Innovation Matters: Funding Opportunities, Publications, Events and Learning

July 2019 | Issue 1

Bi-weekly e-Newsletter highlighting funding and learning opportunities in rural America.

Spotlight Announcements

**Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loan & Grant Program** USDA
Rural Development provides funding to construct, enlarge, or improve essential community facilities in rural areas. **USDA has more than $2 Billion still available for rural communities** to build or modernize education, health care, municipal and public safety facilities this fiscal year. **Application Deadline: Ongoing**

In This Issue:

**Funding Opportunities**
- Rural Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Tribal-specific

**Publications**

**Event Opportunities**

Funding Opportunities

**Rural Infrastructure**

**Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees** USDA Rural Development’s Rural Utilities Services offers this program to provide financing for the construction, maintenance, improvement and expansion of telephone service and broadband in rural areas. **Application Deadline: Ongoing**

**Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design**
National Endowment for the Arts’ Housing Assistance Council offers opportunities that connect rural communities to design resources to improve community streets, buildings, public spaces, or
landscapes to address the specific physical, environmental, social, and economic challenges facing rural areas. Application Deadline: July 22, 2019

**Capital Magnet Fund**
Treasury’s Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund competitively awards this grant to CDFIs and other qualified non-profit housing organizations to finance affordable housing solutions and community revitalization efforts that benefit distressed communities, including underserved rural areas. Application Deadline: July 26, 2019

**Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities: Partners for Places**
Partners for Places, an initiative of the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, is a matching grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. Application Deadline: July 30, 2019

**Integrated Mobility Innovation Demonstration Program**
Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation Grants for projects that demonstrate innovative and effective practices, partnerships, and technologies to enhance public transportation effectiveness, increase efficiency, expand quality, promote safety, and improve the traveler experience. The program intends to test models across rural, suburban, and urban settings. Application Deadline: Aug 6, 2019

**Farm Labor Housing Direct Loans & Grants Program**
USDA is seeking applications for loans and grants to build new farm labor housing projects or to purchase and rehabilitate non-RD property for farm labor housing. Application Deadline: August 30, 2019

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**Economic Development**

**Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program**
USDA Rural Development provides loans to intermediaries to establish revolving loan funds and to provide training and technical assistance to microloan borrowers and micro entrepreneurs. Application Deadline: Ongoing

**Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities: Partners for Places**
Matching grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations, helping national funders invest in local projects to promote a strong economy. Application Deadline: July 30, 2019

**National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Demonstration Grant**
The Employment and Training Administration offers a new grant program to help communities solve economic and workforce-related issues due to the opioid crisis. Application Deadline: July 31, 2019

**Conservation Innovation Grants**
USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers funds to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. Application Deadline: July 30, 2019

**Community Mobility Design Challenge Planning Grants**
The National Center for Mobility Management offers support to rural communities seeking innovative
ways to address mobility challenges to support increased economic indicators. **Application Deadline:** Aug 1, 2019

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**Tribal-Specific**

**Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes**
Provides grants to federally-recognized tribes and intertribal consortia for the development and implementation of hazardous waste programs and for building capacity to address hazardous waste management on tribal lands. **Application Deadline:** Aug 1, 2019

**Tribal Transit Awards**
National Rural Transit Assistance Program provides awards to honor innovation, efficiency, commitment, and performance in the tribal transit industry. **Application Deadline:** Aug 2, 2019

**Tribal Opioid Response Grants**
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides grants to address the opioid crisis in tribal communities by increasing access to culturally appropriate and evidence-based treatment, including medication-assisted treatment. **Application Deadline:** Aug 6, 2019

**Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Competitive Program**
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announces the availability of $198 million for competitive grants to Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities eligible to receive IHBG funding under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996. [NOFA](#). **Application Deadline:** August 8, 2019

**Healthy Homes Production Grant Program for Tribal Housing**
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes offers grants for Native American tribal governments to identify and remediate housing related health and safety hazards. **Application Deadline:** Aug 9, 2019

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**Publications**

**What Makes a Resilient City?**
Published article run by [Policy Map](#) demonstrates that areas can be ready when disasters strike by identifying their strengths and weaknesses, with new Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (BRIC) data.

**Comparison of the Rural Development B&I and REAP Programs with the SBA 7(a) and 504 Programs**
USDA Rural Development and the Small Business Administration developed this joint publication to support entrepreneurs and small businesses to succeed as both agencies offer resources and financial assistance to start or grow businesses in rural America.

**Broadband Deployment: Status and Federal Programs**
Congressional Research Service addresses the availability of broadband in rural, urban, and tribal areas of the U.S.; percent of households with broadband; and federal programs supporting broadband development and adoption.

**Building a Field of Rural Philanthropy: The Case for Creating a Rural Philanthropic Network**
Report by PhilanthropywoRx outlines rural philanthropic networks, how they can benefit rural
communities and provides guidance for setting up networks and establishes key stakeholders in rural communities.

**Resource Guide: Promising Programs in Native American Communities**
Highlights from the Montana Healthcare Foundation feature programs to support mental health and suicide prevention, substance abuse, social determinants of health, and diabetes prevention, among other rural issues.

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**Event Opportunities**

**NATIONAL SBIR ROAD TOUR SCHEDULE 2019**
August 12 – 16 | Tucson, Arizona; El Paso, Texas; Albuquerque, New Mexico and Boulder, Colorado
Small Business Administration’s Road Tour connects entrepreneurs working on advanced technology to the country’s largest source of early stage funding with a focus on next generation research & development.

**National Rural Transit Assistance Program Technical Assistance Conference**
September 15 – 18, 2019 | Portland, OR
The National Rural Transit Assistance Program’s 4th Biennial Technical Assistance Conference offers learning opportunities from industry experts and peers. [Tribal Scholarship available to attend](#).

**The Rural Arts and Culture Summit**
October 3 – 5 | Grand Rapids, MN
Biennial, practitioner-driven gathering that celebrates and expands the field of rural arts-based community development.

**Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Conference**
October 8 – 11, 2019 | Astoria, Oregon
Conference designed to enhance sustainable tourism development nationally by providing research, training, resources and networking opportunities in tourism and recreation marketing, management and development.

**Rural Energy Conference**
February 25, 2020 | Chicago IL
ACEEE hosts event to explore how energy efficiency and clean energy are increasing rural prosperity featuring interactive sessions, panels, and networking with leaders from utilities, government, industry, nonprofits, financial institutions, and academia. [Registration](#).

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**Newsletters, websites and emails from which we gather this information include:**

- Foundation Center
- The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- e2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
- Pew Research Center
- Philanthropy News Digest
- Rural LISC e-newsletter
- National Association for Development Organization