Washington, D.C. Update: Federal Funding Opportunities for California Communities

From the Desk of Caitlin Williams, Federal Grants Coordinator | California Consulting, Inc.

California Consulting continues to strengthen its federal grant coordination efforts by staying connected with federal agencies and monitoring funding opportunities that can support California's cities, counties, and public agencies.

Caitlin Williams, California Consulting's Federal Grants Coordinator in Washington, D.C., held a productive meeting at EPA Headquarters with a representative from the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** to discuss federal funding opportunities available to California Consulting's municipal clients.

The discussion included the EPA's Brownfields Program, including Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (MARC) grants, as well as drinking water infrastructure funding, State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs, and other upcoming environmental funding opportunities. The meeting also covered anticipated funding timelines, program availability, and potential resources for cities and public agencies.

In addition to the EPA programs discussed, several other federal funding opportunities are available or anticipated in the coming months.

Featured Federal Funding Opportunities

EPA: Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (MARC) Grants
The EPA's Brownfields Program provides funding to help communities assess and address properties affected by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, and petroleum. These grants can support assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment efforts.

1. Deadline: January 21, 2027
2. Funding: Up to $5 million, depending on grant category
3. Match: Not required
4. View Grant Opportunities

State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs

California's State Revolving Fund programs provide financing opportunities for eligible drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects. Funding is available on an ongoing basis, with amounts dependent on project scope and program requirements.

1. Deadline: Ongoing
2. Funding: Varies by project
3. Financing: Low-cost loans; principal forgiveness options may be available
4. View Funding Resources

Economic Development Administration (EDA): Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance
EDA funding supports community and regional economic development initiatives, including infrastructure improvements, planning, and technical assistance. Eligible projects can help communities strengthen local economies, develop regional assets, and support long-term economic growth.

1. Deadline: Rolling basis
2. Funding: $100,000–$3 million

1. Match: 0%–20%
2. Eligibility: Cities, counties, tribal governments, special districts, state governments, institutions of higher education, and eligible nonprofit organizations
3. Note: A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is required for EDA grants.
4. View EDA Funding Opportunities

USDOT: BUILD Grant Program
The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program supports transportation infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impact. Eligible projects may include improvements to surface transportation infrastructure that address community and regional transportation needs.

1. Anticipated Deadline: February 2027 (to be announced)
2. Funding: $1 million minimum for rural capital projects; $5 million minimum for urban capital projects; up to $25 million maximum. Planning projects have no minimum award.
3. Match: Up to 20%
4. Eligibility: Cities, counties, districts, and state and federal agencies
5. View BUILD Grant Information

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation: Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects
Through its WaterSMART program, the Bureau of Reclamation supports large-scale water recycling projects designed to expand water supplies and improve water reliability. Eligible

projects may include planning, design, and construction of water recycling infrastructure with a total project cost of at least $500 million.

1. Anticipated Deadline: Spring 2027 (May)
2. Funding: Varies by project scope; up to 25% federal cost share
3. Match: Typically requires a 75% non-federal cost share
4. Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority
5. View WaterSMART Funding Information

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation: WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
The Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects program provides cost-share funding for smaller water efficiency improvements identified through previous planning efforts. Eligible projects may include water delivery system automation, flow measurement installations, and canal improvements to reduce water loss.

1. Anticipated Deadline: Spring 2027 (to be announced)
2. Funding: Up to $100,000
3. Match: 50%
4. Eligibility: Irrigation and water districts, tribes, states, and other eligible entities with water or power delivery authority
5. View WaterSMART Small-Scale Funding

California Consulting remains committed to identifying federal funding resources and keeping clients informed about upcoming opportunities, program updates, eligibility requirements, and application timelines.
California Consulting will continue meeting with Congressional offices and federal agencies to stay informed about federal grant programs and funding developments that may benefit California communities.