the world's largest research and innovation initiatives. With over 67,923 institutions involved in more than 10,174 projects to date, the program promotes broad and international cooperation. Among the 171 eligible countries to participate, third non-associated countries like Brazil have the opportunity to receive funds in specific circumstances, as well as utilize administrative agreements to foster collaborative projects.

These specific circumstances can be observed when the EU considers the country's participation essential and thus includes it in the call itself. Alternatively, if a third country is not initially included in the call, it may still request funding if one of the following situations is observed:

- Exceptional competence or expertise for the project;
- Access to crucial specific research infrastructure for the project;

- Access to unique geographical environments essential for research;
- Access to specific datasets vital for the project's objectives.

In all other situations, the prospective Brazilian institution must ensure co-financing from a Brazilian funding agency or participate using its own resources.

In this context, the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (FINEP), and the National Council of State Foundations for Research Support (CONFAP) play a crucial role in facilitating Brazilian participation in Horizon Europe. These institutions have established an administrative arrangement valid until December 31, 2027, streamlining the implementation of co-financing mechanisms to support Brazilian researchers and entities in projects approved under Horizon Europe. This agreement represents a significant milestone that drives and enables Brazilian involvement in the program with a wide range of opportunities and themes.

Cooperation mechanisms are conducted through existing instruments or regular calls, aiming to support collaborative projects, twinning initiatives, joint or coordinated calls, mutual knowledge enhancement, and promotion of cooperation opportunities.

A concrete example of this collaboration is the partnership between CONFAP and CNPq in European projects, initiatives in which the European Union, together with national authorities and/or the private sector, commits to supporting the development and execution of research and innovation programs in various areas of cooperation. Currently, these institutions are actively involved in partnerships such as Biodiversa+, Water4all, and Sustainable Blue Economy, launching joint or multilateral calls annually.

That said, the data regarding Brazilian participation corroborate the country's importance in this context, demonstrating various possibilities. Until 2023, Brazil had secured 56 signed funding agreements. Here are some key facts:

- Total investment received to date: €1.2 million
- EU contribution to date: €881.7 thousand (2021 – 2023)
- Average prize value: €21.4 thousand per project
- Number of participating institutions: 76
- Number of unique participating institutions: 49

Brazil's participation in the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation represents a significant and successful collaboration between Brazil and the EU. Over the years, Brazil has shown a continued commitment to cutting-edge research and innovation, seizing opportunities offered by the EU Framework Programs. With Horizon Europe, this partnership promises to continue flourishing, further driving international collaboration in research and innovation.

Program Snapshot

Renew America's Schools Prize

SUMMARY

Through this Renew America's Schools Program, eligible entities are encouraged to consider projects that enable replicable and scalable impacts, create innovative, sustaining partnerships, leverage funding and economies of scale, target disadvantaged communities, improve student, teacher, and occupant health, enrich learning and growth, target schools that serve as community assets (e.g., neighborhood cooling centers or disaster recovery shelters), can be completed quickly, and are crafted thoughtfully within the context of public-school facilities (e.g., procurement restraints, construction windows, etc.).

New for FY24, the Renew America's Schools Prize will fund portfolios of schools and school facilities demonstrating the need for energy improvements, including energy efficiency cost-saving measures, and financing for renewable energy projects. This second round of funding will consist of three phases:

1. **Phase 1 - The Prize Competition: Portfolio + Team** - The goal of Phase 1 is for competitors to successfully assemble their project team, assemble their portfolio of school facilities, demonstrate the need for energy improvements at schools and school facilities in the defined portfolio, and outline their process to complete the tasks in Phase 2.
2. **Phase 2 - Cooperative Agreement: Strategic Plan + Energy Audits** - Recipients will conduct The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Level 2 energy audits of all the schools/school facilities in the portfolio and develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan for implementing energy improvements.
3. **Phase 3- Cooperative Agreement: Implementation** - Energy improvements in Phase 3 should directly advance the measurable goals of energy savings and high-impact health and safety benefits outlined in Phase 1. The implementation of energy improvements may take the form of repairs, renovations, or installations to the facility envelope, air-conditioning system, ventilation system, heating system,

domestic hot water heating system, compressed air system, distribution system, lighting system, power system, and/or controls of a building. Projects may also include renewable energy improvements such as rooftop solar, micro wind turbines, alternative fueled vehicle infrastructure, and purchase or lease of alternative fueled vehicles. Any improvement in a school or school facility that achieves energy savings and leads to an improvement in teacher and student health, including indoor air quality, is also allowable.

Read more about the Renew America's Schools Prize on page 20.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible entities are a consortium consisting of one Local Education Agency (LEA), and one or more schools, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, or community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements.

Note: Only Phase 1 Prize winners are eligible to enter into negotiations with DOE for a Cooperative Agreement (encompassing Phase 2 and Phase 3 awards).

DEADLINE

Applications for Phase One are due June 13, 2024. Phase 1 winners will be announced in August 2024 and may begin cooperative agreement negotiations during the Fall of 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.energy.gov/scep/renew-americas-schools>

Funded Project Highlight

Renew America's Schools Prize

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Clinton School District, Clinton, AR

PROJECT TITLE

Clinton School District, Clinton, AR

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$1,469,602

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Located in a rural and remote area of Arkansas, the Clinton School District (CSD) campus consists of five buildings located within a 0.5-mile radius. The District is in a DOE-identified Disadvantaged Community (DAC) and faces challenges caused by rising operational and energy costs. CSD also has mechanical systems inefficiencies and obsolescence issues that affect its daily operations. Five sites have been identified as the recipients of the needed upgrades (LED lighting, HVAC, solar & building envelope). The project incorporates analysis provided by Johnson Controls, Inc., (JCI) in 2022. Solar PV is included to generate energy cost savings to address CSD's backlog of deferred maintenance. CSD identified a centralized facility on CSD's footprint for a potential solar PV project. A 1 MW Solar PV system will cover five acres of land and offset 100% of the CSD's energy use. This solar technology will be accompanied by a STEM career and technical education (CTE) curriculum, including hands-on learning opportunities for high school students on the installation and management of solar PV.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

<https://www.energy.gov/scep/clinton-school-district-clinton-ar>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.clintonsd.org/>



Renew America's Schools: Round Two, What Should I Do?

