

# 2025 LOUISIANA STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Prepared by the Louisiana Rural  
Tourism Development Office  
Louisiana Office of Tourism

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its long neck curved forward and its wings fully extended, showing the intricate details of its feathers. The bird is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the frame. The background is a soft-focus landscape of a marsh or wetland, with tall grasses and shrubs in shades of green and brown. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The entire image is framed by a thin white border.

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# GREETINGS,



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
BILLY NUNGESSER

## BILLY NUNGESSER, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

As Louisiana Lieutenant Governor, my office is frequently asked about state and federal assistance programs from rural development, historic preservation, archive work, libraries and other related fields. To better assist you, this Louisiana State and Federal Assistance Guide has been compiled and is made available to you. It highlights the most commonly used grants and technical assistance programs offered by state and federal government, specifically tailored to support the needs of rural, underserved and distressed communities. This guide is broken into categories with each grant or technical assistance program described in detail.

Grants are periodically updated and announced on the federal website, [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). This website provides the full announcement notice, lists all eligible applicants, states what activities or projects will be funded, the ceiling and floor amounts of grants, and provides information on any required match, if applicable.

The state and federal grants and technical assistance programs listed in the guide include descriptions, and most include contact information. All information was current at the time of publication. This guide will be periodically updated.

All grants and assistance programs listed in this guide are subject to funding. At times, some programs may not be available. I hope this guide will be useful to you.

If you have questions about the Louisiana State and Federal Assistance Guide, please contact:

**Sharon Calcote:**

(225) 342-8146 | [scalcode@crt.la.gov](mailto:scalcode@crt.la.gov)

**Lauren Holmes:**

(225) 342-8123 | [laholmes@crt.la.gov](mailto:laholmes@crt.la.gov)

Billy Nungesser,  
Lieutenant Governor

# GRANT WRITING TIPS

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Investing your time, effort, and resources into writing a grant proposal can be frustrating if it doesn't pay off. For this reason, it's critical to make your grant proposal impactful and notable to a selection committee.

**Here are the top 10 tips to make your grant proposal stand out.**

- 1** Read, re-read and read again the grant application. Fully understand what types of projects the funder is seeking.
- 2** Ensure your project aligns with the funder's values – meaning make sure your project and organization are a good fit for the funding organization. Before you write your grant, research the grant funder to see what types of projects they might be interested in supporting. Many times, funders will list past grant recipients on their websites. Check those out to see how your project is like others funded.
- 3** Double check the requirements. Make sure your organization is eligible for the grant opportunity.
- 4** Get to know the funding organization. If you start early, you may have time to discuss your grant proposal with the grant funder. Get suggestions on ways to make the proposal better. Often grant funders will pre-review your proposal and give feedback.
- 5** Follow the grant application instructions. An easy way to get your grant application rejected is by not following the directions, even if you meet the eligibility requirements. To prevent this issue, it's critical to have a thorough understanding of the instructions and ensure you follow them correctly.
- 6** Create a strong project description that matches the funder's objectives. Be clear and concise. Short and Sweet. Do not add technical jargon or abbreviate words without first explaining them. Do not use fluff or flowery language. The funder can get lost with too much information. Stick to the facts and details of the grant application.
- 7** Make sure your budget is clear, accurate and matches your project description.
- 8** List reasonable and measurable project goals. This could include projected outcomes, event objectives, or general things you want to accomplish if you were to receive funding. When describing your goals, make sure they're attainable and realistic. While it's always great to shoot for the stars and dream big when it comes to an important mission, the grant funder likely wants to feel confident that you can achieve the goals you set.
- 9** Make sure you include all required attachments in the form and format requested. Make a checklist and mark each item off as it's submitted.
- 10** Have others review the grant proposal. Check for spelling and grammar. Misspelled words and poor grammar will be a negative reflection of your grant proposal.



## REGISTERING FOR STATE GRANTS

For all state grants, your organization will need to register as a vendor of the state. To do so, go to LA.GOV:



lagoverpvendor.doa.  
louisiana.gov/irj/  
portal/anonymous?  
guest\_user=self\_reg

Register in LaGov with the same entity name that will be on the W-9, board resolution and registered with the Secretary of State's office.

