FUNDED

What does the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act mean for K-12 Schools?

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Campus Safety Technology in Higher Education

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READERS,

In this issue of Funded, we've brought the team together again to shed some light on several funding topics that will be important through the remainder of 2022 and beyond.

In our cover article, Max Cassity reviews several of the most prominent funding elements included in the **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)**, including programs for school-based mental health programs, academic enrichment and after-school programs, and the STOP School Violence Grant Program, directed squarely at helping schools intervene before a crisis happens. We've been talking about the problem of school violence for decades, and policy makers have tried several approaches to addressing it. BSCA takes a more holistic approach than most of the prior attempts we've seen and provides a great opportunity for schools to participate in (and potentially benefit from) testing the latest research-based strategies to keep students and families safer.

Of course, we know that disasters can be man-made (see above) and non-man-made, and Amanda Day continues the theme of safety with a timely article on grant funding to help mitigate and respond to **droughts, floods, and wildfires**.

For anyone interested in the massive funding that is available for broadband and digital equity, Chris Barnes has put together an excellent update on the **grant programs provided by the IIJA** that are finally opening for applications. And not to be outdone, Richard Campo provides a summary of the related FCC program to fund broadband, known as the **Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)**. We're all anxiously awaiting RDOF 2, but in the meantime, there is a lot of broadband-friendly grant funding to follow!

In the areas of K-12 and higher education, Liz Shay leads us off with a must-read on leveraging **collaboration for higher education funding**, and Shannon Day follows that up with an update on funding for **campus safety technology**.

Finally, Sydney Stapleton takes us back to our grantseeking roots with a refresher/checklist of the **documents almost every grant requires**.

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.

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

Sincerely,
Michael Paddock
Editor and Publisher,
FUNDED

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WHAT DOES THE 2022 BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT MEAN FOR K-12 SCHOOLS?
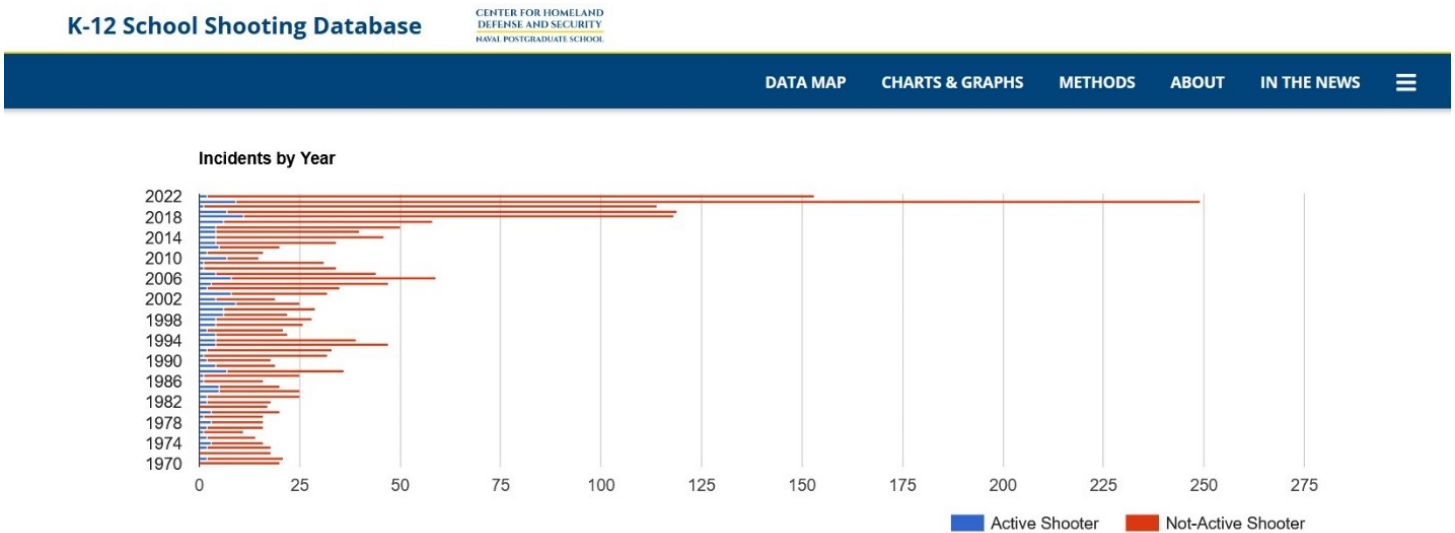
By: Max Cassity
Grants Development Associate, K-12 Education

Shootings at K-12 schools are among the most horrific examples of the ongoing American gun violence epidemic. In 2021, there were 249 school shootings, 9 of which were active shooter incidents, reported in the United States, according to the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security. At the time of this article's publication, just eight months into 2022, there have been 153 school shootings, including two active shooter scenarios. The main questions being asked are **"why is this happening?"** and **"what can we do to protect our schools?"**

In response to this overwhelming need and demand for change, Congress passed S.2938, the **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)**. Although the bill falls short of enacting universal background checks, raising the minimum age to buy a gun from 18 to 21, a ban on assault-style weapons and extended magazines, or allowing gun manufacturers to be sued by victims of gun violence, it does represents a significant step forward in addressing gun violence and related issues of mental health and domestic violence.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act also includes significant investments in both existing and new federal funds designed to help protect K12 schools and prevent future school shootings. Available grants enable communities and school districts to leverage federal funding with a three-prong approach; by supporting student mental health, extending learning time and improving school climate; and increasing school safety infrastructure.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

To support student mental health services, BSCA provides $500 million through the **School Based Mental Health Services Grant** program, which prioritizes the respecialization and requalification of existing mental health service providers to continue providing students with mental health support in schools that have a demonstrated need for mental health services. The BSCA also provides $500 million through the **School Based Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration Grant** program to train and diversify the pipeline of school counselors, social workers, and psychologists. These targeted grants support schools without an adequate number of mental health service professionals or other psychological or counseling services available to students, especially rural schools, American Indian/ Alaska Native Tribal schools, and schools in qualified opportunity zones.