Christina Fernandez, Grants Development Consultant (K12 Education)

The **Renew America's School Program** represents an investment in clean energy. This program is funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The BIL was designed to modernize and upgrade American infrastructure, tackle the climate crisis, and ensure stronger access to economic, environmental, and other benefits for disadvantaged communities. Through this BIL, \$500 million was allocated to the Renew America's Schools Program to promote clean energy improvements at K-12 public schools. According to the DOE, each year, public schools alone spend more than \$8 billion on energy costs, exceeding their combined annual budget for computers and textbooks. By prioritizing energy improvements in schools, LEAs have the opportunity to reduce their second highest operational cost, enabling them to leverage the resulting savings towards future facility upkeep and educational initiatives.

The Renew America's Schools program launched its first round of funding in 2022. To date, it has invested \$178 million in clean energy and energy-efficiency improvement projects at public school districts across America. This second round of funding looks slightly different than anticipated this year. New for FY 24, the program has taken on a prize- to-cooperative-agreement funding model as a way to streamline the application process, expedite awards, and provide more targeted support to LEAs. There are now three Phases of the program (vs a preliminary concept paper), and only applicants who are successful in Phase One can advance to Phases Two and Three. Luckily, there is no cost-share requirement for Phase One. Under Phase One, applicants will be assembling their project teams and portfolios,

Applications will be assessed across five criteria: 1) Need for Planning and Energy Assessments; 2) Team Composition, Capability, and Experience; 3) Implementation Plan for Phase Two; 4) Impact and Replicability; and 5) Community Benefits Plan.

outlining how they plan to complete the energy audits and assessments required in Phase Two, and discussing future pathways for financing their projects.

So, let us look at what will be required in this year's application and what it will take to be successful in Phase One:

PARTNERSHIPS

This program seeks applications that not only address the need for energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades but also create innovative and sustaining partnerships. Partnerships are going to be even more important in this round of funding. Similar to the 2022 round, a consortium consisting of one Local Education Agency (LEA), and one or more schools, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, or community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements may apply. In addition to the consortium (which will be referred to as the project team), applicants will need to compile a "portfolio" that consists of at least 10 schools/school facilities. This portfolio can span multiple LEAs and must exhibit a high need for energy assessments and improvements. For first-time applicants interested in this program, the DOE has provided a teaming partner list that lists a variety of school districts and industry partners that are willing to support schools in meeting their energy and climate goals. For returning applicants, it is highly recommended to leverage any existing partnerships from the last round to see if they are interested in partnering again.

TECHNICAL NARRATIVE

The Technical Narrative is going to be the longest and most important part of the application. This portion makes up 80% of the evaluation review. A template is provided for convenience; however, it is not required. The narrative should be no longer than 10 pages and should address the first 4 of the 5 evaluation criteria:

- **Need for Planning and Energy Assessments-** In this section applicants will need to describe each facility included in their portfolio to the extent to which they exhibit a high need for energy improvements (should summarize the School Energy Assessment Form Report), as well as describe the community's needs. Community needs should be described using student demographics, percentage of free/reduced lunch, rurality, and/or reliance on the school as a community resource.
- **Team Composition, Capability, and Experience-** A description of the team's capacity to provide services and support to implement energy improvements will be required.

- Implementation Plan for Phase Two- Applicants should be prepared to outline how they plan to complete The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Level 2 energy audits required for Phase Two. Additionally, specific project activities and a draft work plan for the intended outcomes will be required. .
- Impact and Replicability- As part of a comprehensive project, applicants will need to describe their project within the larger context of sustainability, decarbonization, and replicability.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS PLAN

The DOE also provides a template (not required) for this section. A Community Benefits Plan is required for all programs funded through the BIL. Plans must be specific, actionable, and measurable as this will account for 20% of the evaluation review. The Plan should be no longer than 5 pages and must address the 4 goals of the BIL:

1. Community and Labor Engagement- This section should describe how the project plans to engage with specific stakeholders and organizations that support disadvantaged communities, and how those engagements will support the project.
2. Investing in Quality Jobs – This section must describe the projects approach to investing in workforce education and training.
3. Diversity Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility- This section should summarize plans to incorporate DEIA into the project. Incorporating DEIA into the project can be shown through partnerships with underrepresented business, minority serving institutions, and/or labor organizations that serve disadvantaged workers.
4. Justice40 Initiative- This initiative sets a goal of at least 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal funding flows to disadvantaged communities. So this section should identify specific project outcomes that will have a direct or indirect positive outcome in a disadvantaged community.

TOOLS AND REPORTS

Two types of reports are required.

- Energy Justice Mapping Tool Reports. This tool was developed by DOE for the first round of funding, which has now improved. Applicants may use this tool to derive the following designation data: school district locale codes, disadvantaged communities, community shelters, and Title I Schoolwide Programming. Applicants will need to

generate a report for each school/school facility included in their portfolio. All reports will need to be combined into one singular .pdf.

