# Kerr-Tar Regional Council Of Governments

## OPPORTUNITIES NEWSLETTER

### Interested in applying?

### Contact us to get started.

alewis@kerrtarcog.org
(252) 436-2040, ext. 2005

**Regional Project Manager's Notes:**

If you are passionate about broadband, please fill-out the Kerr-Tar Regional Broadband Planning Committee interest form to support the Digital Inclusion project efforts starting in as soon as we have sixteen interested applicants that fill the designated seats. Moving the first meeting date out to accept additional applications!

Thank you,
Amanda Lewis

**Meeting Scheduler**

## December 2024

**Grants to Support New Investigators in Conducting Research Related to Preventing Interpersonal Violence Impacting Children and Youth**

This Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) supports an intensive, supervised (mentored) career development experience in violence prevention research leading to research independence. NCIPC supports K01 grants to help ensure the availability of an adequate

number of trained scientists to address critical public health research questions to prevent violence and injury.

Applicants must propose a research project that addresses at least one of the research priorities in the interpersonal violence prevention section of the NCIPC Research Priorities as they relate to **violence impacting children or youth (from birth through age 17)**. These research priorities include: Cross-cutting violence prevention; Adverse childhood experiences; Child abuse and neglect; Youth violence; Intimate partner violence (including teen dating violence); and Sexual violence. Applicants are also encouraged to address the following: (1) Multiple forms of violence impacting children or youth; (2) Firearm-related behavior, crime, injuries, and deaths among children and youth; (3) The social or structural conditions that contribute to a greater risk for violence and health inequities across population groups; and (4) How the proposed research study has practical relevance to inform prevention and intervention activities. Applicants should explicitly state the research priorities their application addresses.

**Award Max: $150,000**

**Learn More**

## NEH: Scholarly Editions and Translations

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Research Programs is accepting applications for the Scholarly Editions and Translations program. This program supports collaborative teams who are editing, annotating, and translating foundational humanities texts that are vital to generating new scholarship but are inaccessible or only available in inadequate editions or translations. NOFO

**Planning:** Up to $65,000
**Implementation:** Up to $100,000 per year in outright funds, plus an additional $50,000 in matching funds, for a maximum of $150,000 per year and a maximum of $450,000 per award.
**Match:** No, unless requesting federal dollars for a match.
**Period of Performance:** Planning: One to two years; Implementation: One to three years  Projects must start between October 1, 2025, and September 1, 2026 (for proposals submitted for the 2024 deadline), or between October 1, 2026, and September 1, 2027 (for proposals submitted for the 2025 deadline).

**Learn More**

## Field Initiated Projects Program (Development)

The purpose of the Field Initiated Projects program is to generate

new knowledge through research or to develop methods, procedures, and technologies -- to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family/caregiver support, and economic and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities, especially people with the greatest support needs. In carrying out a development project under a Field Initiated Projects development grant, a grantee must use knowledge and understanding gained from research to create materials, devices, systems, methods, measures, techniques, tools, prototypes, processes, or intervention protocols that are beneficial to the target population. Please note that this will be the funding opportunity for Field Initiated Projects development proposals. We will invite Field Initiated Projects research proposals under a separate announcement. NIDILRR plans to make 15 Field Initiated Projects awards. Grants will have a 36-month project period, with three 12-month budget periods. NIDILRR's Field Initiated Projects will include a combination of research applications and development applications, depending on the combined ranking of individual research and development applications by the peer review panel. For information on the application process with Administration for Community Living, visit the ACL program website. **Award Max: $250,000**
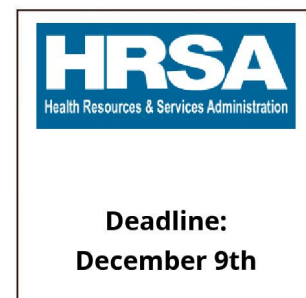
**Learn More**

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## State Offices of Rural Health Coordination and Development Program (SORHCDP)

The purpose of the State Offices of Rural Health Coordination and Development Program (SORHCDP) is to develop and maintain activities that will build the capacity of the 50 SORH and rural stakeholders nationwide by strengthening leadership, increasing opportunities for collaboration, offering education on policy and emerging health issues, and supporting the core functions of the SORH. This in turn will improve health care in rural areas.

