Getting Started With Key Federal Opportunities

Right now, local governments have an unprecedented opportunity to access federal funds to invest in areas like infrastructure improvement, local economic recovery, climate and energy initiatives and more to improve the quality of life for their residents. Here are some key resources to help your community leverage these opportunities.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

IIJA is a bipartisan, five-year $1.2 trillion federal investment in transportation, water, broadband, energy and more. This historic legislationinvests in existing federal infrastructure programs and creates new funding for both state-administered and competitive programs local governments can apply for.

**White House Build.gov Website**
This site serves as a central starting place to learn about available grants and search for key grant uses. It hosts a thorough guidebook to IIJA, maps of projects funded for comparison and other resources for local government applicants.

**NLC Ready to Rebuild Resource Page**
NLC’s local government focused resource page explains how to access and maximize federal infrastructure funds. The webpage spotlights how cities are using federal funds, gives resources and provides updates on infrastructure opportunities, grant programs and legislative developments.

**Local Infrastructure Hub (LIH)**
The LIH hosts webinars and grant bootcamps for small and mid-sized communities (<150,000 pop.), providing technical assistance trainings to help local leaders navigate specific IIJA programs.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Within ARPA, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) provided $130.2 billion dollars in the form of direct allocations to local governments split evenly between municipalities and counties. This historic investment is improving our nation’s cities, towns, and villages one eligible use allocation at a time.

**NLC ARPA Resource Page**
NLC’s ARPA landing page hosts key tools including the ARPA Investment Tracker and the latest updates on guidance. This resource is a great place to start when determining how to use your ARPA funds and what you need to do to meet compliance requirements.

**U.S. Department of the Treasury SLFRF Landing Page**
Treasury administers the local fiscal recovery ARPA funds, and their website overviews important technical information about the program including reporting, technical issues, eligible uses of funds, and self-service resources. This site includes information on the Final Rule and other important information local governments should know about when allocating their ARPA funds. For further Treasury assistance, contact SLFRF@treasury.gov or call (844) 529-9527.

**ARPA 2-Year Report**
NLC celebrates the two-year anniversary of ARPA and the direct investment into local governments in a new report. Learn about the local implementation of these dollars and how local governments like yours have utilized their investment.
CHIPS and Science Act (CHIPS+)
The CHIPS and Science Act (CHIPS+) directs $280 billion over ten years to revitalize semiconductor research, development and manufacturing. This bipartisan compromise bill will create good jobs and enhance global competitiveness, thereby benefiting cities and towns.

White House CHIPS+ Fact Sheet
This fact sheet includes the key areas of investment for this competitiveness package that includes economic growth and development and investments in our nation’s workers.

CHIPS for America Strategy
The Department of Commerce launched its strategy for a $50 billion investment in the semiconductor industry, including a focus on the workforce pipeline and an expansion of that pipeline to those who have historically participated in this industry.

Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs Program (Tech Hubs)
Congress appropriated $500 million to the Economic Development Agency (EDA) in the FY23 Appropriations Bill for the Tech Hubs program, which works to drive technology growth in regions of our country.

Recompete Pilot Program
Congress appropriated $200 million for the Recompete pilot program in the FY23 Appropriations Bill. This initial investment will allow EDA to begin developing and planning for the program’s design. The Recompete pilot program will provide for 10-year grants to communities to develop and implement economic development strategies.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
The IRA marks the largest federal investment in climate and clean energy with provisions that complement some of the investments in the infrastructure law. In addition to grant funding opportunities for local governments, the IRA provides a new mechanism for local governments and other tax-exempt entities to take advantage of new clean energy tax incentives and support the growth of America’s clean energy economy and manufacturing sectors.

White House CleanEnergy.gov Website
This serves as a starting place to learn more about the clean energy provisions and programs available to consumers and other entities. The website hosts a thorough IRA guidebook, an overview of the tax provisions and relevant updates.

NLC IRA Explainer Blogs
NLC published this blog outlining the key programs for local governments included in the IRA, providing local leaders with a framework for what programs and funding opportunities might support their climate and clean energy goals.

An important provision for local governments included in the IRA is a direct payment option in lieu of tax credits for local governments for the production of or investment in clean energy. This blog provides key information and project examples on this new direct pay option.

Clean Energy Tax Credits for Individuals and Households
The IRA provides a number of tax credits and rebates aimed at individuals and households to transform their energy use and consumption. Local leaders play an important role in helping their residents take advantage of these opportunities.