EXTENDED LEARNING TIME AND SCHOOL CLIMATE

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act also provides $1 billion in funding through **Title IV-A's Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program** to improve student learning conditions and school climate through evidence-based practices. This non-competitive funding supports programs that give students a "well-rounded" education and utilize technology to increase academic achievement and develop digital literacy for all students. Through this program, schools interested in technology-centered learning opportunities will have the opportunity to expand or extend programs like 1-to-1 device initiatives, and training for students and faculty to safely navigate and monitor online spaces. Further support for technology-centered initiatives and extended learning time comes through $50 million in additional funding for the **21st Century Community Learning Centers program**. 21st CCLC supports a broad array of before- and after-school activities, including summer learning programs, remedial learning and tutoring services, recreational activities, drug and violence prevention programs, technology education programs, expanded library hours, and programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy. This program targets support for at-risk students, including for the reengagement of truant, suspended, or expelled students, counselling programs, and character education programs.

SCHOOL SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE

Finally, the BSCA allocates $300 million to support the institution of safety measures in and around K12 schools through the **STOP School Violence Grant** Program. SSV's goal is to increase school safety by developing technology solutions such as mobile phone applications, hotlines, and websites, in addition to the development of threat assessment and intervention teams, specialized training for law enforcement that work in and/or with schools, and the hiring of school support personnel such as climate specialists, school psychologists, social workers, and other professionals who directly support the prevention of school violence. The goal of this program is to direct attention both to the intervention of violence before it happens and to reduce law enforcement response times by drawing on school-community partnerships to expand the safety net for schools and students.

Ultimately, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act provides expanded grant funding to enable a flexible, adaptable, and technology friendly approach to support K12 safety. One clear through-line is the bill's identification of the need for better and deeper attention to the well-being and mental health of children as they navigate their education. By utilizing any of the grant programs supported by this bill, schools will be able to hire and train additional faculty and support staff, develop innovative programs to drive student engagement and well-being, and create education environments that protect and sustain one of America's most valuable resources: our children.

STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE (SSV) GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The STOP School Violence (SSV) program seeks to increase school safety. The program's objectives are to increase school safety using evidence-based solutions to prevent violence against schools, staff, and students and ensure a positive school climate.

- Train school personnel and educate students on preventing student violence against others and themselves to include anti-bullying training. This can also include specialized training for school officials to respond to mental health crises.

- Develop and implement threat assessment and/or intervention teams to operate technology solutions such as anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence, including mobile telephone applications, hotlines, and websites. These teams must coordinate with law enforcement agencies and school personnel.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants for Category One are State governments and public and state-controlled institutions of higher education. Eligible applicants for Category Two are local and tribal governments, 501 (c)(3) nonprofits (other than IHEs), private IHEs, and independent school districts.

DEADLINE

Applications were to be submitted to Grants.gov by June 14, 2022, and to JustGrants by June 21, 2022. Similar deadlines are anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171118

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GRANT FUNDING FOR CAMPUS SAFETY TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

By: Shannon M. Day
Grants Development Consultant, Public Safety

AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDING:
Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program

Offered through the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, this Campus program is designed to encourage higher education institutions to adopt a comprehensive, community-coordinated response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Campuses address these crimes by developing campus- and community-based responses, which include campus victim services, campus law enforcement, health services, mandatory education of incoming students, and links to local criminal justice agencies and service providers.

This grant will fund technology if it is an integral part of these coordinated responses. This can include emergency blue lights, access control, video surveillance, and equipping response rooms that can double as training rooms.

While funds for technology that supports these initiatives is available, you cannot use your entire budget on tech. For example, you may only be able to spend $50 thousand out of a $300 thousand-dollar total project on technology but that amount can go a long way in building a foundation upon which future projects are launched and expanded.

Noteworthy: The 2022 federal budget (for the program scheduled to open in early 2023) mandated that half of the total funding for this program goes to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic Serving Institutions.

Body-worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program
The Body-worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program started as an initiative of the Obama administration to provide $75 million to assist law enforcement agencies in purchasing fifty thousand Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) over three years. Since most law enforcement agencies now have a BWC policy in place, the program has evolved and expanded to include K12 and public colleges and universities in their eligible applicant list. Since the inception of this program, state funding has quickly followed. Many states now mandate Body-worn Cameras, and many provide funding so check with your state to see if they will fund campus police.

AVAILABLE STATE FUNDING

While there is not a great deal of funding for campus safety, there are a few states that have grant programs in place. California and Ohio are two of them. Texas had a Campus Victim Assistance Program until a couple of years ago but state budgets and funding priorities change frequently at the state level, especially if it is an election year. These changes can be frustrating but this also means that state funding can be more responsive to what is happening in the community.

PARTNERSHIPS

There are many federal and state grants that campus public safety agencies can tap through partnerships with local law enforcement agencies. Since most funding through the DOJ is for public agencies, this may be the best or only option. The COPS Office, for example, provides grants for training initiatives. An Institute of Higher Education can work with regional law enforcement agencies to implement de-escalation training programs on campus. The Bureau of Justice Assistance funds policing innovation projects. An Institute of Higher Education can partner with its local police department on a data-driven solution to an area crime problem.

Sometimes it just takes a little creative thinking, brainstorming, and bringing various perspectives to the table to get a project off the ground. Grant-seeking and project implementation is not a one-person show. Bring essential stakeholders together to build a strong project. Who should your partners be? Who will want or need to be involved to make it a success? Meet early in the process and as needed to talk about what you will need to make it work and you will be on the way to a more secure campus for your students.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COLLEGES TRAINING GRANTS

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

This second round of Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants (SCC2) will increase the capacity and responsiveness of community colleges to close equity gaps in addressing skill development needs of employers and workers, in support of the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities to leverage and advance community colleges. Awarded grants will focus on accelerated learning strategies that support skill development, rapid reskilling, and employment through targeted industry sectors and career pathway approaches. These strategies will also address identified equity gaps to increase full access to educational and economic opportunity– particularly for individuals from historically underrepresented and marginalized populations and communities.

This Opportunity is built around four core elements: 1) Advancing Equity, 2) Accelerated Career Pathways, 3) Results-Driven Project Design, and 4) Sustainable Systems Change.