Funding Cycle details for the SORHCDP FY2025

**Program Goals**

- Goal 1: Leadership Development
  - Provide leadership development at national, regional, state, and local levels to increase the impact of SORH.
- Goal 2: Partnerships and Collaboration
  - Facilitate partnerships and collaboration at the national, regional, state, and local levels to improve the exchange of data, information, and best practices that support rural health.
- Goal 3: Addressing Emerging Rural Health Issues
  - Assist in the coordination of rural health care through education on policy and emerging health issues including HRSA priorities.
- Goal 4: SORH Capacity and Efficiency
  - Provide capacity building for SORH core functions to improve SORH efficiency

Application type: New, Competing Continuation

Expected total available FY 2025 funding: **$950,000**

Expected number and type of awards: Up to 1 Cooperative Agreement
Funding range per award: Up to $950,000 per budget period
We plan to fund awards in 12-month budget periods for a total 5-year period of
performance of August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2030.
The program and awards depend on the appropriation of funds and are subject to
- change based on the availability and amount of appropriations.

**Learn More**

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## Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Research is accepting applications for the Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence program. The purpose of this program is to support the establishment of new collaborative humanities research centers focused on the legal, ethical, or societal implications of developing AI technologies. A Center is a sustained collaboration among multiple scholars focused on exploring the humanities implications of AI through two or more related scholarly activities. You may submit an optional prospectus. You must use the prospectus template found under Application Instructions, Step 1 Review your application package, "Program Resources." To receive feedback, you must submit the prospectus by Oct 2, 2024 to aicenters@neh.gov. Put "AI Center Prospectus" in the subject line of the message. NEH staff will only comment on one prospectus per institution per competition deadline.

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**Deadline: December 11th**

**Maximum award amount:** Up to $750,000 ($500,000 in outright funds plus $250,000 in Federal Matching Funds)
**Expected output** Curriculum Project; Digital Infrastructure (Software, Website, etc.); Conference; Workshop; Other Scholarly Resource
**Period of performance** Up to three years
**Expected notification date** August 31, 2025
**Project start date** October 1, 2025 - September 1, 2026

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## White-nose Syndrome Research for Conservation Grants

White-nose syndrome is a disease impacting multiple species of hibernating bats in North America. It is caused by the non-native fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd), which was first observed in North America in 2006. As of April 2024, WNS is confirmed in bats in 40 states (**including North Carolina**) and eight

Canadian provinces, and evidence of Pd has been detected in at least three additional states and two provinces without observed signs of the disease. Numerous North American and Eurasian species of bats have been confirmed with WNS or detected carrying Pd. For information on WNS and previously funded projects, please see: http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org

**Aware Range: $20,000 - $250,000 (Expected: $150,000)**

**Match: 30%**

White-nose Syndrome Research for Conservation Grants complement three additional funding opportunities from the Service in support of the WNS National Response in 2024: 1) WNS Grants to States and Tribes (www.Grants.gov, F24AS00295); 2) Bats for the Future Fund, managed by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (www.nfwf.org/bats); and 3) White-nose Syndrome Small Grants, managed by Wildlife Management Institute. Contact the Service's WNS national assistant coordinator for more information about these funding opportunities. The use of grant funds requires adherence to established protocols and methodologies developed or espoused by the national WNS working groups for surveillance, diagnostics, population monitoring, conservation and recovery, and disease management (for more information contact the appropriate Service WNS coordinator), as well as the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. All proposed actions must be in-line with the most current guidance, policies, and information related to the COVID-19 pandemic and SARS-CoV-2. The Service's WNS program is supported through the branches of Ecological Services and Science Applications, and grants will be administered through the Office of Conservation Investment (OCI). Grants will be competitively awarded based on merit review of proposed projects for their applicability and feasibility to address priorities identified in this notice and for their overall contribution to meeting the objectives of the WNS national plan (White-Nose Syndrome Response Plans).