- School Energy Assessment Form Tool Reports. This tool generates a report about the current conditions of a school/facility that would receive energy improvements. Reports for each school/facility should be saved as an Excel file and then combined into a Zip folder for submission.

RESUMES AND LETTERS OF COMMITMENT

These are common documents required by most Federal grant opportunities. Under the Prize Fund, applicants will need to submit a resume for each project manager/key personnel in the project. Additionally, Letters of Commitment are required from each school/facility included in the portfolio as well as any other key project partners. These documents should be combined into a single .pdf document.

SUMMARY SLIDE

Applicants must provide a public facing slide that summarizes their project. A template is available on the program page.

Reminder: Applicants will need to register through FedConnect, Grants.gov, and HeroX before applying. Applications MUST be submitted through the HeroX portal by June 13, 2024

This is a highly competitive and popular program with high demand across the US. During the first round, the DOE received over 200 eligible applications requesting over a billion dollars in funding. There are a lot of moving pieces to this program, however through thoughtful planning, intentional relationship building, and leveraging the available tools and resources, applicants can maximize their chances of securing funding. Further, to achieve success in Phase One of the Renew America's Schools program, applicants must understand the overarching goals and objectives of this initiative. Merely addressing energy improvements within a school district will not suffice. Applicants must delve deeper and consider the broader impacts these enhancements can have on different communities. Demonstrating innovation, community engagement, financial sustainability, and long-term commitment to healthier learning environments is paramount to a successful application.

Program Snapshot

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)



SUMMARY

The purpose of Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grants is to improve roadway safety by significantly reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through safety action plan development and refinement and implementation focused on all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, personal conveyance and micromobility users, and commercial vehicle operators. There are two types of grants: Planning and Demonstration and Implementation.

For the 2024 funding cycle, hundreds of Planning and Demonstration grants will be awarded, while up to 50 Implementation grants will be awarded.

- **Planning and Demonstration Grants:** Planning and Demonstration grants are used to develop, complete, or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan, as well as carry out demonstration activities that inform an Action Plan.
- **Implementation Grants:** Implementation grants are used to implement strategies or projects that are consistent with an existing Action Plan and may also bundle funding requests for supplemental planning and demonstration activities that inform an Action Plan

ELIGIBILITY

Metropolitan planning organizations; counties, cities, towns, and transit agencies; federally recognized Tribal governments; and multijurisdictional groups comprised of the above entities.

DEADLINE

There are two more deadlines for Planning and Demonstration grants: May 16, 2024 and August 29, 2024. Implementation Grants are due May 16, 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Funded Project Highlight

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works

PROJECT TITLE

Advancing Transportation Equity Through Vision Zero in Miami-Dade County

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$16,208,400

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

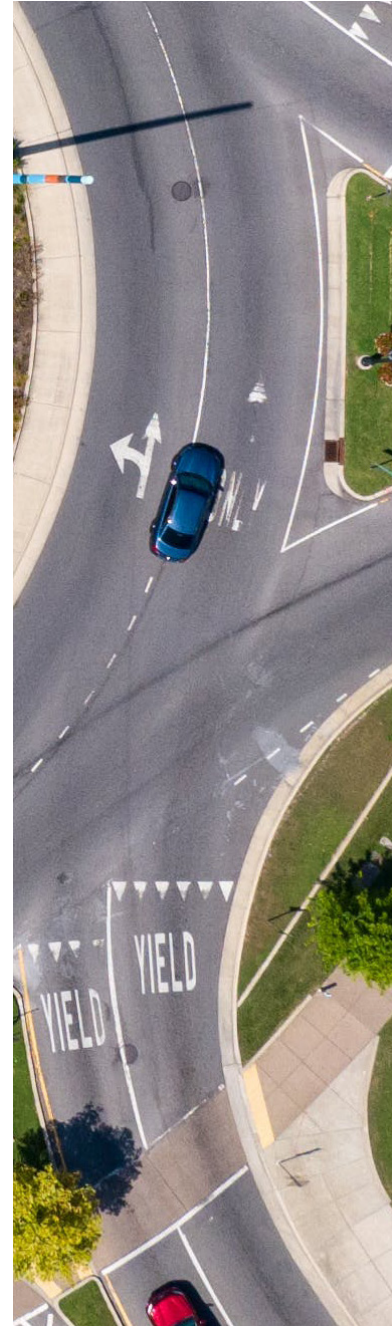
Miami-Dade County is awarded funds for infrastructure improvements at 24 locations on the County's high-injury network along its high-speed arterial and collector roads. 86% of all fatal and severe injury crashes occurred on arterial and collector roads even though these roads only account for about 20% of the total road miles in the county. Projects include upgrading and installing signing, pavement markings, signalization, lighting, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps, and repurposing a parking lane to a shared-use path. The countermeasures were determined via a thorough study of well-documented safety issues and chosen to directly address contributing causes of crashes at key locations, with a focus on reversing the trend of disproportionate pedestrian and cyclist crashes, up nearly 40% between 2012 and 2022. In addition to addressing identified safety concerns, the projects enhance connections between disadvantaged communities and key destinations such as community amenities and transit services.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/2023-awards>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.miamidade.gov/global/transportation/home.page>



Demystifying Terminology: A Brief Guide to Understanding Tax Classifications When Confirming Grant Eligibility

Sandy Trowbridge, Grants Development Associate (Education)

Funders identify who may apply for their grants based on factors such as organization type, operational focus, geographic location, organization size, and mission alignment. Determining whether your organization is eligible to receive a grant is key to not wasting time and money compiling an application that will not even be considered. While terms like nonprofit, tax-exempt, and 501(c)(3) may seem interchangeable when reviewing grant eligibility statements, they have key differences that are important to understand when effectively assessing your organization's grant eligibility.

