TAMMY DUCKWORTH
U.S. SENATOR FOR ILLINOIS

Federal & State Grant Funding Opportunities Available Through August 2026

Education & Labor

Announcement of Stand Down Grants

The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) supports local Stand Down events that assist veterans experiencing homelessness by providing a wide range of employment, social, and health services. Stand Down is a military term referring to an opportunity to achieve a brief respite from combat. Troops assemble in a base camp to receive new clothing, hot food, support services, and a relative degree of safety before returning to combat action. A DOL VETS-funded Stand Down event serves a similar purpose; however, it is intended for veterans experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. The critical services provided at these events are often the catalyst that enables those individuals to reenter the workforce.

Deadline: September 30, 2026

Agriculture, Water, Environment & Energy

Wetland Mitigation Banking Program Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

NRCS is announcing the availability of $3 million in WMBP grant funds for the development and establishment of mitigation banks and banking opportunities solely for agricultural producers with wetlands subject to the wetland conservation compliance provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 (as amended). WMBP is a competitive grants program accepting proposals from eligible entities as identified in Section B.1. Priority will be given to banks in states with significant numbers of individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests. Based on NRCS data, these states are Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Deadline: September 8, 2026

Transportation, HUD & Rural Development

Rural Housing Preservation Grant

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces a notice in funding availability under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. The HPG program is a grant program which provides qualified public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, which may include but not be limited to, Faith-Based and Community Organizations, and other eligible entities grant funds to assist very low- and low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. In addition, the HPG program assists rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes in repairing and rehabilitating their units if they agree to make such units available to low- and very low-income persons.

Deadline: September 8, 2026

Small Business Transportation Technical Assistance Center (Region 5)

The United States Department of Transportation Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will enter into Cooperative Agreements with eligible organizations to provide outreach to the small business community in their designated region and provide financial and technical assistance, business training programs, business assessment, management training, counseling, marketing and outreach, and the dissemination of information, to encourage and assist small businesses to become better prepared to compete for, obtain, and manage DOT funded transportation-related contracts and subcontracts at the federal, state and local levels. Throughout this notice, “transportation-related” is defined as the maintenance, rehabilitation, restructuring, improvement, or revitalization of any of the nation's modes of transportation.

Deadline August 30, 2026

Healthy Homes Production Grant Program

The Healthy Homes Production Program (HHP) is part of HUD"s overall Healthy Homes Initiative launched in 1999. The program takes a comprehensive approach to addressing multiple childhood diseases and injuries in the home by focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion, rather than addressing a single hazard at a time. The program builds upon HUD"s successful Lead Hazard Control programs to expand the Department’s efforts to address a variety of high-priority environmental health and safety hazards.

Deadline: August 31, 2026

Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program

The purpose of the Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR) Grant Program is to maximize the number of children under the age of six protected from lead poisoning by assisting states, Native American Tribes, cities, counties/parishes, or other units of local government in undertaking comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately-owned rental or owner-occupied housing, which must be target housing. In addition, there is Healthy Homes Supplemental funding available that is intended to enhance the lead-based paint hazard control activities by comprehensively identifying and addressing other housing hazards that affect occupant health in homes with lead-based paint hazards being treated under the grant.

Deadline: August 31, 2026

Department of Justice

BJA FY 2025/2026 Project Safe Neighborhoods Formula Grant Program

This is a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the BJA FY2025/2026 Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Formula Grant Program. This opportunity provides combined FY 2025 and FY 2026 appropriations to support comprehensive violent crime reduction strategies coordinated by the U.S. Attorney’s Offices (USAOs) in the 94 federal judicial districts throughout the 50 states and the U.S. territories. PSN is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officials, prosecutors, community-based partners, and other stakeholders to address violent crime through coordinated enforcement strategies that target criminal organizations, dangerous offenders, and threats to public safety, including those posed by transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), drug trafficking, human trafficking and violent criminals.

Deadline: August 20, 2026

FY26 Safer Outcomes Program

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing by supporting the nation's state, local, territorial and Tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources. This is a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the FY26 Safer Outcomes: Enhancing Crisis Response Training for Law Enforcement Program. This opportunity seeks to promote safe outcomes during police encounters through relevant training.

Deadline: August 27, 2026

Health & Human Services

Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration

The Office of Community Services (OCS) intends to fund Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and tribes that received FY25 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) awards and own affordable housing units. The purpose of the AHSSD is to demonstrate the potential for improving housing stability, economic mobility, and well-being by boosting public welfare and support service enrollment for residents of affordable housing who are American citizens. AHSSD does this by improving the coordination of public and private assistance programs to prevent and reduce dependency among this population cohort.

Deadline: August 24, 2026

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Communities of Practice (COP)

The Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will support a funding opportunity for six (6) three-year cooperative agreements for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Communities of Practice (CoP).Six CoPs will be established to provide training and technical assistance (TTA). These CoPs will include CSBG-funded states, territories, and tribes, and CSBG state associations and eligible entities.