**Deadline: December 15**

**Learn More**

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## Walmart - Local Community Grants

**Q1: April 15**
**Q2: July 15**
**Q3: October 15**
**Q4: December 31**

Local Community grants range from a minimum of $250 to a maximum of $5,000. Eligible nonprofit organizations must operate on the local level (or be an affiliate/chapter of a larger organization that operates locally) and directly benefit the service area of the facility from which they are requesting funding.

There are eight (8) areas of funding for which an organization can apply. Please review the areas listed below to ensure your organization's goals fall within one of these areas.

- Community and Economic Development: Improving local communities for the benefit of low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Diversity and Inclusion: Fostering the building of relationships and understanding among diverse groups in the local service area

- Education: Providing after-school enrichment, tutoring or vocational training for low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Environmental Sustainability: Preventing waste, increasing recycling, or supporting other programs that work to improve the environment in the local service area
- Health and Human Service: Providing medical screening, treatment, social services, or shelters for low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating: Providing Federal or charitable meals/snacks for low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Public Safety: Supporting public safety programs through training programs or equipment in the local service area
- Quality of Life: Improving access to recreation, arts or cultural experiences for low-income individuals and families in the local service area

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## National Fish Passage Program

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a voluntary program that provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic organism passage and aquatic connectivity for the benefit of Federal trust resources. In doing so, NFPP aims to maintain or increase native fish populations to improve ecosystem resiliency and provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. Activities that restore fish passage often

**Deadline: December 31**

provide ancillary benefits such as reducing flood risk, enhancing community resilience to impacts from climate change, and improving road infrastructure. NFPP funds a variety of project types including, but not limited to, dam removals, culvert replacements, floodplain restoration, and the installation of fishways.

Award Range: $500 - $1,000,000

Match: None Check out the NOFO for more details

This funding is available through annual appropriations to the NFPP and is separate from NFPP funding provided through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law).

Benefits to disadvantaged communities. The program strives to use federal funds to benefit underserved and disadvantaged communities. The program may consider the following variables to determine whether a project benefits a disadvantaged or underserved community, including but not limited to low income or high poverty, high unemployment, linguistic isolation, disproportionate impacts from climate change or other environmental stressors. Applicants should access the Council for Environmental Quality screening tool to help determine to what extent their project benefits disadvantaged communities. Check your area with the
https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/

Benefits for community resilience to climate change. The program may give special consideration to projects demonstrating benefits for climate resiliency to the surrounding community as outlined in Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home

and Abroad.

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## Recovery Implementation

**Deadline: December 31**

The principal goal of the Recovery Implementation funding opportunity is to support the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species. This includes working with partners, using a range of conservation tools to "recover" endangered species to ensure that they are able to survive on their own in the wild. These tools include restoring habitat, removing invasive species, conducting surveys, monitoring individual populations, and breeding species in captivity to release them into their historic range. Collaborative efforts are critical to recovery success. Our partners include many State, and local agencies, Tribal governments, conservation organizations, the business community, landowners, and other concerned citizens.

**Proposals will be prioritized based on the following:** NOFO

1. Enhance partnerships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, other Federal agencies, and others, 2. Leverage our resources and authorities with those of our partners, and 3. Highest priority will be given to projects that develop and implement management actions designed to have a direct impact on recovery of listed species (e.g., reduce or eliminate threats). Examples of such projects may include the following: a. Stabilize endangered and threatened species on the brink of extinction by accomplishing Priority 1 and 2 Recovery Actions.  b. Achieve downlisting and delisting criteria by accomplishing Priority 3 Recovery Actions. c. Contribute information on the species' current condition, changes from historical to current condition, or predict the species' response to environmental conditions or conservation efforts. d. Reduce the extinction risk to the species, such that the future condition of the species is likely to improve in terms of representation, resiliency, and/or redundancy.

**Award range:** $1,000 - $2,000,000

**Match:** No

**Indirect Costs:** Organizations The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior (DOI) is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center (IBC) will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the IBC by phone 916-930-3803 or using the IBC Email Submission Form. See the IBC Website for more information.