This grant program builds on the learnings from the four rounds of Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grants, which focused on capacity building at community colleges and large-scale systems change within community college consortia. SCC2 grants will focus on advancing equitable employment throughout the grant program, specifically equity gaps in opportunities for credentials, and equity in employment outcomes for the participants served by the community colleges and may also include increasing the capacity of the colleges to make sustainable shifts in how they support equitable employment.

ELIGIBILITY

The eligible lead applicant must be a community college that is a public institution of higher education as defined in Section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act and who is most common degree awarded is an associate degree.

DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted by October 14, 2022. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/skills-training-grants/scc

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COLLEGES TRAINING GRANTS

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

FUNDED ORGANIZATION
American River College

PROJECT TITLE
Crosswalking Business Pathways to Public Sector Careers

AMOUNT FUNDED
$5,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
ARC will lead the consortium, engaging partners in systems change activities designed to build sustainable, institutional capacity for BIW academic and work-based training, and to pursue strategies to transform public sector outreach and hiring practices in the Sacramento region, all to achieve significant increase in workers and individuals with barriers to employment advancing along a BIW career pathway towards high wage, high growth employment in the public sector, where there is a need to train an additional 2,300 skilled workers annually. With shared focus and dedicated resources, the consortium will strive for tenfold increase (10 to 100) each in the number of: 1) referrals by SETA (individuals with barriers to employment) and CAERC (adult education learners) to LRCCD training; 2) work experience and internship opportunities through ILG and public sector employers; 3) enrollment in BIW/ACE sections (0 to 120); and 4) interactions and deeper engagement with employers facilitated by Valley Vision. Through these efforts, the consortium will move the needle on addressing the annual gap in skilled workers needed and increase the number of individuals trained for business services careers in the target region.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION
https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/skillstraining/SCC-Overview-and-Abstracts-rev.pdf

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE
https://arc.losrios.edu/

EXPAND IMPACT THROUGH COLLABORATION BETWEEN INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

By: Liz Shay
Senior Grants Development Consultant, Higher Education

Institutes of Higher Education work to differentiate themselves through their educational offerings and additional services provided for students. Schools often focus on particular types of students and degree programs. These focus areas have allowed schools to meet the needs of their students and thrive as institutions. But in the current climate, collaborating with other institutions can provide new opportunities for your organization to meet its institutional goals.

WHY COLLABORATE?

Collaborations between different types of institutes of higher education can help your organization work towards goals more quickly and can benefit your grantseeking efforts. In fact, when you are requesting grant funding to support your projects, strong partnerships can put you in the lead over similarly strong proposals that lack collaboration. Schools often have mutual or related goals that could be accomplished together and doing so can reduce duplication of efforts and help reach your goals more efficiently. For example, many different institutes of higher education are interested in similar core curriculum development. Working together on these kinds of projects means you can share resources, which often results in cost savings.

Beyond those benefits, collaboration also helps your institution build a well-rounded project. Every school can leverage their own areas of expertise during project design and implementation. For example, a community college might want to develop a data analytics program for their students and have expertise on their students' interests and backgrounds and understand labor demands. However, they may not have personnel with the expertise to develop the initial curriculum or effectively evaluate the success of the project. Collaboration with another institution with existing data analytics expertise (such as faculty members with relevant research interests) can help with curriculum development and faculty training aspects of the project. That same institution may also have researchers with expertise in learning science who can help with the evaluation and iterative improvement plans often required for grant programs. This group of individuals from both institutions can form a project team that will demonstrate to potential grant funders that you are well-prepared to implement your intended goals and activities.

IMPLEMENTING COLLABORATION

Hopefully by now, the potential benefits of collaboration are clear. It is, however, extremely important to be purposeful in selecting project partners for future collaborations. Reflect on the project ideas you have and the expertise your organization will be able to provide in order to implement those efforts. What skills or knowledge are you missing? Is there another institute of higher education that can provide those abilities?

Once you know who you are interested in working with, start talking with them! Involve project partners in every part of the planning process. An introductory meeting is a wonderful place to start, since it will give everyone an opportunity to share what they can offer to the project. You will be able to start defining organizational roles and what success will look like for the project (including for each institution involved in the efforts). When you have finalized these plans, write up letters of commitment or memoranda of understanding. These documents explicitly define what each partner will contribute to the project and will function as a contract between organizations for the implementation of the project. As appropriate, include these documents with your grant applications to demonstrate the commitment of each institution involved in the collaboration.

GRANTS FOR COLLABORATION

Many funders release grant programs where collaboration between institutes of higher education is either required or encouraged. Often these opportunities focus on innovative educational experiences, but there are also offerings that support projects that increase access to infrastructure, continuity of education, and other topics. Below are some examples of federal grants that can involve collaboration between institutes of higher education. There are also many state and foundation opportunities for funding outside of the federal government.

Although collaboration is not required for the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program from the National Science Foundation (NSF), most awarded projects involve partnerships. This grant program supports improvement in the education of science and engineering technicians. Projects can include program improvement, curriculum development, professional development of educators, business skills development for students, or collaboration with K-12 education.

> Check out the article on collaboration with K-12 schools in the November 2021 FUNDED issue for more information on these partnerships!

These projects must involve at least one 2-year college in a leadership role (usually where the curriculum is developed), but other organizations are often involved in the comprehensive projects. NSF grants have demanding evaluation requirements and require dissemination of results in order to further the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education fields. Institutions with researchers in this field can be involved to help with this component of the project.

NSF also funds the Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*) program. One of the funding buckets within this program requires collaboration amongst multiple small and under resourced institutes of higher education to invest in computing clusters serving scientific computing needs across a state or region. These projects are usually led by state or regional networks consortia, but if one of those is not available, a larger university can take on that leadership role to implement the project. The computing clusters that are installed as part of this project will then be accessible to all the institutes of higher education involved in the project. Awards for this funding bucket are up to $1 million for a project that lasts up to 2 years. We expect the next deadline to be in early summer 2023.

Outside of NSF, many other federal agencies support projects with partnership. For example, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) funds the Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants. The goal of this program is to help community colleges address skill development needs of local and regional employers and workers. Applicants should address plans to advance equity in training programs, develop accelerated career pathways to help get students into the workforce quickly, design the project with a purposeful approach, and create sustainable systems of education. Individual community colleges can apply to this program, but the ETA also encourages consortia of community colleges to apply together.