If you are a non-profit – you have to be in good standing with the Secretary of State's office. That entails registering with the Louisiana Secretary of State and filing an annual report.



To register with  
Secretary of State:  
geauxbiz.sos.la.gov

Complete a W-9 – the name of the entity on the W-9 has to match the entity you register in LaGov and the name of the person authorized to sign based upon the board resolution.

Board resolution designating a person with signature authority – this is a simple document on your non-profit letterhead that provides the name(s) and title(s) of the person or persons that are authorized by the Board to sign agreements and contracts with the State of Louisiana. It will need to be signed by either the Secretary or the Treasurer of the Board.

***If you have any questions or need assistance with vendor registration, contact the Office of State Procurement, Vendor Enrollment Section, at telephone (225) 342-8010 or e-mail your inquiries to [vendr\\_inq@la.gov](mailto:vendr_inq@la.gov).***

## REGISTERING FOR FEDERAL GRANTS

Registering for federal grants is a little more complicated, so allow enough time to complete these steps before starting your application.



Your organization  
must register  
with **SAM.gov**



You must have  
a **Login.gov**  
account

SAM.gov will provide a unique entity identifier (UEI) for your organization, which is required to apply for grants using Grants.gov. Obtaining your UEI may take several weeks. Full registration at SAM.gov can take a while, so you should start well before your grant's deadline. Each Grants.gov user who wants to download forms or work on them online must also have an account with Login.gov. When you register at Grants.gov, you will be prompted to link your Grants.gov account to your Login.gov account.

# REGISTERING IN GRANTS.GOV

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You will need to register and create an organization profile in Grants.gov. Grants.gov is the website where you can view open grant opportunities and when writing a grant, you will use a Grants.gov workspace to submit your grant and to upload any required attachments.

During this process, you will enter some basic information, validate your email address, and create a profile, either for your organization or for yourself.



**1** On the Grants.gov home page, click **Register**. The system will display the Register page, containing valuable information.

**2** At the bottom of the Register page, click the **Get Registered Now** button. The system will display the registration form.

**3** Enter your information in the form and click **Continue**. The system will display the confirmation page.

**4** Click the **Send Temporary Code** button. Check your email for a message from Grants.gov containing your temporary code number.

**5** Enter the number in the **Temporary Code box** and click **Continue**. This will create your Grants.gov account. You must also create an Organization Applicant Profile to apply using Grants.gov.

**6** Select **Add Organizational Profile**. The system will display several text boxes.

Enter the unique entity identifier (UEI) you obtained from SAM.gov.

Enter a name for this profile. This can be the name of the organization or any other name that you will use to refer to the profile.

Enter the job title for the person who will be using this profile. This may be helpful to other users.

**7** Click **Save and Login**. The system will display the Login page.

Then you will be prompted to complete information about roles and privileges – who can use the Grants.gov account.

You will also be guided on how to create and use a workspace to write your grant. You will be submitting your grant application via Grants.gov.





# STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE GUIDE





# LOUISIANA TOURISM MARKETING GRANTS

## LOUISIANA COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM (CPG)

The Competitive Grant Program is offered to encourage and support marketing for Louisiana fairs, festivals, and other eligible tourism events that attract and retain visitors to the state and have a positive impact on Louisiana's economy. The maximum award per applicant is \$15,000 for advertising expenses with a 50% or 66% reimbursable match, which will be paid after the tourism event has ended. Applications must be received at least 90 days before the event.



Louisiana Tourism Marketing Grants  
[www.exploreloisiana.com/industry/cgp](http://www.exploreloisiana.com/industry/cgp)

***For more information contact  
Lynne Coxwell at [lcoxwell@crt.la.gov](mailto:lcoxwell@crt.la.gov)  
or call 225.342.2876***

# NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY PROGRAM

## NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY GRANTS

The National Scenic Byway Grant provides funds to States and federally recognized Tribes to implement eligible projects on highways designated as National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads (collectively America's Byways®), State scenic byways, or Indian Tribe scenic byways.