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## Candidate Species Conservation

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Ecological Services Program provides Federal financial assistance on a competitive basis

to states, landowners, educators, non-profit organizations, researchers and other potential partners to secure information about candidate and other at-risk species to avert listing of species pursuant to the ESA, and to help conserve the ecosystems upon which these species depend. II. Program Objective The principal objective of this Candidate Species Conservation funding opportunity is to accomplish conservation tasks for high priority candidate species (based on our annual Candidate Species Assessments) or other at-risk species in the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated. These efforts are based on cooperative relationships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners and those interested in habitat restoration or undertaking candidate and atrisk species research, surveys and monitoring, or educational outreach efforts. NOFO

Species eligible for this funding opportunity include both candidate and at-risk species. A full list of candidate species is available through the Service's ECOS website:

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/candidate-species

**Match:** No

**Award Range:** $1,000 to $500,000

**Indirect Costs:** Organizations The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior (DOI) is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center (IBC) will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the IBC by phone 916-930-3803 or using the IBC Email Submission Form. See the IBC Website for more information.

**Learn More**

# January 2025

## Public Humanities Projects

**Deadline:
January 8th**

NEH encourages applications from small and mid-sized organizations. NEH likewise welcomes humanities projects tailored to specific groups, such as families, youth (including K-12 students in informal educational settings), underserved communities, and veterans. NOFO

Public Humanities Projects must:

• be grounded in sound humanities scholarship

• analyze the underlying themes and ideas to deepen public understanding

• involve humanities scholars from outside the applicant organization in all phases of the project

• attract a broad public audience or target a particular underserved group

• approach engaging content through an appropriate variety of perspectives

• encourage dialogue and the exchange of ideas

Awards may support activities such as:

• meetings with humanities scholars and other content advisers, program partners, audience

representatives, and consultants (e.g., education and public program specialists; historic site, interpretive, or cultural tourism experts; writers; media producers; or digital designers)
• research, including travel to archives, collections, sites, or other resources
• development and production of program or discussion guides, exhibition labels, brochures, digital assets, publications, or other interpretive material
• design of the interpretive formats
• planning and presentation of public programs and related publicity
• evaluation of the project's impact
• planning and conducting project-specific training for docents, discussion coordinators, or other interpretive leaders
• development, production, and publication of curriculum guides, catalogs, and other materials for teachers and students
• exhibition design and fabrication, crating, and shipping
• conservation treatments of objects, not to exceed 15% of the award
• development and construction of interactive components
• publicity expenses

**Award Types:**
- Planning: up to $60,000
- Implementation: $50,000 to $400,000
- Implementation: Chair's Special Awards: up to $1,000,000
- *Implementation applicants may request up to $100,000 above the ceiling amount for Positions in Public Humanities to create a two-year, full-time staff position. (Applicants requesting a one-year period of performance may request up to $50,000 for a one-year, full-time staff position.) Applicants for implementation of a permanent or traveling exhibition or historic places project may request an additional $50,000 in matching funds (for a total award of up to $450,000, or $550,000, if also requesting a Position in Public Humanities).

**Match:** No

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## Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access is accepting applications for the Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions program. The program encourages applications from small and mid-sized institutions that have never received an NEH grant.  Maximum award amount Up to $10,000 for organizations in the contiguous U.S. Organizations located in a non-contiguous state or jurisdiction may request an additional $5,000 for consultants' travel and shipping costs.

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**Deadline: January 9th**

**How may funds be used?**
Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-sized organizations preserve and manage
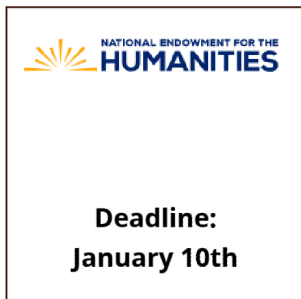
humanities collections, ensuring their significance for a variety of users, including source communities, humanities researchers, students, and the public, by building their capacity to identify and address physical and intellectual preservation risks. These collections may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine art objects, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials.

There will be an information webinar on *October 29, 2024, 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time*. Register here.