A consortium should include a community college as the lead applicant and other community colleges and 4-year institutes of higher education all from within a particular region. For more information about the Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants, check out

The Rural Development Office from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awards grants under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program for many years. This grant opportunity is designed to provide access to education, training, and health care resources for rural Americans. For the distance learning funding track, the lead applicant should be an institution who will provide educational experiences, such as specialized courses or offerings that other institutions are not able to teach. This organization will partner with institutions in rural areas whose students will benefit from participating in these courses. The grant will fund the technology needed at all institutions to allow for real-time participation of students in the courses. If you are interested in this grant, make sure that all locations receiving courses are publicly accessible (such as classrooms at an institute of higher education) and are in rural areas, since an objective scoring of the rurality of participating entities is a large part of the overall scoring of this grant program. Awards may be $50,000 to $1 million with a 15% match and may last up to 3 years. We expect this program to open in fall 2022.

Collaboration can open new possibilities for institutes of higher education. Consider the expertise that your organization and any potential collaborators can each bring to a project. To maximize the benefits of partnership, do not wait for a particular grant program to open or a particular institutional goal to come up before collaborating. Form relationships now and allow those discussions to lead to interesting ideas or chances to innovate. As you continue those conversations over time, you will be ready to formalize those partnerships and apply for grant opportunities when they are released.

Partnerships between institutes of higher education can help them reach their goals and meet the needs of their students, faculty, and staff. Each organization will contribute their own expertise to the planning and implementation of collaborative projects.

REDUCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING ON CAMPUS

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The Campus Program encourages a comprehensive coordinated community approach that enhances victim safety, provides services for victims, and supports efforts to hold offenders accountable. The funding supports activities that develop and strengthen trauma informed victim services and strategies to prevent, investigate, respond, and prosecute sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

The development of campus-wide coordinated responses involving campus victim service providers, law enforcement/campus safety officers, health providers, housing officials, administrators, student leaders, faith-based leaders, representatives from student organizations, and disciplinary board members is critical. To be effective, campus responses must also link to local off-campus criminal justice agencies and service providers, including local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, courts, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocacy and victim services organizations. Campuses are encouraged to create or revitalize large-scale efforts that treat sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as serious offenses by adopting effective policies and protocols, developing victim services and programs that prioritize victim safety, ensuring offender accountability, and implementing effective prevention approaches.

In FY 2022, OVW will prioritize projects that Improve outreach, services, civil and criminal justice responses, prevention, and support for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking from underserved communities, particularly LGBTQ and immigrant communities.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are only institutions of higher education, as defined under the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. Grant recipients that received new or supplemental/continuation for the Campus Program funding in 2020 and 2021 are NOT eligible to apply.

DEADLINE

Applications were to be submitted to Grants.gov by April 21, 2022, and to JustGrants by April 26, 2022. Similar deadlines are anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.justice.gov/ovw/open-solicitations

THE FCC'S RURAL DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FUND (RDOF)

By: Richard Campo
Grants Development Consultant, State and Local Government

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) in January of 2020 to provide high-speed broadband to rural homes and businesses. Rather than using a grant program like USDA's ReConnect Program, the FCC subsidized rural broadband using a reverse auction. While a normal auction has one seller and many buyers, a reverse auction has one buyer and many sellers. In this case, the FCC is the buyer of broadband expansion, and the sellers are broadband providers. Phase I of the RDOF auction opened in October of 2020, and broadband providers bid to offer the highest speed broadband for the lowest prices to the FCC. For this to work, the FCC weighted bids such that those with lower speed and higher latency broadband offers were penalized the most while higher speed, lower latency offers were penalized less or not at all. RDOF requires bidders to offer a minimum download speed of twenty-five megabits per second (Mbps) and minimum upload speed of three Mbps, but a minimum offer of one gigabit per second (Gbps) download speed and five hundred Mbps upload speed was required to receive no weight penalty on the bid.

In Phase I, 180 bidders won $9.2 billion of RDOF's total $20.4 billion to provide broadband to 5.2 million homes and businesses across forty-nine states. Thanks to the weighting system, most winning bidders will provide gigabit service, and the remaining winning bidders will also provide high speed, low latency service. The Phase II auction, set to open in 2023, will offer the remaining $11.2 billion to broadband providers to cover eligible areas that did not receive bids in Phase I or where the winning bidder defaulted, once the Commission finishes updating its broadband maps.

For both phases, winning bidders receive support for ten years following the FCC's authorization. To receive funding, winning bidders must commit to offer broadband service to all homes and businesses within their awarded area. By the end of the third year of support, forty percent of homes and businesses must be connected. For each following year, the provider must serve an additional twenty percent of locations. By the end of year six, the FCC will notify the broadband company if there are more or fewer homes and businesses that need service than originally estimated. If there are fewer, then the provider must serve that lower total by the end of the sixth year. If there are more locations needing broadband, then the original estimated amount must be served by the end of year six, and the larger total must be served by the end of year eight.

For winning bidders to receive FCC authorization, they must complete a two-stage application process. The first stage is the short-form application that broadband providers must submit to the FCC to participate in the auction. The purpose of this application is to ensure the broadband provider has the financial and technical capabilities to deploy broadband to the areas they want to service. In the short-form application, there are two ways to establish eligibility: document two years of experience providing broadband and one year of audited financial information or, alternatively, submit three years of audited financial information and a letter of interest from a bank willing to finance the project. The FCC's reasoning for providing two options was to make it easier for small companies and cooperatives to participate in the auction.
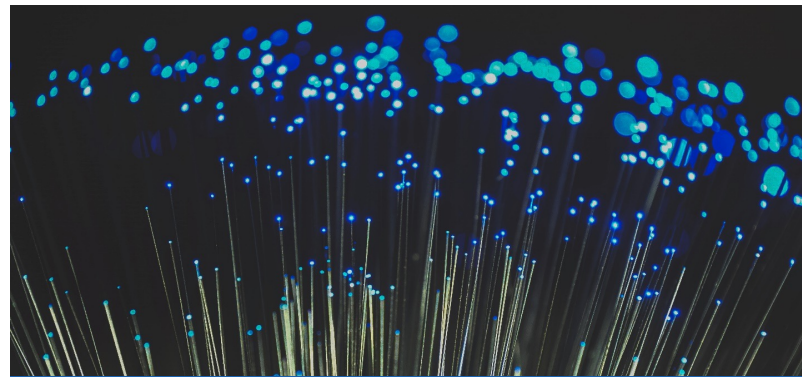
The goal of RDOF is to provide broadband to rural areas of the US that lack high-speed internet access.