NONPROFIT

Nonprofit means an entity is organized for a nonprofit purpose – its mission is not to make a profit; it is to contribute a benefit to society. Interestingly, nonprofit status is a state law concept. While organizing as a nonprofit at the state level may make an organization eligible for certain benefits (such as state tax exemptions), it does not automatically grant the organization exemption from federal income tax.

TAX-EXEMPT

Most commonly, organizations gain exemption from federal income tax by formally requesting tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). To maintain this status, organizations must then meet ongoing requirements, such as the annual submission of Form 990. Most state and local government entities (including public schools) are not required to pay federal income tax and are not required to apply for this exempt status. The IRS will instead issue a letter describing the tax status of government entities. Most groups will accept this letter as the substantiation that they need to prove a government entity's tax-exempt status.



501(C)

Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) is what designates certain types of nonprofit organizations as tax-exempt (again, meaning that they pay no federal income tax). There are twenty-nine types of 501(c) organizations in the United States. The 501(c)(3) organization is the most common, making up over 75% of all tax-exempt organizations.

501(c)(3)

Being classified as 501(c)(3) means that a nonprofit organization has been recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt charitable organization. The key here is that the IRS recognizes the organization as being tax-exempt due to its charitable programs. In the eyes of the IRS, "charitable" is defined as being established for purposes that are religious, educational, charitable, scientific, literary, testing for public safety, fostering of national or international amateur sports, or prevention of cruelty to animals and children. One of the main advantages of being tax-exempt under 501(c)(3) is being able to accept donations that are tax-deductible to the donor. Additional benefits include exemption from federal income taxes, possible exemption from certain state taxes (this varies by state), the public legitimacy of formal IRS recognition, and the ability to apply for grants available only to IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) organizations, among others.

501(c)(3) Documentation

For a qualifying entity to receive 501(c)(3) status, it must apply to the IRS for this recognition by filing Form 1023 (or Form 1023-EZ), titled “Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code”. Once the IRS approves an organization’s 501(c)(3) status, they will receive a written notice called a “letter of determination”. Charitable organizations not required to obtain recognition of exemption via Form 1023 are limited to churches (including synagogues, temples, and mosques), integrated auxiliaries of churches and conventions or associations of churches, or any organization that has gross receipts in each tax year of not more than \$5,000. While these organizations are not required to seek recognition of exemption, they may still choose to file Form 1023 simply for the broader public legitimacy that a determination letter brings.

If an organization is eligible to apply for 501(c)(3) status with Form 1023-EZ (a streamlined application), the process typically takes four weeks. For organizations required to file the full Form 1023, the process could take six months or longer. In general, the IRS processes 501(c)(3) applications in the order received. Sometimes, however, they will review an application outside of the regular order. For expedited processing to be permitted, there must be a compelling reason. One example is a pending grant whose forfeiture due to lack of 501(c)(3) status will limit the organization’s ability to continue operating. In such cases, a request for expedited processing must be submitted in writing. Key information to include in this request includes: 1) The name of the organization committed to giving the grant, 2) The amount of the grant, 3) The date the grant will be forfeited, 4) The impact on the organization’s operations if it does not receive the grant, and 5) The signature of an authorized representative. Expedited processing is at the discretion of the IRS, so where possible it is preferable to ensure that all eligibility requirements are met prior to submission of a grant application.

501(c)(3) Types

Section 501(c)(3) organizations are further subdivided under Section 509(a) of the IRC. Three primary types of 501(c)(3) organizations include: 1) private foundations (509(a)), 2) public charities (509(a)(1)), or 3) private operating foundations (falling under the same 509(a) category as private foundations). Private foundations are non-operating foundations that support the work of public charities and receive most revenue from a small number of donors. Public charities are organizations with active programs that receive a substantial portion of their revenue from the general public or the government. Some popular

charities include Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross. Finally, private operating foundations are hybrid organizations with active programs but have other elements that are more like private foundations. One example of a private operating foundation is the Carnegie Foundation which uses income from an endowment to support its activities and does not award grants or scholarships.

For grantseekers sourcing grant opportunities, the key distinction is that private foundations are most likely to host grants for application by others while public charities are most likely to be eligible to apply to grants themselves.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

To meet eligibility requirements, most funders specifically require grant applicants to possess an approved IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter. Some funders will further note that they require applicants to be classified as a certain type of 501(c)(3); namely a public charity (versus a private foundation). If your organization does not yet hold this status, your funding opportunities are severely limited. In such cases, it might be beneficial to consider fiscal sponsorship.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Fiscal sponsorship is an arrangement wherein a 501(c)(3) public charity sponsors a project that lacks exempt status. This allows the project to apply for grants under the sponsor’s 501(c)(3) exempt status. This fiscal sponsor will then provide ongoing fiscal management and administrative support to help build the capacity of that charitable project. Most funders denote whether or not they are open to considering grant applications from fiscal sponsors within their grant materials, but when in doubt, reach out to the funder directly to confirm.

NEXT STEPS

If you plan to utilize grants as a key source of funding but do not yet have 501(c)(3) status, start taking steps now to make this a reality. The IRS clearly outlines all requirements on its website with direct links to required forms and accompanying instructions. Concurrently, consider forming partnerships that will enable you to utilize a fiscal sponsorship relationship to apply to grant opportunities in the meantime. Search out 501(c)(3) organizations doing similar work in your region and contact them to discuss their willingness to sponsor your organization. If yes, work together to develop a formal fiscal sponsorship agreement that will guide your partnership while you await receipt of your own 501(c)(3) determination letter. And finally, enjoy the broader range of grant eligibility that 501(c)(3) status and fiscal sponsorship provide.