**Learn More**

## Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections



**Deadline: January 10th**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access is accepting applications for the Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program. A pre-recorded webinar will be published on their page by November 29, 2024. This program helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting environmentally sustainable preventive care measures that mitigate deterioration, prolong the useful life of collections, reduce energy consumption, and strengthen institutions' ability to anticipate and respond to disasters. *Option draft due December 5th.*

There are three levels of funding. **Planning (up to $50,000)** provides funding for institutions to develop and assess environmentally sustainable preventive care strategies in collection spaces. **Implementation Level I (up to $100,000)** provides funding for institutions to implement environmentally sustainable preventive care projects that address specific, discrete preservation challenges that have been identified through an assessment. **Implementation Level II (up to $350,000)** provides funding for institutions to implement environmentally sustainable preventive care projects that address large or multifaceted preservation challenges that have been identified through assessments and planning conducted by a multidisciplinary collaborative professional team appropriate to the goals of the project.

**How may funds be used?**
Displayed expected output Improved conditions for collection storage and display; Improved systems and resilience for collections; Reduced energy usage and costs; In-depth preservation studies and plans.
Period of performance Up to two years for Planning and Implementation Level I; up to three years for Implementation Level II.

**Learn More**

## Farm to School Grant-Turnkey

The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program is designed to increase the availability of local foods in schools and connect students to the sources of their food through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for school meals. Grants can launch new farm to school programs or expand existing efforts. The objective of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Farm to School Turnkey grants is to simplify the proposal-writing process by providing pre-designed activities to simplify applications for frequently proposed farm to school projects. However, it is important for all prospective applicants to read the RFA in full to ensure that they understand all submission requirements.

**USDA**
**Deadline: January 10th**

NOFO

There are three Turnkey Grant project tracks available in FY 2025: Action Planning, Agricultural Education, and Edible Gardens. Applicants may only apply to one project track. The project types are summarized as follows:
• Turnkey – Action Planning grantees will develop a roadmap for launching or enhancing farm to school activities.
• Turnkey – Agricultural Education grantees will incorporate agricultural education into curricula.
• Turnkey – Edible Gardens grantees will implement a food production operation.
**Award Range:** $5,000 to $50,000
**Matching Support:** 25%; The NSLA requires each Farm to School Grant recipient to provide matching support in the form of cash or in-kind contributions and agree to cooperate in an evaluation of the program carried out using grant funds.

All applicants must demonstrate a commitment to one or more federal Child Nutrition Program(s).
The FY 2025 Farm to School Turnkey Grant awards projects of 24 months in length for funding up to $50,000. Applicants are required to provide matching support of at least 25 percent of the total project budget in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Eligible applicants for the Turnkey Grant may include schools and other institutions that operate Child Nutrition Programs, Indian Tribal Organizations, agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers, non-profit entities, and local agencies.

**Learn More**

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## Farm to School Implementation Grant

**USDA**
**Deadline: January 10th**

The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program is designed to increase the availability of local foods in schools and connect students to the sources of their food through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for school meals. Grants can launch new farm to school programs or expand existing efforts. The objective of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Farm to School Implementation Grant is to improve access to local foods in eligible

CNP sites through comprehensive farm to school programming that includes both local sourcing and agricultural education efforts. Project proposals should incorporate both elements of the required objective. NOFO

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Farm to School Implementation Grant awards projects of 24 months in length for funding up to $500,000. Applicants are required to provide matching support of at least 25 percent of the total project budget in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Eligible applicants for the Implementation grant may include schools and other institutions that operate Child Nutrition Programs, Indian Tribal Organizations, agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers, non-profit entities, and local agencies. Note that State agencies are not eligible for Farm to School Implementation Grants. Please see section 3 for additional details on eligibility.

**Award Range:** $50,000 to $500,000

**Matching Support:** 25%; The NSLA requires each Farm to School Grant recipient to provide matching support in the form of cash or in-kind contributions and agree to cooperate in an evaluation of the program carried out using grant funds.

