Advancing Equitable Home Upgrades with ENERGY STAR and R2E2

Navigating Organizational Funding for Home Energy Upgrade Programs in Justice 40 Communities

Workshop 1 Summary & Resource Document
Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 1-4 PM EST

The webinar shared methods to use while searching for useful grant programs, designing grant funded projects, and conducting a grant application process. It also includes case study presentations from municipal and community-based organization leads describing their takeaways from past and ongoing grant applications.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Make use of the network or organizations and resources available for grant applications (see list below)
- Source grants from email alerts, curated lists, and targeted research (see the linked search sources)
- Set standards to prioritize grants that align with project goals
- Apply to fund collaborative projects that are responsive to community needs.
- Build your program budget before starting the grant application
- Create an organized application process and stick to the notice of funding opportunity (see template)

PRESENTATION OUTLINE AND RESOURCES

PRE-FUNDING SEARCH TECHNICAL ASSITANCE RESOURCES

- EPA Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TICTACs): EPA and DOE funded technical assistance providers dedicated to removing barriers and providing training to frontline communities in navigating the federal grant application process.
- Local Federal Agency Representatives: Regional representatives from federal agencies tasked with connecting projects to assistance and resources.
    - Environmental Protection Agency - EPA
    - United States Department of Agriculture - USDA
    - Department of Energy - DOE
- Justice40 Accelerator – Cohort driven accelerator program that provides guidance and resources to help grassroots communities secure government funding.
- Local Infrastructure Hub Program – Philanthropically funded program equipped to support municipalities and CBOs in pursuing federal funding to enable climate and racial justice work.

www.energystar.gov/equitableupgrades

R2E2 ENERGY STAR

1. Check a Wide Array of Resources
   a. Passive (Newsletters and Email Alerts)
      1. EPA Municipal Ombudsman: A bi-weekly newsletter from the EPA listing federal funding opportunities and news from across the federal government. (Subscribe here)
      2. DOE Funding Alerts: Alerts from the DOEs various funding programs. Includes press releases and funding announcements the moment they are released. (Subscribe here)
      3. Grants.gov Alerts: Customizable, daily alerts from grants.gov. Allows users to specify which types of funding announcements they would likely to receive. (Subscribe here)
   b. Curated (Pre-established lists of funding opportunities)
      1. Justice40 Accelerator Funding List : List of government and philanthropic funding opportunities for climate justice organizations.
      2. DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy List: List of DOE grant opportunities for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects.
      3. Climate Program Portal List: A regularly updated list of IIJA and IRA funding opportunities and investments (login required but free for 501c3s).
   c. Research (Combing through opportunities)
      1. Grants.gov Grant Search: Federal resource listing all available federal grants
2. Identify Key Words and Values
   a. Ex. resilience, energy-efficiency, community-led, healthy home, retrofit, rehab, electrification, justice 40, disadvantaged, senior, environmental justice, front line community, climate, clean energy, upgrade, buildings, multifamily, decarbonization, net zero, low income,
3. Establish Target Grant Parameters
   a. Consider parameters like grant size (what are the minimum and maximum funding ranges), grant type (is this a discretionary grant, cooperative agreement, or prize program), and grant rules (what requirements does this grant include regarding cost share, subrecipients, etc.)
4. Build Your Funding List – you can use this template

WINNING FUNDING BEST PRACTICES

- Build a thoughtful project based on existing engagement and work in the community
  - Resources
    - HUD Community Engagement Toolkit
    - The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership
- Craft your program budget before starting a grant application
  - Resources
    - AmeriCorps Logic Model Presentation
    - EPA Grant Basics Document
- Build community partnerships that enable community benefits agreements
  - Resources
    - Department of Energy Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) Toolkit
    - Sabin Center for Climate Change Law: Community Benefits Agreements Database
- Build cross-sector partnerships to apply to grants as a coalition
  - Resources
    - DOE Better Buildings Voluntary Initiative: Partnerships Toolkit
    - The Intersector Toolkit: Tools for Cross-Sector Collaboration
- Create an organized application process
  - Resources
    - EPA Tips for a Successful Grant Application
    - Projectmanagement.com RACI Matrix Overview

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