Continuing the Conversation - How Grant Funding is Responding to the Healthcare Worker Shortage by Diversifying the Workforce

Amber Walker, Grants Development Associate (Healthcare)

In the area of diversifying healthcare workforce development, many multi-pronged grant funding opportunities have been developed. The Department of Health and Human Services is leading the way. One program, the **HHS Health Workforce Initiative** is aimed to support, strengthen, and grow the health workforce by leveraging programs across the Department, including through the \$2.7 billion workforce investment proposed in the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. This Initiative is focused on investments to support physicians, nurses, dentists, behavioral health care providers, community health workers, peer support specialists, and many others who dedicate their careers to improving the nation's health and well-being. This is accomplished through loan repayment, scholarships, and residency training.

One federal program designed to reduce health disparities and improve behavioral health outcomes for underserved racial and ethnic populations is the **Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)**- which celebrated its 50th anniversary in June 2023. The MFP is a federal opportunity meant to develop a behavioral health professional workforce that is culturally competent and reflective of the population it serves.

Another federal initiative that was recently developed is the **Public Health AmeriCorps**. This program addresses the public health needs of our nation by advancing more equitable health outcomes for underserved communities and gaining onsite experience for future careers in public health. Public Health AmeriCorps aims to recruit members who reflect the communities in which they serve.



Many federal and private foundation opportunities explicitly fund programs to increase a workforce that is diverse and inclusive. In addition to those, many more opportunities include diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) as a funding priority, a focus area, or given special consideration when making award decisions. Private foundations such as the **Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation** are centering DEI efforts on their award recipients.

If your organization is interested in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in your company culture and reflection in your workforce, the above-discussed funding programs are a great starting point. These programs are just a small fraction of a grants landscape that has identified our healthcare workforce inclusivity as a top funding priority.

Additional healthcare funding resources:

- Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA)
- Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- grants.gov (search for national private foundations for programs that align with your service delivery priority and objectives)

Program Snapshot

HHS Health Workforce Initiative

SUMMARY

The goal of the HHS Health Workforce Initiative is to support, strengthen, and grow the health workforce by leveraging programs across the Department, including through the \$2.7 billion workforce investment proposed in the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) workforce training, scholarship, loan repayment and well-being programs. The Department's Initiative is focused on federal investments to support individuals across health workforce disciplines – including physicians, nurses, dentists, behavioral health care providers, community health workers, peer support specialists and many others who dedicate their careers to improving the nation's health and wellbeing.

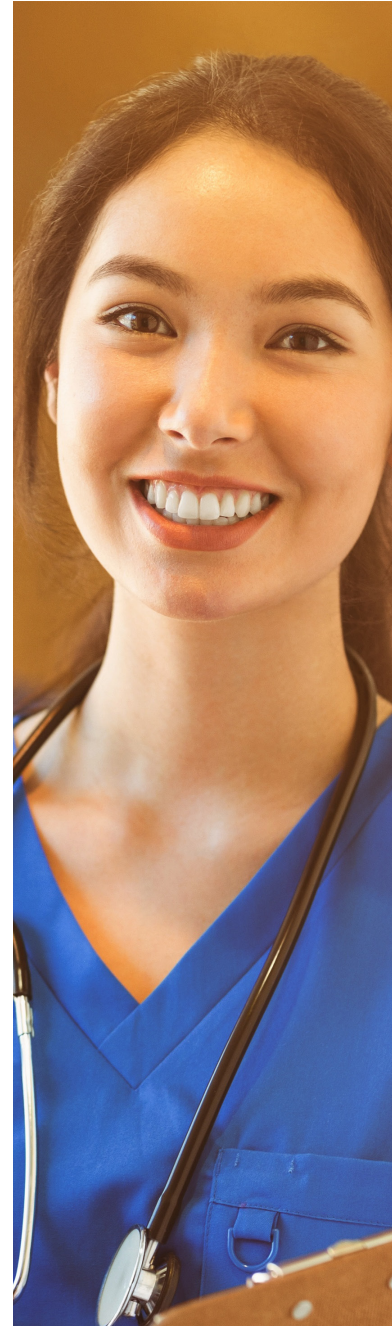
HHS' Initiative includes a coordinated Department-wide effort to identify opportunities to improve health workforce recruitment and retention, and career advancement, with equity at the center of this work. It will help to elevate workforce programs and activities across the Department, engage with stakeholders, and identify opportunities to further advance federal efforts to support the workforce.

DEADLINE

Throughout the summer, the Initiative will continue to highlight programs aimed at strengthening the health workforce recruitment and prioritize the need to renew and extend the National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[New HHS Initiative Aims to Strengthen Nation's Health Workforce | HHS.gov](#)



Program Snapshot

Minority Fellowship Program



SUMMARY

The purpose of this SAMHSA program is to recruit, train, and support master's and doctoral-level students in behavioral health care professions by:

- Increasing the knowledge of mental and/or substance use disorder behavioral health professionals on prevention, treatment, and recovery support for individuals who are from racial and ethnic minority populations and have a mental or substance use disorder;
- Increasing the number of culturally competent mental and substance use disorders professionals who teach, administer services, conduct research, and provide direct mental and/or substance use disorder services to underserved populations; and
- Improving the quality of mental and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services delivered to racial and ethnic minority populations.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is limited to nationally representative mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment professional organizations within eight professional fields: psychiatry, nursing, social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, substance use disorder and addictions counseling, and addiction medicine.