Fiber is the gold standard technology for high-speed broadband, but RDOF winners will use additional technologies including fixed wireless, cable, satellite, and DSL to expand access to rural communities.

So, who were the bidders that won the most funding from Phase I of RDOF? A company called LTD Broadband won the most funding, about $1.3 billion, to provide service to customers across thirteen states. Additionally, several large, familiar telecom companies won substantial funding, including Charter, Windstream, and CenturyLink. There were also a couple fixed wireless broadband providers that received large awards, Nextlink and Resound Networks. Fixed wireless uses radio waves rather than fiber or cable to provide broadband service, which often makes it more cost-effective in rural areas where digging fiber to dispersed households would be prohibitive. Furthermore, two unusual companies won large amounts. SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet service received about $886 million, and Starry, a start-up that provides fixed wireless service using an antenna in each building rather than one large antenna, won $262 million. Since the types of companies and technologies vary, it will be interesting to see which have the most success, and if Phase II will have a different mix.

The second stage of the application process is the long-form application. For this application, winning bidders must further prove to the FCC that they are ready to deploy broadband to the locations in their awarded area. To do so, broadband providers must first submit information about their qualifications, funding sources, and the organizations with which they work. Second, service providers must provide the FCC with a letter of credit from the bank to finance the project. Lastly, winning bidders must document that they meet the FCC's eligible telecommunications carrier criteria. The FCC will determine any winning bidder that violates the FCC's rules before authorization to be in default, which carries a $3,000 fine per violation up to fifteen percent of the total bid amount.

The FCC expects the Phase II RDOF auction to open in 2023 once the Commission finishes updating its broadband coverage maps.

RURAL ECONNECTIVITY (RECONNECT) PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The ReConnect Program provides loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. In facilitating the expansion of broadband services and infrastructure, the program will fuel long-term rural economic development and opportunities in rural America. For FY 22, loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations will be made for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas.

For a proposed funded service area (PFSA) to be eligible for funding, at least 90 percent of the households in the PFSA must lack sufficient access to broadband. For purposes of this program, sufficient access to broadband means any rural area in which households have access to fixed, terrestrial broadband service of at least one hundred megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 20 Mbps upstream.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible entities include are corporations, LLCs, or LLPs, cooperative or mutual associations, State and local governments, and Indian tribes.

DEADLINE

Applications were to be submitted by March 9, 2022. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.usda.gov/reconnect

RURAL ECONNECTIVITY (RECONNECT) PROGRAM

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

FUNDED ORGANIZATION
Scott County Telephone Cooperative

AMOUNT FUNDED
$9,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a fiber-to-the-premises over-lash to upgrade current broadband infrastructure in rural Virginia. The funded service areas include 3,005 households, two essential community facilities, and two educational facilities spread over 195.88 square miles.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION
https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/round-two-awardees

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE
https://www.sctc.org/

UPDATES ON IIJA BROADBAND FUNDING

By: Chris Barnes
Senior Grants Development Consultant,
State and Local Government

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has had a busy start to its summer. The bipartisan infrastructure law passed in November 2021 dedicated $65 billion in broadband funding to bridge the digital divide across the country and spur broadband infrastructure deployment in unserved and underserved areas. On May 13, 2022, the NTIA published guidance for three of its major broadband programs: the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, the State Digital Equity Grant Program, and the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program. As part of the rollout of these new programs, the NTIA established Internet for All, which contains guidance documents, webinar recordings, and is also where applicants will submit their grant proposals.

These programs collectively total around $45 billion in broadband funding. Continue reading for details about these three programs and what applicants can anticipate in terms of further developments.

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT

Of the three, BEAD is the largest and most complex program, with $42.45 billion in funding available to support broadband deployment at the state and territory level. The BEAD program has three major priorities for deploying broadband services:

- To unserved areas (those without any broadband service at all or with broadband service offering speeds below 25 Mbps downstream/3 Mbps upstream)

- To underserved areas (those without broadband service offering speeds of 100 Mbps downstream/20 Mbps upstream)

- To Community Anchor Institutions that lack a symmetrical 1 Gbps connection

The BEAD program is a multi-step, multi-year process. States and territories were first required to submit a Letter of Intent by July 18, 2022, to confirm they will participate in the program. To date, all states and eligible territories have confirmed that they will participate in BEAD.

What Comes Next

The next major milestone for states and territories is due on August 15, 2022. By this date, eligible entities must submit a request for Initial Planning Funds. States may request up to $5 million in planning funds, which will support their work with local stakeholders to determine where the need is for broadband connectivity. Within 270 days of receiving these planning funds, states must submit a Five-Year Action Plan. These plans must detail current levels of broadband access and need in a state and provide a plan for providing affordable and reliable high-speed broadband in areas of need.

Later this year, states will learn how much they are going to be allocated in BEAD funding. These amounts will be based on the yet-to-be-released FCC Broadband DATA Maps that will show broadband availability across the country. After these allocations are available, eligible entities will have 180 days to develop an initial proposal that explains (among other things) how they will ensure every resident has broadband access, the process by which they will coordinate with local stakeholders, and how they plan to competitively award subgrants to subrecipients to conduct eligible broadband projects.

What does this mean for these local stakeholders and potential subrecipients? While states are the primary drivers of BEAD funding, they are required to work with local governments and other organizations within their state borders, and they must demonstrate this to the NTIA. If you are a local government, service provider, or non-profit organization that is looking to leverage BEAD funding for a broadband project, you will want to reach out to your state broadband office and discuss how your state plans to allocate its BEAD funding.

STATE DIGITAL EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM

Another broadband grant program that opened in May is the $1.5 billion State Digital Equity Grant Program. Like BEAD, this is a formula grant program. The NTIA will provide funding to states, territories, and tribal governments to support digital equity and digital inclusion measures that will benefit "covered populations."