Byway grants may be used to provide access to recreation, byway facilities, construction, corridor management plans, highway improvements, interpretive information, marketing programs, resource protection, safety improvements, State and Indian Tribe scenic byway programs, and tourist information. Grants applications must be submitted through Grants.gov using a workspace opened by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, which will be submitting the grants to the Federal Highway Administration. There is a required 20 percent match.

***For more information  
contact Lauren Holmes,  
Louisiana Scenic Byways  
Manager, at 225.342.8123  
or [lholfmes@crt.la.gov](mailto:lholfmes@crt.la.gov)***

# NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

## ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, BATON ROUGE 225.342-8037

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (NHA) was established by Congress in 2006 and stretches across 14 parishes in south-central Louisiana. It is among the most culturally rich and ecologically varied regions in the United States, home to the widely recognized Cajun culture as well as a diverse population of European, African, Caribbean and Native-American descent. Parishes within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area include Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne and West Baton Rouge.



[atchafalaya.org/grant-program](http://atchafalaya.org/grant-program)

## **The Atchafalaya NHA offers two grants: the Legacy Grant and the Celebration Grant. Grants require a 1:1 match.**

Legacy grants are intended for cultural, natural, or recreational projects that will create lasting impacts for the people and places within the heritage area.

Celebration grants are awarded for initiatives that celebrate and enhance the culture, heritage and natural resources of the area.

Local governments, nonprofit 501(c)(3), state agencies, Tribal governments and organizations developing a project within one of the 14 parishes that make up the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area can apply for grants. Grant funds can be used for consultant fees, rental of equipment or space, artists, performers, compensation, marketing and promotion, contract for services and other projects approved by the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area staff.

## **Legacy Grants**

### **CULTURAL HERITAGE INTERPRETATION**

Funds projects related to interpretive improvements, mapping, and heritage tourism-based activities. Examples of projects include trail signage installation and tour development.

### **CREATIVE PLACEMAKING INITIATIVES**

Funds projects related to community and creative development including murals, culture-specific events, and asset mapping. Examples of projects include cultural asset mapping projects and local heritage-themed murals.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

Funds conservation planning, native plantings, and other natural environment-related initiatives. Examples of projects include waterway improvements and conservation workshops.

### **RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS**

Funds creation and improvement of paths, trails, boat ramps, and lookouts. Examples include boardwalk construction and recreation signage projects.

## **Celebration Grants**

### **CULTURAL HERITAGE EVENTS**

Funds events within the heritage area that directly relate to culture, ecology and recreation. Examples of events include annual cultural festivals, wildlife presentations and heritage speaker events.

### **MARKETING AND PROMOTION**

Funds marketing and promotion efforts for organizations. Examples of projects include printing marketing materials and social media marketing campaign funding.

### **OTHER SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

Funds projects that do not meet the funding minimum of the Legacy Grant program related to cultural heritage interpretation, creative placemaking, natural resource conservation, and recreation improvements. Examples of projects include tour development and conservation workshops.

**CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA,  
NATCHITOCES, 318.356.5555**



[canerivernha.org/grant-program](https://canerivernha.org/grant-program)

Designated by Congress in 1994, the Cane River National Heritage Area is a non-profit organization that works to identify, preserve, and promote the Cane River region's unique culture so more people can understand and celebrate our region's diverse and nationally important heritage.

Since its inception, the grant program has provided funding to projects that protect, preserve, and promote Cane River resources, cultural landscapes, and history. Grants have been awarded for historic preservation, research, interpretation and education projects, landscape preservation and heritage tourism. More importantly, the grants administered to the heritage partners have made a demonstrable economic impact within our community.