DEADLINE

This is a forecasted opportunity, and the anticipated posting date is April 15, 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

grants.gov/search-results-detail/352473

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- A listing of the grant programs for which you have been a proposal reviewer, if any
- 2 writing samples (preferably narratives from successfully funded projects)



Federal and State Programs That Aim to Improve Grid Resilience

Joseph Phelan, Grants Development Consultant (Broadband, Transportation, & Utilities)

The U.S. Department of Energy launched the Grid Deployment Office (GDO) in August 2022 to maintain and invest in critical generation facilities, grid resilience, and improving and expanding transmission and distribution systems to provide reliable and affordable electricity. GDO directly stems from the Biden Administration's focus on reducing emissions by at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, reaching 100 percent clean electricity by 2035, and creating a zero-emissions economy by 2050. Under this office, there are three specific entities responsible for funding mechanisms designed to help the United States reach its goals. Generation facilities can take advantage of various credit programs to help strengthen electricity markets at the wholesale and distribution level; the Transmission Division coordinates necessary plans, financing, and facilitation to drive essential transmission investment; and lastly, there is the Grid Modernization Division.

The Grid Modernization mostly consists of two multi-billion-dollar programs that will help utility providers of all kinds prevent outages, enhance reliability, and further improve

distribution systems throughout the country. The \$2.3 million **Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant** will specifically strengthen and modernize the power grid against wildfire, extreme weather as well as other natural disasters exacerbated by the ongoing climate change crisis, while the \$10.5 billion **Grid Resilience Innovation Partnerships Program (GRIP)** offer similar opportunities across three components: Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants; Smart Grid Grants; and the Grid Innovation Program. The first round of GRIP funds has been awarded, with another round having just been completed, but there will still be plenty of funds remaining for several entities to utilize.

States, territories, and tribes have received direct allocations under the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant. In 2023, the first round of applications was due for funds allocated in 2022 and 2023. Plans had to be submitted in April for 2024 funds, but once the state or territory plan is approved by the GDO, they can use those funds to sub-award eligible applicants within their region. (Tribes directly receive the allocation to utilize how they deem necessary). Some states have already opened and closed their application process from the 2022 and 2023 funding allocations, while others have deadlines in place currently, or explain that a future deadline is imminent. There will be additional deadlines with the 2024 funds (allocations can be found here: <https://netl.doe.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/FY24%20Allocations%20Table.pdf>) and so on until all funds have been allocated in 2026. Eligible sub-award applicants will include electric grid operators, electricity storage operators, and generators, transmission owners and operators, distribution providers, and fuel suppliers.

Examples of fundable resilience measures under the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant:

| Weatherization technologies and equipment | Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems |
|---|--|
| Monitoring and control technologies | Undergrounding of electrical equipment |
| Utility pole management | Relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors |
| Vegetation and fuel-load management | Use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including microgrids; and battery-storage subcomponents |
| Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems | Adaptive protection technologies |
| Replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables. | Advanced modeling technologies |



The larger GRIP program awarded \$3.46 billion for 58 projects across 44 states during the first round of funding, which means an additional \$7 billion remains. However, the next round of funding ends in the spring of 2024. Still, there will be several billion remaining for future funding cycles.

Find out what each area funds below:

| |
|---|
| Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants |
| Comprehensive transformational transmission and distribution technology solutions that will mitigate multiple hazards across a region or within a community |
| Smart Grid Grants |
| Smart grid technologies demonstrating a pathway to wider market adoption |
| Grid Innovation Program |
| Interregional transmission projects, investments that accelerate interconnection of clean energy generation, utilization of distribution grid assets to provide backup power and reduce transmission requirements |

Through the Grid Deployment Office, plenty is being done to help strengthen the energy sector. GRIP is worth checking if you have a large, substantive project ready to go, but the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant will be able to eligible organizations through a more streamlined application process, typically through a state’s energy department. Be sure to check your state’s website for additional information as it pertains to application requirements, deadlines, FAQs, and webinars. GDO itself provides detailed information through fact sheets about how each state plans to administer its directly allocated funds. As the federal government continues to place energy efficiency in the forefront, it is essential to know what funding is out there, and where the funding is typically going.

Preparing Your Organization for the 2024 Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Shannon M. Day, Senior Grants Development Consultant

In the wake of 9/11, the vulnerability of America's infrastructure became clear. Often symbolic targets or serving at-risk populations, nonprofit organizations lacked the resources to implement proper security measures. Recognizing this need, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) began lobbying Congress for support in 2001. Their years of work paid off in 2004 with the establishment of the **Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)**.

Administered by DHS and FEMA, the NSGP initially focused on physical security enhancements for nonprofits considered high-risk for terrorist attacks. This included funding for security assessments, training, equipment, and infrastructure improvements aimed at "target hardening" facilities.

Over time, the NSGP has grown to encompass a broader range of threats and institutions. The eligibility criteria have broadened to include houses of worship, educational facilities, and organizations vulnerable to hate crimes, reflecting the evolving security landscape and the diverse needs of the nonprofit sector.

The program remains an essential resource for nonprofits today. Thanks to ongoing advocacy by JFNA and other organizations, the NSGP continues to see increased funding, greater accessibility, and improved effectiveness. Finally, the 2022 Nonprofit Security Grant Program Improvement Act underscored this commitment by extending funding through 2028 and simplifying application processes.

Despite adapting to new security threats, the NSGP's core mission remains unchanged: protecting essential community organizations and fostering safe spaces for all.