Deadline: August 24, 2026

Economic Advancement Grants for Local Empowerment (EAGLE)

The Administration for Native Americans anticipates announcing the availability of funds and requesting applications for EAGLE: Economic Advancement Grants for Local Empowerment, supporting socioeconomic and cultural success for Native communities through business creation in regenerative agriculture, artificial intelligence, tribal energy sovereignty, and human capital development. The primary goals are to 1) support Native capacity, health, employability, and resourcefulness; 2) foster sustainable economic growth through job creation, infrastructure, and wealth-building; and 3) accelerate economic development and optimize governance.

Deadline: August 27, 2026

Arts & Humanities

Collaborative Research

The program supports groups of two or more scholars increasing humanistic knowledge through the preparation of a manuscript for print publication, the creation of a scholarly digital project, or the planning of an international collaboration. Projects must pursue significant research questions and lead toward an interpretive product. This year's competition is limited to projects on American history and culture or Western civilization.

Deadline: September 16, 2026

Search Through the Federal Program Inventory!

In 2023, building upon the successful 2020 exploratory pilot effort and recommendations published in the 2021 Report to Congress, OMB launched the Federal Program Inventory, which focuses on Federal financial assistance. **Find grants and assistance opportunities that best fit your organization's needs!**

Other Helpful Resources & State Grant Opportunities

Economic Empowerment Center (EEC) Round 2

The EEC Grant Program was developed to help create an inclusive business ecosystem within communities that have historically faced systemic barriers to entry and growth through dynamic partnerships, targeted outreach, and tailored programs and initiatives. DCEO has previously awarded $2.5 million in grant funding to 10 recipients through the EEC Grant Program. **Eligible Applicants**

- Career education agencies; and
- Non-profit organizations, including but not limited to: local development corporations, chambers of commerce, community-based outreach centers, and community-based organizations that provide services to underserved businesses and entrepreneurs.

Award Range: $250,000-$500,000

Deadline: Rolling until funding is exhausted. DCEO hosted an Application Workshop and Technical Assistance webinar for EEC grant applicants and the webinar was recorded, and the recording will be available on the DCEO website.

How to Apply?

Economic Empowerment Center Program Application

- Supporting documents below:
  - An electronic/digital photo of the project location and copy of the CDFI Map Area, if applicable
  - Mission Statement
  - Articles of Incorporation
  - Copies of Organizational Chart, and more

Illinois EPA Lead Service Line Inventory Grant

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced $6.57 million to assist communities across the state in meeting the inventory requirements of the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act (LSLRNA). More information can be found at this link. Please note this grant program is for lead service line inventorying purposes only, and lead service line replacement costs are ineligible for this grant program.

CEJA Capacity Grant Program Is Now LIVE!

The Workforce Policy Lab, in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), is excited to introduce the CEJA Capacity Grant Program—a bold new initiative to strengthen a more inclusive and resilient clean energy future for Illinois. Launching in 2026, this program will provide current and prospective DCEO CEJA grantees and sub-grantees with robust capacity-building support, along with grant awards starting at $100,000. This direct investment will empower 501(c)(3) organizations across the state to scale clean energy workforce development, expand contractor opportunities, and drive equitable economic growth in communities statewide.

The **CEJA Capacity Grant Program** Information Session recording, transcript, and slide deck have now been posted at this link. As you begin your application, please keep in mind that we offer several resources to help ensure your application is as successful as possible. These resources are on the program landing page under "Technical Assistance & Resources." We will also host two Technical Assistance Office Hours for applicants seeking clarification or application assistance.

- **Session #1**

Date & Time: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Register: https://niu-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/3sbQ4WoYSZWD3dTUE5zaug If you have questions, please email CEJACapacity@niu.edu

Illinois EPA Unsewered Communities Planning Grants

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Director James Jennings announced a new funding opportunity to assist communities where there are currently no wastewater collection and/or treatment facilities. Illinois EPA is making $1 million available for grants through the Unsewered Communities Planning Grant Program, which will assist small and disadvantaged communities in developing a project plan that identifies a solution to wastewater collection and treatment needs. A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been posted to the Illinois EPA website.

The Unsewered Communities Planning Grant Program (UCPGP) provides grant funding to develop a plan that will address problems associated with the collection and treatment of wastewater in an unsewered community. Ultimately, this information can be used in an application for a project that would be funded by the Illinois Unsewered Communities Construction Grant Program. Funding for the UCPGP is made possible by utilizing a portion of Illinois EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Program Loan Support funds generated from loan repayments. Applicants that qualify can receive funding up to $30,000, and Illinois EPA expects to fund up to 50 grants.

All required forms and information are available on the Illinois EPA's UCPGP webpage. **The application period will remain open until all funding has been expended.** Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness and awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applicants must be pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal.

Illinois DCEO Provides Help with Seeking Federal Funds!

Federal Grant Support Program – Round 2

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO)'s Federal Grant Support Program-Round 2 is open and will make $16.9 million available to Illinois-based proposals seeking competitive federal grants. This match program will encourage more applicants to apply for federal grant opportunities, provide critical assistance to meet the minimum match eligibility requirements, increase the competitiveness of applications, and provide the State of Illinois with an opportunity to make a firm commitment and demonstration of support for projects that are well aligned with the State's economic development goals and priorities. For more information about the program, including links to the NOFO and application, visit this link.

Office Resources

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