***Contact the Cane River National Heritage Area for more information and to discuss possible projects that may qualify for grant funding.***

# LOUISIANA ENDOWMENT FOR HUMANITIES

**LOUISIANA ENDOWMENT FOR HUMANITIES,  
NEW ORLEANS** 504.523.4352



<https://leh.org/grants>

## LOUISIANA CULTURE CARE FUND

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, with the support of the State of Louisiana, is offering Louisiana Culture Care Fund (LCCF) grants to cover general operating expenses for humanities-based organizations. The LCCF, originally launched in 2020 in an effort to help protect Louisiana's critical cultural institutions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, continues to provide the state's cultural nonprofits with this vital funding. Funding from \$5,000 to \$15,000 is awarded to selected applications. Examples of allowable projects are hiring consultants, staff time, professional development or training and space rental. Funds may also be used for sustaining operations such as rent, insurance, mortgage, utilities and staff retention.

Organizations must be nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status; public-facing organizations operating within accredited institutions of higher learning; state and local government agencies; or state or federally recognized Native American tribal governments in Louisiana. Organizations reaching underserved populations are particularly encouraged to apply, but applications are welcome regardless of an organization's size, audience, and location.

## Rebirth Grants

Rebirth Grants support programmatic initiatives focused on the humanities. Eligible projects include public humanities programs that involve audience participation and discussion; documentary photography, podcast, and radio projects; humanities-based festivals and exhibition development; digital humanities projects including websites and online documentation of Louisiana history and culture; speaker series; assistance with publication projects and humanities-based educational initiatives; and more. Award amounts vary between \$1,000 to \$5,000. Match is required.

Eligible humanities-based organizations operating within the 64 parishes of Louisiana may apply. Organizations must be nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status; public-facing organizations operating within accredited institutions of higher learning; state and local government agencies; or state and federally recognized Native American tribal governments in Louisiana. Organizations reaching underserved populations are particularly encouraged to apply.

***For more information on Louisiana Endowment for Humanities grants  
contact Erin Voisin, Director of Grants, at 504.523.4352 or [lahum@leh.org](mailto:lahum@leh.org).***



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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## LOUISIANA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

225-342-8200

The Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation administers two historic rehabilitation tax incentive programs. These can be utilized independently or stacked to provide maximum credits.



[crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/historic-preservation](http://crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/historic-preservation)

## STATE HISTORIC TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The State Commercial Tax Credit Program is jointly administered by the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation and the Louisiana Department of Revenue. The Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation acts as an applicant's first point of contact and reviews applications for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation; the Louisiana Department of Revenue reviews project costs. The credit is available for those income-producing buildings that are contributing elements to Downtown Development Districts or certified Cultural Districts.

Rehabilitation projects must exceed \$10,000 in qualified rehabilitation expenses and must be completed according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Once earned, credits are fully transferable and may be carried forward for up to five years.

## FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The historic tax credit program is one of the nation's most successful and cost-effective community revitalization programs. It fosters private sector rehabilitation of historic buildings and promotes investment in local economies. It also provides a strong alternative to government ownership and management of historic properties. It generates jobs, both during the construction phase and in the spin-off effects of increased earning and consumption.

Rehabilitation of historic buildings attracts new private investment to the historic cores of cities and towns and is crucial to the long-term economic health of many communities. Enhanced property values generated by the program result in higher revenues for local and state government through increased property, business, and income taxes.



The Federal 20% Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program is jointly administered by the National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service.



The Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation acts as an applicant's first point of contact when pursuing historic tax credits.



The credit is available for those income-producing buildings that are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places or are contributing elements to National Register Historic Districts.



Rehabilitation projects must be substantial; that is, the qualified rehabilitation expenses must exceed the value of the historic building.



All projects must be completed according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and buildings must be retained for five years to receive the full value of the credit.

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***For more information contact Tax Incentives Staff,  
Division of Historic Preservation at 225.342.8200.***

## LOUISIANA MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Cities and towns across the state have come to see that a prosperous, sustainable community is only as healthy as its core. The Louisiana Main Street program leads a powerful, grassroots network of designated communities across Louisiana.

Main Street serves as the economic engine, the central stage, and the heart of the community. It reflects the identity of a place - its history, its people, and the ways in which the past has shaped the present. Unlike bland suburbs or enclosed shopping malls, Main Streets offer a window into the past, a space to explore culture, and a foundation for community identity. These streets are places of shared memory, where people continue to gather to live, work, and play.