With the delays in the passage of the federal budget, applicants may have a short window to apply for NSGP in 2024. The more your organization can do to prepare now, the more ready you will be when your state opens its application window. Below, we have provided information from the 2023 program. Few changes are anticipated in 2024.

NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Total funding available in 2023: \$305,000,000
- Individual amounts: Up to \$150,000 per location with an upper limit per organization of \$450,000 for up to three (3) unique physical locations/addresses
- Cost share/match: Not required
- Project period: Up to 36 months
- Application Deadline: Varies by state. Check with your State Administrative Agency (SAA) for details
- Eligible Applicants: 501(c)(3) organizations determined to be at high risk of a terrorist attack

Note that NSGP is a passthrough grant. While it is federally funded, your organization will apply through your state. Some individual processes may vary, but these three components are required:

1. **Mission Statement:** This is a formal summary of the aims and values of your organization and should include three components: the organization's purpose, values, and goals. The mission statement should be provided on your organization's official letterhead.
2. **Site Assessment:** A vulnerability or risk assessment is a documented review of your facility that identifies gaps in security. Addressing gaps identified in the vulnerability assessment keeps a facility and its occupants, visitors, and members safer. This document is the foundation of an NSGP application.
3. **Investment Justification (IJ):** The IJ is the only scored component. After submission, your SAA will review, score, and rank every complete application it has received from eligible nonprofit organizations. The results of this scoring process will be forwarded to FEMA, which will inform the federal review of the Investment Justifications. FEMA will then determine nonprofit organizations that are recommended for funding and provide this list to the Secretary of Homeland Security for final approval. In your Investment Justification (IJ), your nonprofit organization should summarize the most critically important, impactful, and salient information, and your funding requests should reflect the recommendations from your site assessment.

Various nonprofits throughout the United States and its territories have received funding through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, showing that this is an accessible yet highly competitive program. In 2022, awards were made to 52% of applicants. While this is higher than the overall national average of about 25-30% for federal grant awards and shows an increase from 46% of projects awarded in 2021, it still means that 48% of projects were not funded. The more you can prepare your organization now, the more competitive your proposal will be.

Program Snapshot

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

SUMMARY

The NSGP provides funding support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack. The program seeks to integrate the preparedness activities of nonprofit organizations with broader state and local preparedness efforts. The NSGP also serves to promote emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private community representatives as well as state and local government agencies.

The objective of NSGP is to provide funding for physical security enhancements and other security-related activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack. The NSGP also seeks to integrate the preparedness activities of nonprofit organizations with broader state and local preparedness efforts.

Given the evolving threat landscape, it is incumbent upon DHS/FEMA to continuously evaluate the national risk profile and set priorities that help ensure appropriate allocation of scarce security dollars. In assessing the national risk profile annually, one area attracts the most concern: Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations that are: (1) Designated as a 501(c)3 agency; and (2) Determined to be at high risk of a terrorist attack by the Secretary of DHS.

DEADLINE

State Administering Agencies (SAAs) apply in spring, annually. Local deadlines vary as states and territories release their subgrant programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security>



Workforce Development Funding 101

Meghan Jacobsen, Grants Development Associate (State and Local Government)

The recent increase in jobs in the U.S., coupled with the increased need for skilled workers across sectors like technology, healthcare, construction, and various trades, underscores the critical role of workforce development programs. These programs are vital in equipping the next generation of workers to meet these emerging employment opportunities.

Workforce training benefits not only society but it is especially advantageous for much of the population, including youth, marginalized communities, people experiencing homelessness, individuals transitioning from prison, and veterans. In 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was passed and is expected to create millions of jobs and bolster workforce training efforts. However, beyond this, many additional funding sources exist to support workforce development. For organizations engaged in workforce development seeking financial support, the following is a beginner's guide to federal grants that could potentially fund your initiatives.

The **Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant** is a program by the U.S. Department of Labor designed to foster public-private partnerships. This program focuses on industries and occupations that are eligible for H-1B visas and aims to train workers in the fields of advanced manufacturing, information technology, and professional, scientific, and technical services occupations that support renewable energy, transportation, and broadband infrastructure sectors.

Created as an alternative education option for at-risk youth, **YouthBuild Grant** is a U.S. Department of Labor initiative that provides job training and educational services for young adults aged 16-24 who have not completed high school. It focuses on vocational skills in construction and other in-demand industries, while also helping participants earn their high school diploma or equivalency.

The **Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)** is a unique federal grant program aimed at supporting homeless veterans' return to the workforce. This program is intended to provide job training and job placement services to veterans experiencing homelessness. The goal of this program is also to provide an array of services that will increase success and collaboration among non-profits, government, and the private sector.



The **Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO)** grant program is designed to help women gain entry and advance in fields where they have been traditionally underrepresented. These fields include, but are not limited to, trades, construction, manufacturing, and transportation. This program not only assists women entering male-dominated fields, but it also assists employers, unions, and workers in creating an environment in which these women can be supported and successful.

To improve outcomes for incarcerated individuals reentering society, the **Second Chance Act: Improving Education and Employment Outcomes** is a program that supports the enhancement of education and employment opportunities for individuals reentering society after incarceration. It focuses on two primary areas: improving correctional education and employment services and connections. This includes programs that will improve economic mobility, reduce unemployment, and create meaningful opportunities for people transitioning from prisons back to their communities.

There are many options in the workforce development funding landscape. The grants highlighted in this article represent just a fraction of the numerous funding opportunities available. These programs not only address the immediate need for skilled labor but also ensure inclusive growth by providing opportunities to those often left behind.



Grants Office launches the first edition of “The Global Grant Funding Landscape, 2023-2025”, written by our global team of grants intelligence experts.

