

EPA resources for *Funding Tools and Strategies for Sustainable Infrastructure* webinar, 6/10/22

Two upcoming brownfields webinars that might be of interest, featuring nonprofits that have received EPA Brownfields Grants. The learning objectives are to:

- Share strategies that these nonprofits use to address brownfields as part of their larger community revitalization efforts, and
- Build capacity amongst different types of nonprofits to tackle brownfield issues.

Nonprofit Know-How: Webinar 1 (Jun 22, 2022 01:00 PM Eastern Time)

Focus on nonprofits managing the transformation of large, rural brownfields. Featuring:

- Chris Campbell, President, Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation
- Steve Sanders, Our Katahdin, ME

Register: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_kMTLX9GtSgiKMpFEksYbPQ

Nonprofit Know-How: Webinar 2 (Jul 20, 2022 01:00 PM Eastern Time)

Focus on nonprofits who transformed brownfields into neighborhood assets. Featuring:

- Barnaby Evans, Peter Mello: WaterFire (Providence, RI)
- Julie Pezzino, Children's Museum & Theatre (Portland, ME)
- Jim Becker, Richmond Community Foundation (Richmond, CA)

Register: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_iiG6lOo0R2aDi4OF_cSRmA

Smart growth and community revitalization resources (<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth>)

- *Infrastructure Financing Options for Transit-Oriented Development* (<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/infrastructure-financing-options-transit-oriented-development>): Identifies financing mechanisms and strategies that communities can use to plan and build TOD (some of the specific mechanisms might be out of date, but the strategies are still relevant) and gives examples and models for funding and planning TOD.
- Smart Location Database geospatial tools: Access to Jobs and Workers via Transit, National Walkability Index (<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-location-mapping>): Tools to help assess how many jobs and workers are accessible to a specific location via transit, and to assess the walkability of a specific location.
- Climate change:
 - *Smart Growth Fixes for Climate Adaptation and Resilience*: (<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-fixes-climate-adaptation-and-resilience>): Specific changes to zoning and building codes and policies to prepare for and adapt to climate change while bringing other short- and long-term benefits, including reducing GHG emissions.
 - *Planning Framework for a Climate-Resilient Economy*: (<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/planning-framework-climate-resilient-economy>): Tool to help communities assess economic vulnerability to climate change impacts and identify ways to be more climate resilient, with a focus on helping the business community think creatively about ways to prosper in a changing climate.
- *Smart Growth and Economic Success* reports (<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-and-economic-success-benefits-real-estate-developers-investors-business>): Research on the benefits of infill development for local governments, businesses, and real estate developers and investors.

- *Essential Smart Growth Fixes* publications (<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/essential-smart-growth-fixes-communities>): Specific code changes for cities, suburbs, and rural communities.
- Technical assistance programs (<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-technical-assistance-programs>): None are currently open for applications; sign up for our newsletter to be notified when we are accepting applications.

Brownfields resources (<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>)

- Brownfields Job Training Grants (open now until Aug. 2, 2022) provide environmental training for residents impacted by brownfield sites in their communities.
- Grants anticipated to open for solicitation in September 2022:
 - Multipurpose Grants provide funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites in a target area.
 - Assessment Grants provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.
 - Revolving Loan Fund Grants provide funding to capitalize loans to clean up brownfield sites.
 - Cleanup Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the applicant.

Water infrastructure resources (<https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter>)

- Links to technical assistance, financing programs, and helpful information on effective financing
- Check your State Revolving Funds for clean water and drinking water
- WIFIA (not currently open for application; sign up for their newsletter to be notified when applications are being accepted): <https://www.epa.gov/wifia>

Green infrastructure resources (<https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure>)

- Links to guides, funding from other sources, and other helpful info

Environmental justice resources (<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>):

- Grant programs (none open right now), tools for meaningful public engagement and collaborative problem-solving
- EJSCREEN (<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>) – Mapping tool with demographic and environmental data to show where populations are overburdened

Non-EPA resources mentioned in the presentation:

- “Infrastructure coordinators help cities pursue funding, evaluate projects,” Smart Cities Dive, May 23, 2022: <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/infrastructure-coordinators-help-cities-pursue-funding-evaluate-projects/624212/>
- U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit (<https://toolkit.climate.gov>): links to tools and can help you find regional federal experts
- [RiskFactor.com](https://www.riskfactor.com) provides property-level projections for flooding and wildfire.



