

## Contra Costa County Sustainability Exchange

February 22, 2023

10-11:30 am

Topic: Federal Funding Opportunities

### AGENDA

- 10:00-10:05 am: Welcome
- 10:05-10:15 am: 1:1 Networking
- 10:15-10:20 am: Share Out
- 10:20-10:40 am: Federal Funding Opportunities Presentation
- 10:40-11:00 am: Grant & Funding Resource Tracker Activity
- 11:00-11:30 am: Report Out

### NOTES

#### 1:1 Networking Share Out

- Potential opportunity to partner on green stormwater infrastructure on available CSU East Bay land
- Transferring Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project activities to John Muir Land Trust
- County Administrator's Office just hired a bench of grant writing consultants to help County departments with grant writing
- Existing building electrification road map

#### Federal Funding Opportunities Presentation

Nicole Shimizu provided an overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Some of the resources shared during the presentation are listed below:

##### *General Grant Process Mechanics & Guidance*

- Grants.gov Registration Directions:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html>
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network Grant Process Tasks & Timeline Prior to Funding Notice:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s9nkCGp5nrKcZp7q89zPXNQNpbruZ4PC/edit#gid=1344771991>
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network Federal Funding Resources Document for Every Step of the Grants Process:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bnKgTZrTGa95t1xrY9gCz6NuuM8Nzh3/edit>

##### *Grant and Funding Opportunity Trackers*

- American Cities Climate Challenge Federal Funding Opportunities for Local Decarbonization Search Tool: <https://cityrenewables.org/ffold>
- California Office of Planning and Research Federal Grant Guidebook:  
[https://www.opr.ca.gov/sch/docs/20230109-Federal\\_Grant\\_Guidebook.pdf](https://www.opr.ca.gov/sch/docs/20230109-Federal_Grant_Guidebook.pdf)
- State Clearinghouse for Federal Programs: <https://opr.ca.gov/sch/federal-grants/>
- California Grants Portal: <https://www.grants.ca.gov/>

### *IIJA-Specific Resources*

- IIJA General Website: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/?utm\\_source=build.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/?utm_source=build.gov)
- IIJA Available Funding Opportunities List and Calendar of 2023 Funding Opportunities: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/resources/nofos-to-know/>
- Map of IIJA Projects Announced and Awarded: <https://d2d.gsa.gov/report/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-bil-maps-dashboard>
- Federal Highway Administration IIJA Fact Sheets: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/fact\\_sheets.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/fact_sheets.cfm)

### *IRA-Specific Resources*

- IRA General Website: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy/?utm\\_source=cleanenergy.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy/?utm_source=cleanenergy.gov)
- US Environmental Protection Agency instructions on how to apply for a grant under the IRA: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/how-do-i-apply-grant-under-inflation-reduction-act>
- America is All In Federal Climate Funding Hub: <https://americaisallin.com/federal-climate-funding-hub>

### *Breakout Group Report Out*

Sustainability Exchange participants broke out into small groups to go through the IIJA & IRA Grant & Funding Resource Tracker for Sustainability and identify grant opportunities of interest.

- Interested in transportation opportunities (potentially the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program) to expand transportation options for K-12 students to get them to outdoor education opportunities on the CSU East Bay Campus.
- Group focused on Bay Point and the Bay Point BART station. BART has a Safe Routes to BART Program that could complement the Safe Routes to School Grant Program. Questions around whether the Flood Control District could focus its projects near the BART stations. Interest in the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program.
- Questions around whether agencies could organize themselves around more than one grant to fund different components of a larger project. If so, how would the sequencing of those grant applications work? Some grants are still in the guideline writing phase.
- Wondering whether the tool could be sorted in a way that would help project applicants find incentives that would enhance their projects.
- Interest in the Habitat Restoration discretionary grant opportunity and potential partnerships there.
- Interested in the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. Los Medanos College has a workforce training program that trains refinery workers. Could Los Medanos College offer a new training program for advanced manufacturing to compliment the County's work on Just Transition?
- East Bay Municipal Utilities District installed 5 megawatts (MW) of solar in Orinda and is looking for funding on more renewable energy projects.
- Communicating about IRA opportunities for residents like those offered through the [Rewiring America IRA incentive calculator](#)
- Grant turnaround is so quick, so how do we set ourselves up for success? Economic Development team has a grant application currently with MTC/ABAG for Priority Production

Areas. There is opportunity there to build upon that work with the right federal grant opportunity.

- Interested in funding for solar, vehicle electrification (Class 6 vehicles), habitat restoration, and carbon sequestration.
- County staff is looking for funding to do whole-building electrification and gather cost-effectiveness data to inform the County's Existing Building Electrification Roadmap. Interested in partners on existing building electrification work.
- Suggested processes to notify other agencies about interest in going after a project/grant. Is there an existing forum that allows agencies to notify other agencies about big projects/interests/grant opportunities?

### Next Steps

Here are the other programs the Sustainability Exchange is planning for 2023. We welcome your ideas for speakers, venues, and additional program topics.

- Bonus: Bike Campaigns & Gearing Up for Earth Day
- Q2: Field Trip
- Q3: Wildfire
- Q4: Climate Action Planning