This analysis aims to provide business, government, and institutional leaders with a broader recognition and appreciation for the global outlook of grant funding in the years ahead.

INSIGHTS TO BE GAINED:

- How much grant funding is available around the world?
- What countries have the most money available?
- What organizations are receiving and spending these grant dollars?
- What is the source of these grant dollars in each country?
- How much funding is available through short-term stimulus packages and how much will continue beyond 2025?

Full analysis and additional resources available [HERE](#).

Upcoming Grantscasts

New events are added weekly. Visit <https://www.grantsoffice.com/Grants-Intelligence/Grantcasts> for the most updated information and to see our entire library of global Grantscasts.

Funding for Entrepreneurs Across France, Germany, and the UK

A Grants Office Production (Europe)

Date: May 23, 2024, at 2pm CET (8am ET)

About: The entrepreneurial spirit is thriving among individuals across Europe, including young adults of all genders. There has been a notable increase in the number of entrepreneurs under 25, with a significant rise in business launches compared to just five years ago. Despite this positive trend, there remains ample opportunity for further growth and development. Out of approximately 400,000 startups established last year, only a quarter were led by women. Come join our panel of Grants Office funding experts as they delve into the top funding opportunities available to entrepreneurs across Europe, with a special focus on the UK, Germany, and France. Each panelist will shed light on the priorities of local grantmakers and offer invaluable insights on how to make your proposal stand out in these key regions. This is an invaluable chance to tap into public funding programs for your new business venture, irrespective of gender or background. Don't miss out on unlocking the potential of these resources!

[Register HERE](#)

The 2024 Federal Budget: A Discussion about Available Funding for Public and Private Sector Organizations

A Grants Office Production (Canada)

Date: May 28, 2024, at 2pm ET

About: Budget 2024 was announced a few weeks ago so it's time to dive in and explore new and returning funding programs from federal agencies. Learn about funding opportunities for public and private sector organizations, as well as Canada's priorities for the year. Join Grants Office to gain insight into new and existing programs and Canada's priorities in 2024. We'll provide program details, and projected deadlines. We'll also share useful tips for securing funding for your organization. You don't want to miss this opportunity to learn about what is available for your organization.

[Register HERE](#)

Funding Cybersecurity Solutions with State and Federal Grant Funds

A Grants Office Production (United States), sponsored by Check Point

Date: June 4, 2024, at 2pm ET

About: The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) recently shared that the cost of reported cybercrime in the U.S. was more than \$12.5 billion in 2023. Cyber-attacks are increasing due to improved technologies, increased connectivity, remote work and learning, reliance on mobile devices, and more. As a result, the necessity for enhanced cybersecurity measures to safeguard our networks and critical infrastructure has also increased, however, the implementation of these technologies can impose a substantial financial burden. The Federal government is encouraging local leaders to utilize federal and state grant funds to prevent and respond to these types of attacks. Our Grants Office and Check Point experts will review the grants landscape, highlight specific funding opportunities, and provide tips for creating a competitive application for your organization. Don't wait until there is an attack. Now is the time to protect your organization from hackers, phishing, and ransomware. If you want to learn more about funding cybersecurity through grants and how Check Point cybersecurity solutions will help your organization stay secure, register today!

[Register HERE](#)

Recent Grantscasts

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Accessing Foundation Grant Makers: Strategies for Relationship Building and Getting Technology-Rich Projects Funded

A Grants Office Production (United States), sponsored by Ingram Micro Cloud

About: Join Grants Office and special guests from Ingram Micro Cloud as we delve into the world of foundation grant funding for your next cloud-technology-enabled project. Whether you're a nonprofit organization, K-12 school, college development office, or healthcare fundraiser, we will provide you with the knowledge and strategies necessary to pursue foundation grant opportunities successfully. Our experts will guide you through developing long-term relationships with foundations and how to articulate key project and budget components in your applications, thus increasing your chances of securing an award. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock the potential of foundation grant funding for your cloud-technology-enabled projects. Register now to gain the tools and strategies necessary to navigate the landscape of foundation grant-seeking effectively.

[Access HERE](#)

Keeping Communities Safe: Enhance Your Nonprofit Organization's Security Capabilities with NSGP

A Grants Office Production (United States), sponsored by Genetec

About: The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) is a \$300+ Billion annual grant program that provides critical support to nonprofits at high risk of a terrorist attack. Join us as we explore key aspects of the NSGP opportunity, including eligibility criteria, the application process, and types of security enhancements that can be funded. Whether you represent a religious institution, private school, or other high-risk nonprofit community organization, this event will provide you with valuable information and resources to help strengthen your organization's security measures. Included with your registration is a FREE workbook guiding you through the FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program application process, and access to the FREE Genetec Grants Support Program, presentation slides, and a recording of the webinar.

[Access HERE](#)

Navigating Canadian Funding Opportunities for Cultural and Arts Projects

A Grants Office Production (Canada)

About: Cultural and art projects are an incredible force for community development and intersect with many disciplines, including learning, entertainment, and leisure. There are several government grants and programs designed to support these projects. This webinar will guide grant seekers through the diverse landscape of funding available for cultural and arts projects across Canada. Join Grants Office for a deep dive into arts & culture grants. Together, we'll go over funding opportunities, discuss program details, and share upcoming deadlines. Whether you have a wealth of experience or you are just starting out, this webcast will equip you with the knowledge and resources you need to thrive in the world of arts & culture grants.

[Access HERE](#)

DID YOU KNOW... GRANTS OFFICE IS GLOBAL?

Our team of grants experts in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia, are ready to support your global grant needs.

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