**Learn More**

## Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, State, Private & Tribal Forestry, is requesting applications for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Community Forest Program or CFP). CFP is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to Indian Tribes, local governments, and qualified conservation non-profit organizations to establish community forests through the fee simple acquisition of private forest land.



**USDA**

Deadline: January 13th

The purpose of the program is to establish community forests by protecting forestland from conversion to non-forest uses and provide community benefits including public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs. Public access is required for all projects.

To apply, interested local government and nonprofit applicants must submit applications to the State Forester where the property is located. Tribal applicants must submit applications to equivalent Tribal government officials. All applications must be received by State Foresters or Tribal governments by January 13, 2025. Note: All applicants must also send an e-mail to SM.FS.CFP@usda.gov to confirm that their application has been submitted.

State Foresters or Tribal government officials must forward applications to the appropriate Forest Service Regional office or International Institute of Tropical Forestry by February 10, 2025.

**Award Range:** $0 to $600,000

**Matching Support:** 50%; All applicants must demonstrate a 50 percent cost share of the total project cost or greater. The cost share can include cash, in-kind services, or donations3, which

must be from a non-Federal source.

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## Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants in North Carolina

**Deadline: January 31, 2025**

This program assists rural small businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits and providing Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA).

**How may funds be used?**
The assistance must be provided to agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Rural small businesses must be located in eligible rural areas. This restriction does not apply to agricultural producers.

Assistance provided must consist of:

- Energy audits.
- Renewable energy technical assistance.
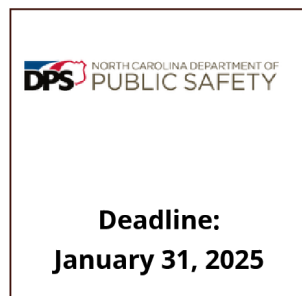- Renewable energy site assessments.

Applicants must submit separate applications, limited to one energy audit and one Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA) per fiscal year. The maximum aggregate amount of an energy audit and REDA grant in a Federal fiscal year is $100,000.

**Learn More**

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## State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

DHS/FEMA currently estimates that they will publish the FY24 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) sometime in August 2024, all dates subject to change. We anticipate soliciting subrecipients for FY24 SLCGP funding in North Carolina sometime after the NOFO is published by DHS/FEMA, all dates subject to change. This website will be updated as more details become available. **Estimated match: 20%**

**DPS NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Deadline: January 31, 2025**

**How may funds be used, looking at the 2023 NOFO?**

1. Manage, monitor, and track information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by, or on behalf of, the state or local governments within the state, and the information technology deployed on those information systems, including legacy information systems and information technology that are no longer supported by the manufacturer of the systems or technology.

2. Monitor, audit, and track network traffic and activity transiting or traveling to or from information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by, or on behalf

of, the state or local governments within the state.

3. Enhance the preparation, response, and resilience of information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by, or on behalf of, the state or local governments within the state, against cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats.

4. Implement a process of continuous cybersecurity vulnerability assessments and threat mitigation practices prioritized by degree of risk to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats on information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by, or on behalf of, the state or local governments within the state.

5. Ensure that the state or local governments within the state, adopt and use best practices and methodologies to enhance cybersecurity, discussed further below.

- Implement multi-factor authentication
- Implement enhanced logging
- Data encryption for data at rest and in transit
- End use of unsupported/end of life software and hardware that are accessible from the internet
- Prohibit use of known/fixed/default passwords and credentials
- Ensure the ability to reconstitute systems (backups); and
- Migration to the .gov internet domain

Additional best practices that the Cybersecurity Plan can address include:
- The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework
- NIST's cyber chain supply chain risk management best practices; and
- Knowledge bases of adversary tools and tactics

1. Promote the delivery of safe, recognizable, and trustworthy online services by the state or local governments within the state, including through the use of the .gov internet domain.

2. Ensure continuity of operations of the state or local governments within the state, in the event of a cybersecurity incident, including by conducting exercises to practice responding to a cybersecurity incident.