Covered populations include:

- Low-income households
- Aging populations
- Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans
- People with disabilities
- People with language barriers
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Rural inhabitants

By July 12, 2022, eligible applicants needed to submit a planning application or a letter of intent to participate in the program. The NTIA has made $60 million available for planning grant funding that they are dividing up amongst eligible recipients.

What Comes Next

States will now have a year to develop a State Digital Equity Plan, where they will need to address questions such as:

- What are the current barriers to digital equity in our state?
- Who are the populations in our state that we need to reach?
- What strategies and programs will we implement to solve the digital equity problems our state faces?

Local governments and other organizations that might want to lead a digital equity project in their community will need to reach out to their state broadband office and see how they are going to be managing their digital equity funding. At the moment, only digital equity planning funds are available. After states get their digital equity plans approved by the NTIA, they will receive funding to implement those plans.

ENABLING MIDDLE MILE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

Unlike BEAD and the State Digital Equity Program, the Middle Mile grant program is a competitive opportunity that funds the buildout of middle mile broadband infrastructure, with the goal of reducing the cost of last mile connections for consumers. Since the release of the Middle Mile guidance, the NTIA has begun accepting applications. Applicants have until September 30, 2022, to submit their final proposals.

Eligible applicants include:

- State governments
- Political subdivisions of states
- Tribal governments
- Technology companies
- Electric utilities
- Utility cooperatives
- Public utility districts
- Telecommunications companies
- Telecommunications cooperatives
- Nonprofit organizations
- Regional planning councils
- Native entities
- Economic development authorities
- Partnerships of two or more entities described above

What Comes Next

Interested applicants need to begin putting together their proposals if they have not done so already, as these projects will be time-consuming to develop and require multiple components, including network diagrams and pro forma financial projections.

The NTIA has been hosting webinars to help applicants prepare their proposals. Applicants will also need to ensure they look at the Middle Mile Application Guidance Package available on the program page. This package not only provides a helpful application checklist but also contains templates that applicants must use and submit when building their budgets.

MIDDLE MILE GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The Middle Mile Infrastructure grant program is designed to encourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the last mile and to promote connection resiliency through the creation of alternative network connection paths that can be designed to prevent single points of failure on a network. These grants will support a technology-neutral, competitive basis to entities for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure. Middle mile infrastructure is defined as:

- any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution; and includes—
    - leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and
    - wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include:

- State governments
- Electric utilities
- Telecommunications companies
- Nonprofit organizations

DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted by September 30, 2022. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.internetforall.gov/program/enabling-middle-mile-broadband-infrastructure-program

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- A listing of the agencies for which you have submitted grants
- 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

GET ORGANIZED: DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED FOR ALMOST ANY GRANT APPLICATION

By: Sydney Stapleton
Grant Development Consultant, Higher Education

Grant applications can be overwhelming to even the most experienced grants professionals. They often require a laundry list of items, requiring interaction with multiple individuals across your organization. Because of this, many nonprofits find themselves scrambling at the last minute to collect all documentation, limiting their ability to apply any finishing touches to their grant applications. The best way to combat that last minute scramble is by taking initiative and incorporate organizational time. A little organization early on can help your next application process be the smoothest yet.

> Having this work completed before even opening open a up a grant application will allow you to focus your time on the unique aspects of the application that will set your proposal apart.

Each grant application is unique. Funders have distinct priorities and put more focus on various aspects of an application. Federal grant programs tend to require extremely detailed applications with a lengthy list of requirements, while foundations tend to have shorter applications and may not require as much documentation. There are, however, common documents that you should maintain to enable a smooth process. Planning ahead, compiling all necessary documents and information early on, and maintaining an organized system will allow your grants process to move efficiently and increase your chance of success.

ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS
Organization records are items that document what services your nonprofit has provided to the community, when those services have been provided, and how. These records include your mission statement, strategic plans, annual budgets, and other documents that display how you have fulfilled your mission. Funders will also often ask for staff biographies and resumes. These are especially important to have for any individuals leading projects since funders will want to any project managers have the ability and expertise to carry out your goals.

ACCOUNT REGISTRATIONS

There are a variety of account registrations that you should create and maintain when applying for funding. These accounts include things like grants.gov, state funding agency logins, and foundation website logins. These registrations can also include Tax IDs, SAMS, and EIN numbers, which funders may need. There are a variety of ways to store this kind of information, from software that collects and saves user information to a simple word document that has logins listed. Your organization's size and structure will dictate what system works best for you.

CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Partners and collaborators are often key to grant application success. Having active partnerships highlights the buy-in your organization has from other groups or your community and emphasizes their belief in your mission and projects. Organizing the contact information of all your partners and collaborators allows for a streamlined process when the time comes to apply for a grant. This is also a suitable place to maintain a list of potential collaborators. This will enable your staff to easily pivot or develop new relationships that will help bolster a grant application.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT POLICIES OR PROCEDURES

If your organization has a grants management policy or set of procedures, they should be located within your organizational system. Having this information with all other documentation needed will allow your staff to easily find reasoning for what they can and cannot do when applying for grants. This policy should include things like defined staff roles, internal deadlines for grant applications, and evaluation plans. By having a Grants Management Policy, all those involved in your organization will know exactly what to expect when going through the application process. If your organization does not have a grants management policy in place, prioritize creating one. Having a well thought out policy in place from the beginning will allow for a more streamlined application and a better chance at winning a grant. Keep in mind the size and capacity of your organization while creating this policy. There are hundreds of management resources available online to get you started, no matter your size.

EVALUATION OF YOUR IMPACT

It is important to also maintain regular evaluations of your organization's impact as a nonprofit. There are a variety of ways nonprofits can acquire this information. Depending on the size of your organization, this resource may already exist. Evaluations can include a formal review of a past grant program, a large assessment done by an outside consultant, or something as simple as a survey or collected town hall notes. What matters is that you have documentation available to share with grant funders, highlighting a positive impact on your constituents. If you do not yet have any type of evaluation, it is never too late to start having conversations with your colleagues and collecting that data so when the time comes for you to apply for a grant, you will be prepared and set up for success.