[louisianamainstreet.org](http://louisianamainstreet.org)

So what is Main Street? Specifically, Main Street® is three things: a proven strategy for revitalization, a powerful network of linked communities, and a national support program that leads the field.

***For more information contact Ray Scriber at [rscriber@crt.la.gov](mailto:rscriber@crt.la.gov) or call 225.342.8162, or contact Amanda Lanata at [alanata@crt.la.gov](mailto:alanata@crt.la.gov) or call 225.342.8197.***

## CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program is an initiative of the National Park Service and designation is intended to encourage communities to establish historic preservation programs at the local level. The program aims to foster neighborhood pride, to survey and inventory local historic properties, and to assist property owners in preserving their community's heritage.

Every community has its distinctive heritage: a historic downtown, older neighborhoods, schools, churches, and parks. These features represent the history of a community and become a legacy for all. Historic properties give each community its distinctive look and feel. They contribute to the economy by providing



[crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/historic-preservation/certified-local-government](http://crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/historic-preservation/certified-local-government)

tourist attractions and stabilizing and increasing property values. Historic districts protect the architecturally rich living environment for citizens, visitors, and future generations.

Certified Local Government communities are eligible to apply for available grant funds through the Division of Historic Preservation. Grant funds are administered on a reimbursable/matching funds basis; meaning the sub-grantee performs the work, makes the necessary expenditures, and receives reimbursement upon completion of the project.

***For more information contact Amanda Lanata at [alanata@crt.la.gov](mailto:alanata@crt.la.gov) or call 225.342.8157.***



## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields and sites of armed conflict on American soil. ABPP's four grant programs empower our partners nationwide to accomplish their preservation goals in a variety of ways:



Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants help state and local governments acquire Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield land.



Battlefield Interpretation Grants assist recipients in their efforts to modernize and enhance education and interpretation at Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefields.



Battlefield Restoration Grants provide funds to return Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War landscapes back to day-of battle conditions.



Preservation Planning Grants fund projects related to planning, interpreting and protecting any battlefield or site associated with armed conflict on American soil. They are not limited to the three wars above.



[nps.gov/orgs/2287/apply-for-grants.htm](https://nps.gov/orgs/2287/apply-for-grants.htm)

Battlefield preservation enables current and future generations to better understand the connection between military conflicts and important social and political changes that occurred in American history. Saving the site of every military conflict that occurred on American soil is impractical. However, ABPP is committed to helping states and local communities preserve their most important sites of armed conflict for future generations.

**For more information email the program at [abpp\\_ppg@nps.gov](mailto:abpp_ppg@nps.gov); Joshua Ammam, Grants Management Specialist; Philip Bailey, Historian & Agreements Technical Representative; Nancy Marksbury, Grants Management Specialist; James Modrick, Lead Grants Management Specialist, Awarding Officer; Hannah Thomas, Preservation Planner**

[explorelouisiana.com/industry/louisiana-historical-marker-program-guidelines](https://explorelouisiana.com/industry/louisiana-historical-marker-program-guidelines)



## LOUISIANA HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

The Louisiana Historical Marker program commemorates facts, persons, events, and places prominently identified with the history of the nation, state, or region. Historical markers are privately sponsored and funded by sponsors. Any individual or group may nominate a location or occasion of historical interest for historical marker commemoration.

**For more information contact Lynne Coxwell at [lcoxwell@crt.la.gov](mailto:lcoxwell@crt.la.gov) or call 225.342.2876**



[crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/historic-preservation/national-register/database/index](https://crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/historic-preservation/national-register/database/index)

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Established by Congress in 1966, the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of significant historic properties. Each state has a historic preservation office, which is responsible for nominating buildings, sites, districts, etc. to the Register. In Louisiana, the Division of Historic Preservation administers this program.

