

Navigating Federal Funding Feels Like....



Who is USDN?

2800 Individuals in 280 Communities representing over 100 million residents

- Strive to create equitable, resilient, and sustainable communities by advancing the field of local government sustainability and equipping practitioners to be catalysts of transformative change.
- Provide peer-to-peer networking and knowledge sharing around sustainability alongside:
 - Capacity Building
 - Equity
 - Policy and Funding



USDN Federal Funding Assistance & Resources

**Some resources may only be available behind a paywall*

Grants Assistance Support for Member Governments (and partners where applicable)

- **Pre-Proposal Assistance** - Discuss grant strategy, answer questions, align funding with project ideas.
- **Proposal Assistance** - Advisory coaching, review and editing, and submission process guidance.
- **Proposal Writing** - For projects serving disadvantaged communities, small offices/budgets.

Federal Funding Program

- Track and share current and anticipated federal Funding opportunities.
- Peer learning presentations - Learn about other local governments' lessons learned and processes.
- Federal funding program webinars, to learn how to develop competitive funding proposals.

IIJA & IRA Tools

- [IIJA Federal Investment Guide for Local Leaders](#)
- [C40 and Climate Mayors Climate Action and the IRA: A Guide for Local Government Leaders](#)
- [Building Decarbonization - In the Age of the IRA](#) - Rebates, tax credits, loans and grants, and other funding.
- [Climate Program Portal](#) - Dashboard identifying IIJA and IRA investments overall and spent to date.

Higher Education Sustainability Community is Key to Successfully Meeting the Moment

- **Many IIJA and IRA funding opportunities flow through local governments and some CBOs**
 - Need diverse partnerships with CBOs, universities, non-profit organizations to be eligible for funding.
 - **AASHE members can partner with communities on funding applications.**
- **Local governments are limited in capacity to leverage these investments**
 - Need support searching for, applying to, and managing grant awards.
 - Few funding opportunities pay for the whole project cycle - Plan, technical study/analysis, and implementation/construction, gather data required to obtain the funding, grant administration.
 - **AASHE members can be the technical experts and contributors to support these milestones.**

Higher Education Sustainability Community is Key to Successfully Meeting the Moment

- **Local governments need support fostering relationships with frontline communities.**
 - Need community involvement and project ownership to be eligible for funding.
 - Multi-jurisdiction or regional projects, projects with diverse partners are often more competitive.
 - Many funding opportunities require project funding to support disadvantaged communities.
 - AASHE members can be the connectors, relationship builders, trusted entities to work with local governments and community to implement projects and meet local climate goals.
- **Leveraging the IRA Tax Credits and Direct Pay Provisions will require tax expertise.**
 - AASHE can be hubs to creatively take advantage of the tax credits/direct pay provisions to maximize their benefits.

USDN as a Convener

Are you interested?

- USDN can host a mini convening of USDN and AASHE members
 - Discuss what type of coordination is desired, where, and how.

Need funding to collaborate?

- USDN Emergent Learning Fund
 - Small competitive grants program to convene communities, work on a pilot projects, foster peer learning, and generate big ideas...
 - Opportunity: Explore how these two groups can collaborate and leverage funding in BIL and IRA to meet local sustainability goals.
- Develop cohort of USDN and AASHE members
 - Foster relationships for peer learning, networking, and education
 - Provide joint webinars, workshops, resources