A GRANTS CALENDAR

Grants are dependable, in that they are often on a cycle. Most grants come around yearly, with some exceptions. We recommend maintaining a grants calendar. A grants calendar allows you to keep any applicable dates organized and planned so you can maximize your application process. This can be a simple wall calendar, a shared Outlook or Google calendar, a spreadsheet, or something more interactive like a task management system. It is important that everyone can see all upcoming grant opportunities and deadlines to ensure your whole team is on the same page.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Organization is key to grant application success. By taking the time to collect the documentation described above and organizing everything in a shared location, you can eliminate repetitive administrative tasks for each individual application. You will discover how much easier your grant application process will be, which will allow your organization to focus on more productive aspects of grant funding, like crafting a project description that perfectly fits the grant funders goals.
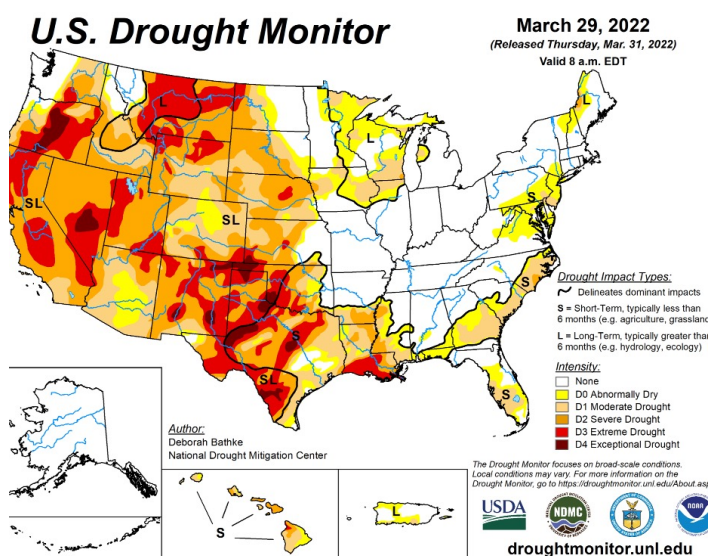
UTILIZING GRANT FUNDING TO ADDRESS DROUGHT, FLOODS, AND WILDFIRE

By: Amanda Day
Grants Development Associate (State and Local Government)

Much of the Western half of the United States is experiencing a prolonged period of severe drought conditions. In California, conditions have been intensifying since as early as 2011. Climate change has led to a significant lack of precipitation, reduced snowpack, and increased temperatures, impacting water sources, vegetation, and land, fish, and wildlife communities. Elevated temperatures have and will continue to lead to the reduction of river and stream flow rates, dryer soils, and deaths of large sections of forest. Grasses and trees have dried out, becoming more flammable and leading to an increase in wildfires that spread quickly and are very costly to fight.

U.S. Drought Monitor — March 29, 2022 (Released Thursday, Mar. 31, 2022) Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Author:
Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

As states like California, Arizona, Texas, and Colorado are ravaged by these natural disasters, there is an increased need for state and federal funding to mitigate and recover from these events. Fortunately, in addition to existing state and federal funding opportunities, an influx of capital comes from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Additional IIJA funding includes investments of $1.2 billion for water storage projects, $1.0 billion for water recycling and reuse projects, $300 million for Colorado River drought contingency plan projects, and $250 million for a new program for ecosystem restoration projects. Applicants for this funding can include but are not limited to, state and local governments, Tribal governments, counties, municipalities, and water suppliers.

An example of a federal grant program that has received additional funds is the **WaterSMART- Drought Response Program**. This grant opportunity supports the implementation of drought mitigation projects that will build long-term resilience to drought in affected states. The program received an additional $5 million in 2022 through the IIJA. Details about other **WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow)** programs can be found by visiting: WaterSMART – Data Visualization Tool (arcgis.com).

In addition to federal funding, states are creating their own grant programs to help their local governments deal with severe drought conditions. For example, California created the **Small Community Drought Relief Program** and the **Urban Community and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program**. Through these and other programs, the California Department of Water Resources has authorized $500 million to address the impacts of drought on human health and safety, fish, and wildlife resources, and to provide water to threatened communities. More information on California's drought funding initiatives can be found here: https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought/Drought-Funding. Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and Washington have also created state-funded drought relief programs in recent years.

The Federal government is making historic investments in drought resilience and water infrastructure over the next several years. These investments will help state, local and Tribal governments prepare for and prevent the destruction brought on by extreme drought, wildfire, and floods. As a result, these funds will ensure that families and farms have access to increased clean water supplies. As more funds are allocated for the protection and preservation of our natural resources, it is important for interested applicants to stay up to date on upcoming grant opportunities. They should regularly check websites such as the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for state and federal grant opportunities.

Resources for drought and fire grants funding can be found at:

https://www.drought.gov/drought-in-action/funding-opportunities

https://www.usbr.gov/drought/

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index

WATERSMART: DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of the Interior's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program provides a framework for Federal leadership and assistance to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations in support of the Department's priorities. Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with states, tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply reliability through investments in existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts. WaterSMART provides support for the Department's priorities, including creating a legacy of conservation stewardship, sustainably developing our energy and natural resources, modernizing our infrastructure through public-private partnerships, striking a regulatory balance, and restoring trust with local communities by improving relationships and communication with states, tribes, local governments, communities, landowners, and water users. WaterSMART also supports Reclamation's priorities, including increasing water supplies, leveraging science and technology to improve water supply reliability, addressing ongoing drought, and improving water supplies for tribal and rural communities.

This program supports Drought Resiliency Projects that will build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions. These projects are generally in the final design stage, environmental and cultural resources compliance may have been initiated, and the non-Federal funding, necessary permits, and other required approvals have been secured.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility varies by category. Applicants eligible for category A include State, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, and organizations with water or power delivery authority. Applicants eligible for Category B include nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with Category A applicants.