**For more information contact Bailey Hall at [bhall@crt.la.gov](mailto:bhall@crt.la.gov) or call 225.219.4595**





## INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

### INSPIRE! GRANTS FOR SMALL MUSEUMS

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington, DC,

Inspire! Grants for Small Museums is a special initiative of the Museums for America program. It is designed to support small museums of all disciplines in project-based efforts to serve the public through exhibitions, educational/interpretive programs, digital learning resources, policy development and institutional planning, technology enhancements, professional development, community outreach, audience development, and/or collections management, curation, care, and conservation. Inspire! has three project categories: Lifelong Learning, Institutional Capacity, and Collections Stewardship and Access. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$75,000. Grants in the amount of \$5,000 to \$25,000 require no match. Grants over \$25,000 require 1:1 match.



[imls.gov/find-funding/funding-opportunities/grant-programs](https://imls.gov/find-funding/funding-opportunities/grant-programs)



[imls.gov/grants/available/inspire-grants-small-museums](https://imls.gov/grants/available/inspire-grants-small-museums)



### COLLECTIONS ASSESSMENT FOR PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Collections Assessment for Conservation (CAP) program is designed to help small and mid-sized museums better care for their collections. A CAP assessment is a study of an institution's collections, buildings, and building systems, as well as its collections care policies and procedures. The assessment involves a site visit by collections and building assessors, who spend two days touring the museum and interviewing staff and governing officials. The assessors then prepare a comprehensive report that outlines recommendations for improving collections care.

A CAP assessment may assist small and mid-sized museums by: Providing recommendations and priorities for collections care specific to your collections; Facilitating the development of a long-range preservation plan and serving as a fundraising tool for future collections projects.



[imls.gov/find-funding/funding-opportunities/grant-programs](https://imls.gov/find-funding/funding-opportunities/grant-programs)

#### ***Contacts for each project category are:***

***Lifelong Learning: Reagan Moore, [rmoore@imls.gov](mailto:rmoore@imls.gov); 202.653.4637; Gibran Villalobos, [gvillalobos@imls.gov](mailto:gvillalobos@imls.gov), 202.653.4649***

***Institutional Capacity: Reagan Moore, [rmoore@imls.gov](mailto:rmoore@imls.gov); 202.653.4637***

***Collections Stewardship and Access: Mark Isaksen, [misaksen@imls.gov](mailto:misaksen@imls.gov), 202.653.4667; Melinda McPeck, [mmcpeek@imls.gov](mailto:mmcpeek@imls.gov), 202.653.4640***



## MUSEUM ASSESSMENT PROGRAM INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) is supported through a cooperative agreement between the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the American Alliance of Museums. MAP offers museums an opportunity to strengthen operations and plan for the future through year-long process of self-assessment and consultative peer review.

A MAP assessment engages a team of museum staff and stakeholders in a series of institutional self-assessment activities and information gathering using a MAP Workbook. During this process a site visit is conducted by a Peer Reviewer who visits the museum and consults with staff, governing officials, volunteers, and other stakeholders. The Peer Reviewer works with the museum and MAP staff to produce an assessment report evaluating the museum's operations, making recommendations, and suggesting resources and strategies for implementation.

Four MAP assessment types are available: Organizational, Collections Stewardship, Education & Interpretation, and Community & Audience Engagement.

MAP also offers a Follow Up Visit Opportunity for museums who completed a MAP in the last five years. This is an opportunity to work again with a Peer Reviewer to help guide, support, and further the museum's efforts to implement recommendations in the original assessment report.

Museums are selected through a competitive process that requires an application jointly submitted by the museum and the Peer Reviewer. The application should include a draft agenda with clear goals for the follow-up visit and the museum must demonstrate progress made since the initial visit.

***For more information email  
map@aam-us.org or call 202.289.9118.***

## MUSEUM GRANTS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE (AAHC)

This grant program is designed to build the capacity of African American museums and support the growth and development of museum professionals at African American museums.

The AAHC program supports projects that nurture museum professionals, build institutional capacity, and increase access to museum and archival collections at African American museums and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Grant funds range from \$5,000 to \$500,000. Grants between \$5,000 to \$25,000 require no match. Grants over \$25,000 require 1:1 match.