HUD'S SECTION 108 AND EPA'S WIFIA

PROGRAM COMPARISON



HUD'S SECTION 108

The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program provides HUD Grantees with a source of low-cost, long-term financing for economic and community development projects that range from housing, public facilities, infrastructure and a wide variety of other physical development projects. Section 108 financing provides an avenue for communities to undertake larger, more costly projects where they may have limited resources to invest in upfront.

1974

All projects must meet at least one of the three possible Community Development Block Grant National Objectives:

- Benefit to Low and Moderate-Income Persons
- Elimination of Slum and Blight
- Urgent Need

Favorable rates, many eligible uses (“within domain”), flexible underwriting (“within domain”), expedited application process, good financing terms, low administrative burden, liability off financial statement

- States
- Metropolitan cities and urban counties (i.e., CDBG entitlement recipients)
- Non-entitlement communities that are assisted in the submission of applications by States that administer the CDBG Program
- Non-entitlement communities eligible to receive CDBG funds under the HUD-Administered Small Cities CDBG Program (Hawaii).

For purposes of determining eligibility, the CDBG rules and requirements also apply. All projects and activities must either:

- Principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons;
- Aid in the elimination or prevention of slums and blight;
- Or meet urgent needs of the community

About The Program

Inception Year

Program Priorities

Program Benefits

Eligible Borrowers

Eligible Projects

EPA'S WIFIA

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program accelerates investment in our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost, supplemental credit assistance under customized terms to creditworthy water and wastewater projects of national and regional significance.

2014

WIFIA prioritizes water infrastructure projects that support EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment.

Favorable rates and flexible terms, such as customizable repayment schedules, deferred repayment up to 5 years, long repayment periods, subordinate lien position options, multiple disbursements at no additional cost, and no penalty for prepayment

WIFIA offers broad eligibility and can provide financing to a variety of borrowers, including local and tribal governments, state infrastructure financing authorities, and public-private partnerships, among others.

WIFIA can fund water infrastructure projects that support clean and safe water access and help communities address a variety of challenges, including regulatory compliance, water quality issues, drought or flooding, and aging infrastructure needs.

HUD'S SECTION 108

Activities eligible include:

- Acquisition of real property
- Rehabilitation of publicly owned real property
- Housing rehabilitation
- Construction, reconstruction, or installation of public facilities
- Related relocation, clearance, and site improvements
- Loan to for-profit businesses for economic development purposes
- In limited circumstances, new housing construction

No minimum project amount

5x CDBG grant allocation

20 years

Variable Interest Rate:
3-month T-Bill + 35 BPS

Loan Fee:
Approximately 2% Changes every fiscal year.

Does not have a matching requirement; however, Section 108's financing can be used for matching

Section 108 has three partnership models:

- Designated Public Agency (DPA)
- Sub-recipients
- Third Parties including Developers

Non-competitive

Learn more about the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program [here](#)

Eligible Activities

Minimum Project Amount

Maximum Project Amount

Maximum Number of Repayment Years

Rates & Fees

Matching

Partnership Models

Project Selection

Other Resources

EPA'S WIFIA

Activities eligible include:

- Project planning
- Design, Development, and Construction
- Land or equipment acquisition
- Variety of carrying costs during construction.

- \$20 million: Minimum project size for large communities
- \$5 million: Minimum project size for small communities (25,000 or less)

Maximum of 49% of eligible project costs

35 years

- Borrowers receive a single fixed interest rate that is established at closing
- Interest rate is equal to the US Treasury rate of a similar maturity
- Interest rate is not impacted by the borrower's credit or loan structure.

Requires match of 51 percent of eligible project costs

Small communities (25,000 or less) may be eligible to receive financing for 80% of project costs, as outlined in the Notice of Funding Availability.

Direct lending to eligible entities

Project selection is a competitive process to identify eligible projects which are creditworthy, technically feasible, and meet WIFIA strategic objectives.

WIFIA NOFA [Webinar Recording](#)
[General Information](#)