3. Use the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity developed by NIST to identify and mitigate any gaps in the cybersecurity workforces of the state or local governments within the state, enhance recruitment and retention efforts for those workforces, and bolster the knowledge, skills, and abilities of personnel of the state or local governments within the state, to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats, such as through cybersecurity hygiene training.

4. Ensures continuity of communication and data networks within the jurisdiction of the state between the state and local governments within the state in the event of an incident involving those communications or data networks.

5. Assess and mitigate, to the greatest degree possible, cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats relating to critical infrastructure and key resources, the degradation of which may impact the performance of information systems within the jurisdiction of the state.

6. Enhance capabilities to share cyber threat indicators and related information between the state, local governments within the state, and CISA.

7. Leverage cybersecurity services offered by the Department (See Appendix G for additional information on CISA resources and required services and membership).

8. Implement an information technology and operational technology modernization cybersecurity review process that ensures alignment between information technology and operational technology cybersecurity objectives.

9. Develop and coordinate strategies to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats. Local governments and associations of local governments within the state should

be consulted. Cybersecurity Planning Committees should also consider consulting neighboring entities, including adjacent states and countries.

10. Ensure adequate access to, and participation in, the services and programs described in this subparagraph by rural areas within the state.

11. Distribute funds, items, services, capabilities, or activities to local governments.

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## Training & Resources

NC CLEAN ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

SUSTAINABLE FLEET TECHNOLOGY
WEBINAR SERIES 2024

NC CLEAN ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

NAFA
FLEET MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

**Key Performance Indicators**

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024 | 2–3:30 p.m.
As fleets receive mandates for carbon reduction, there are opportunities to build partnerships with sustainability departments as advocates instead of being perceived as a primary source of emissions. This webinar will review how:

- Establishing KPIs can guide fleet management as a sustainability practice and garner support by providing measurable results to an organization's triple bottom line;
- Telematics can align with the KPIs to consolidate the data for in-depth reports and visual dashboards; and
- Dashboards provide a quick visual reference to review success or areas for improvement and can be adapted for various audiences and their interests, such as demonstrating carbon reduction for sustainability managers and identifying financial savings for government leadership and elected officials, while empowering managers with more details contributing to operational success.

## Off-road Electric Equipment

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024 | 2–3:30 p.m.
In this session, we will dive into the various types of electric off-road machinery available today, their best use cases, and the essential logistics of charging these innovative tools. As industries shift towards more sustainable practices, understanding electric options can enhance efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

THE **GREAT TRAILS STATE** NORTH CAROLINA ★ USA

NOVEMBER 21
**CITIES, TOWNS, AND COUNTIES FOR TRAILS VIRTUAL MEETING**
*Join trail partners from across the state to share updates, ideas, and inspiration to get more and better trails on the ground.*

Thursday, November 21, 2024 | 12:00pm
Agenda:
1. Great Trails State Coalition Updates
2. Western NC Trail Updates
3. Legislative Updates
4. Special presentation:
Trail Safety: Greensboro's Rescue Marker Program with Elizabeth Jernigan (Greensboro Parks & Rec) and Andy Jones (Greensboro Fire Department)

### Benton Institute for Broadband

High-speed, affordable broadband is the infrastructure of opportunity. Our goal is to bring open, affordable, high-performance broadband to all people in the U.S. to ensure a thriving democracy. Benton believes that communications policy—rooted in the values of access, equity, and diversity—has the power to deliver new opportunities and strengthen communities.

YouTube Channel: Benton Institute for Broadband

### CSEN: The Cyber Security Entertainment Network

The National Cybersecurity Alliance excited to partner with Greatest Training Ever to bring you CSEN: The Cyber Security Entertainment Network! Led by renown newsman and on-air personality Chet Barkley, CSEN features an an ensemble cast that delivers fun, relevant, and timely cyber security tips and advice.

**YouTube Playlist: The Cyber Security Entertainment Network**

StaySafeOnlineNCA is the official YouTube channel of the National Cybersecurity Alliance. NCA's mission is to educate and therefore empower a digital society to use the Internet safely and securely at home, work, and school, protecting the technology individuals use, the networks they connect to, and our shared digital assets. For more information, visit www.staysafeonline.org.

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