***For more information contact  
Jessica Ottley at 202.653.4666.***

## MUSEUM GRANTS FOR AMERICAN LATINO HISTORY AND CULTURE

The Museum Grants for American Latino History and Culture (ALHC) program supports projects that build the capacity of American Latino history and culture museums to serve their communities and broadly advance the growth and development of a professional workforce in American Latino cultural institutions. Grant funds range from \$5,000 to \$500,000. No match required.

***For more information contact Gibrán  
Villalobos, gvillalobos@imls.gov,  
202.653.4649***



## NATIVE AMERICAN/NATIVE HAWAIIAN MUSEUM SERVICES PROGRAM

The Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services (NANH) grant program is designed to support federally recognized Indian Tribes and organizations that primarily serve and represent Native Hawaiians in sustaining indigenous heritage, culture, and knowledge. The program supports projects such as educational services and programming,

workforce professional development, organizational capacity building, community engagement, and collections stewardship. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$250,000 and do not require a match.

***For more information contact Sarah Glass at [sglass@imls.gov](mailto:sglass@imls.gov), 202.653.4668.***

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## MUSEUM EMPOWERED: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSEUM STAFF

Museums Empowered (ME) is a special initiative of the Museums for America grant program. It supports projects that use the transformative power of professional development and training to generate systemic change within museums of all types and sizes.

The Institute of Museums and Library Services recognizes the many challenges facing individual museums and the need to invest resources, time, and energy towards nurturing the professional development of staff and strengthening museum operations. The Museums Empowered grant program identifies four areas of museum operations to focus for professional development.



**Evaluation** focused projects that will enhance the ability of museum staff to understand a broad spectrum of evaluation methods and techniques as well as better use evaluation reports, data, and metrics to improve the design and delivery of programs.



**Organizational Management** focused projects that will help museum staff develop and implement effective practices in organizational management, human resources, and strategic planning in response to emerging internal or external priorities.

Successful Museums Empowered projects should reflect a solid understanding of relevant theory and effective practices in professional development, organizational dynamics and change management, engage staff, leadership, and volunteers in a series of training activities tied to directly to a key need or challenge, and generate systemic change or organizational growth that results in a more agile and sustainable museum. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$250,000. There is a required 1:1 match.



**Digital Technology** focused projects that will support the work of museum staff in using digital technology to enhance audience engagement, collections access, or general museum operations.



**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** focused projects that will increase cultural competency among museum staff and support relevancy of museum programs through learning activities that strengthen their ability to connect with the communities they serve.



## MUSEUMS FOR AMERICA

The Museums for America program supports museums of all sizes and disciplines in strategic, project-based efforts to serve the public through exhibitions, educational/interpretive programs, digital learning resources, professional development, community debate and dialogue, audience-focused studies, and/or collections management, curation, care, and conservation. Museums for America has three project categories: Lifelong Learning, Community Engagement, and Collections Stewardship and Access. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$250,000 and require a 1:1 match.



[imls.gov/find-funding/  
funding-opportunities/  
grant-programs](https://imls.gov/find-funding/funding-opportunities/grant-programs)

***For more information contact  
the following program specialists:***

***Lifelong Learning: Helen Wechsler,  
hwechsler@imls.gov, 202-653-4779;  
Jessica Ottley, jottley@imls.gov,  
202.653.4669.***

***Community Engagement:  
Sarah Glass, sglass@imls.gov,  
202.653.4668***

***Collections Stewardship  
and Access: Mark Feitl,  
mfeitl@imls.gov, 202.653.4635***





## **INSTITUTE FOR MUSEUMS AND LIBRARY SERVICES NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES: BASIC GRANTS**

The Native American Basic Grants (NAB) program assists federally recognized Native American Tribes in establishing, sustaining, and improving library services and operations with their communities. As information needs change, Tribal libraries must be able to serve as knowledge and resource centers to benefit their users and the wellness of their communities. The NAB program supports Tribes across the country to address their individual information needs and priorities. The Institute of Museums and Library Services will provide funds for Native American Tribes to improve library and archival services for accessing, learning, and preserving information with the community in the following ways support the acquisition of library-related materials, support programming for identified community priorities, support training for library staff, and support project activities that include aspects of two or more of the support services listed above. Grants range from \$6,000 to \$10,000 and requires no match.