DEADLINE

Applications were to be submitted by June 15, 2022. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.usbr.gov/drought/

WATERSMART: DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAM

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

FUNDED ORGANIZATION
City of Gallup, New Mexico

PROJECT TITLE
Gallup Ground Water Well, Professional Services, Design & Construction

AMOUNT FUNDED
$2,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The City of Gallup (City), located in McKinley County, New Mexico, will construct a new production well for the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project. The new well will provide 217 acrefeet per year of drinking water for the city and the surrounding areas that it serves, increasing the water supply reliability for the region. The city has no access to surface water supplies and failing infrastructure and declining water quality pose a significant threat to public health and safety. A substantial number of residents in the City's service area live below the federal poverty level and rely heavily on water hauling. The city has experienced a variety of drought impacts including shortages in drinking water supplies, increased risks of wildfires, and other environmental concerns—most recently in 2018 through 2021. The development of new wells to ensure safe drinking water supplies is the number one priority in the Gallup/Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Water Commons Drought Contingency Plan.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION
https://www.usbr.gov/drought/docs/2022/2022-Drought-Resiliency-Project-Descriptions.pdf

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE
https://www.gallupnm.gov/

FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY (FP&S) GRANTS

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY
The objective of FP&S Program is to provide critically needed resources to conduct fire prevention education and training, fire code enforcement, fire/arson investigation, firefighter safety and health programming, prevention efforts, and research and development. In FY 2022, FP&S offers grants to support activities in two categories: Fire Prevention and Safety Activity and Firefighter Safety Research and Development (R&D) Activity.

FP&S Activities are projects designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate the incidence of death caused by fire and fire related hazards. R&D Activity Projects are aimed at improving firefighter safety, health, or wellness through research and development that reduces firefighter fatalities and injuries.

ELIGIBILITY
Eligibility varies based on program area:

- Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Activity - Fire departments; and national, regional, state, local, tribal, and non-profit organizations that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities. Both Private and public non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding this activity.
- Firefighter Safety Research and Development (R&D) Activity - National, state, local, Native American Tribal, and non-profit organizations, such as academic (i.e., universities), public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions. Both private and public non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding in this activity.

DEADLINE
Deadlines for this program vary by program area.
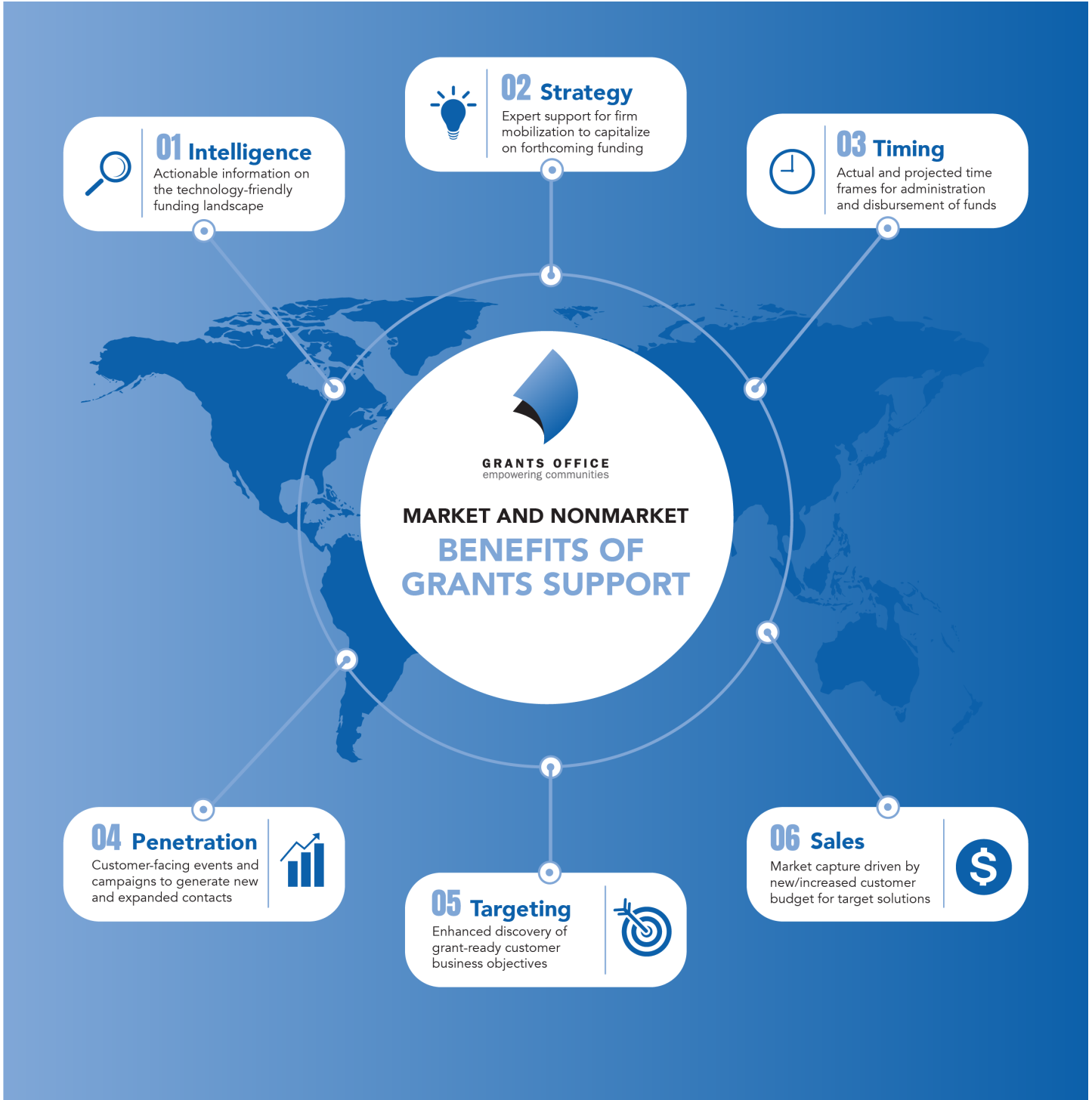
FOR MORE INFORMATION
https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safety-awards

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MARKET AND NONMARKET
BENEFITS OF GRANTS SUPPORT

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06 Sales
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Register HERE

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Sponsored by Rubrik
Date: August 10, 2022 at 2pm ET
Register HERE

IT Modernization: Best Practices for Stimulus Allocations & Creating a Long-Term Funding Strategy
Sponsored by Logitech
Date: September 8, 2022 at 2pm ET
Register HERE

Infrastructure Funding for Green Technology: UpSHIfting your IT Sustainability
Sponsored by SHI
Date: September 15, 2022 at 2pm ET
Register HERE

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