

Grant Opportunities | April 2016

Innovations in American Government Awards

Deadline: April 15

Applications are now being accepted for the \$100,000 Innovations in American Government Awards. Offered by Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, the Innovations Award recognizes programs that demonstrate creative and effective government at its best. All units of government — federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial — from all policy areas are eligible to apply for recognition. This year, the Ash Center is also offering the Roy and Lila Ash Innovations Award for Public Engagement in Government, a special Innovations Award that will recognize government-led programs that demonstrate novel and effective approaches to increasing public engagement and participation in the governance of towns, cities, states, and the nation. The winners of the Innovations in American Government Award and the Roy and Lila Ash Award will each receive a \$100,000 grant to support replication and dissemination activities in 2017. Top finalists will also receive monetary grants.

New FASTLANE Freight Discretionary Grant Program

Application Deadline: April 14

USDOT recently released details of the freight discretionary program, a new funding source created by the FAST Act reauthorization. The *Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies* (FASTLANE) grant program, previously the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program, is available to MPOs and others to fund freight projects that address major issues of national or regional significance. Most of the funding is for projects of \$100 million or more, but a portion of the funds is reserved for smaller projects. USDOT announced that the first round of funding will provide \$800 million.

Local Food Producer Outreach, Education, and Training Grants

Application deadline: April 21

The Food Drug Administration recently announced the availability of funding for local food producer outreach, education, and training for the purpose of enhancing Food Safety and Food Safety Modernization Act Compliance in FY 2016. Projects will research and identify training, outreach and education and technical assistance needs, deliver outreach and training, and develop and adapt materials that facilitate the integration and understanding of federal food safety regulations and guidance among owners and operators of small and mid-size farms and businesses involved in local food production.

TIGER Discretionary Grants

Deadline: April 29

Transportation Secretary Foxx announced the eighth round of the TIGER discretionary grant program, worth \$500 million. These grants fund surface transportation projects on a competitive basis that have a significant impact on the nation, metro area, or region.

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FY16 Flood Mitigation Assistance

Deadline: June 15

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program makes available federal funds to State, Local and Tribal Governments to implement and sustain cost-effective measures that reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will fund planning up to \$100,000 per applicant with a maximum of \$50,000 for state plans and \$25,000 for local plans. FEMA will fund technical assistance up to \$50,000 for states who were awarded FMA Grant Program funds totaling at least \$1 million in FY 2015. The remaining FMA funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will reduce or eliminate claims under the NFIP with a focus on mitigation of severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss properties as well as projects that will reduce the risk profile in communities through mitigation of the largest number of NFIP-insured properties on a neighborhood level.

USDA Strategic Economic and Community Development Funding Opportunity

Deadline: June 30

A new section of the 2014 Farm Bill allows for the priority of projects that support strategic economic and community development plans. The result is a provision called Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) with \$300 million in set-aside funds for FY 2016. The purpose of SECD is to advance projects which support long-term community and economic growth strategies that reflect both multi-jurisdictional stakeholder collaboration and capitalize upon the unique strengths of the rural area. The goal is to create a regional focus and increase collaboration across Rural Development agencies and programs. To be eligible for the priority consideration, a project must be eligible under a current Rural Development program such as the Community Facility Direct Loans and Grants, be carried out in a rural area, and support a multi-jurisdictional strategic economic and community development plan.

Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets Extended

September 2016

Last year, Secretary Foxx challenged city leaders to raise the bar for bicyclist and pedestrian safety by joining a year-long *Mayors' Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets* effort. Mayors and other elected city officials created local action teams to advance safety and accessibility goals by taking on challenge activities. Over the course of the year, USDOT invited Challenge Cities to participate in forums, webinars, and learn about available resources to help them accomplish their goals. The challenge is now open until September 2016. Interested cities can still join the more than 200 Challenge cities committed to improving walking and biking by emailing pedbikesafety@dot.gov.

Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs

Deadline: Rolling

Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global

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marketplace. Through the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO), the Economic Development Administration (EDA) solicits applications from rural and urban communities to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions. EDA is employing a new two-phase review process for proposals/applications submitted under this FFO. Proposals will be reviewed by EDA within 30 days of receipt; and following the proposal review, full applications will be reviewed within 60 days of receipt.

Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities

The U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC) program offers no-cost technical assistance from national solar experts to help communities around the country evaluate, develop, and implement better solar plans and policies. By participating in the program and earning SPARC designation, communities will set themselves apart as leaders in solar policy, and will signal to solar companies that they are "open for business." Right now, there is an opportunity for a select few communities to join an elite group of "SPARC Early Adopters" and gain access to exclusive program benefits. The first 30 communities to receive technical assistance from the SPARC team and to be on track to implement a majority of its recommendations (based on proven, national best practices) for improving planning and zoning, permitting and inspection, and financing options for solar by March 31, 2016, will receive recognition as "Early Adopters."