***For more information contact Jennifer Himmelreich,  
jhimmelreich@imls.gov, 202.653.4797.***

## **NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS**

This program is designed to assist federally recognized Native American tribes in improving core library services for their communities to improve digital services to support needs for education, workforce development, economic and business development, health information, critical thinking skills, and digital literacy skills. Goals of the program are to improve educational programs related to specific topics and content areas of interest to library patrons and community-based users and enhance the preservation and revitalization of Native American cultures and languages.

Projects may involve, but are not limited to, activities such as educational programming for all ages; oral history collection and documentation; digital media and technology enhancements; institutional planning and policy development; professional training, internships, and mentorships; supporting and engaging with cultural practitioners and scholars; research and development of language and cultural material and tools; digitization and digital asset management, and retrofitting of library spaces for staff and public. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$150,000 and do not require a match.

***For more information contact Jennifer Himmelreich at  
jhimmelreich@imls.gov or 202.653.4797.***

## LOUISIANA BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS

The Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) Beautification Grant provides funding to help improve the appearance of communities throughout Louisiana by creating beautiful, well-maintained public spaces. People are less likely to litter in areas that display community pride and that are well maintained and beautiful, so reducing litter in highly visible areas is an additional key driver of this grant. Priority planting projects include improving and beautifying entry points to cities, highway corridors and medians, downtown roadways and intersections, and other highly visible and highly used public spaces. KLB seeks projects that have diverse community support, volunteer involvement, collaboration with stakeholders and benefit many community members. Award varies from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

### KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL TRASH RECEPTACLE GRANT

The purpose of the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Trash Receptacle Grant is to reduce litter in communities throughout Louisiana by providing high-quality trash receptacles for placement in outdoor public spaces owned by the Grantee. This is not a cash award grant. Eligible applicants may request to receive up to five high-quality trash receptacles to be installed in outdoor public spaces owned by the applying government entity.

*This grant is made possible with funding from the State of Louisiana and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.*

### KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL HEALTHY COMMUNITIES GRANT

Keep Louisiana Beautiful Healthy Communities Grant provides funding for local projects and programs bringing about behavioral changes needed to improve the appearance of communities in Louisiana. Grant projects should focus on litter removal, prevention, and education, best practices for waste management, waste reduction, recycling, reusing, and refusing, litter enforcement, and other related efforts. KLB seeks to fund projects with diverse community support and community benefits. Projects should also promote volunteer involvement and collaboration with stakeholders. Grants range from \$2,500-\$10,000. Minimum 15% cash match, in-kind donation or volunteer hours value required.

*This grant is made possible with funding from the State of Louisiana and Office of the Lt. Governor.*

### GREENER GROUNDS GRANT FOR LARGE OUTDOOR EVENTS

The Greener Grounds Grant provides funding for resources, and to provide education via the Greener Grounds guidebook and workbook, to aid event organizers in incorporating practical ways to plan and manage operations resulting in better waste reduction, increased recycling and litter prevention at large Louisiana outdoor events. Reimbursement grant up to \$10,000 for 3,000+ attendee-per-day events; up to \$5,000 for 1,000+ attendee-per-day events. There is a minimum 15% cash match, in-kind donation or volunteer hours value required. Completion of the Greener Grounds Workbook is a condition of grant reimbursement.

**For more information Keep Louisiana Beautiful Grants contact Jan Windhorst at [jwindhorst@crt.la.gov](mailto:jwindhorst@crt.la.gov) or call 985.778.0067.**



[keeplouisianabeautiful.org/grants](https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/grants)



The Louisiana Division of the Arts has served Louisiana's arts community since 1977 by providing programs, services and support to individual artists and a variety of arts and cultural organizations. Arts and culture support jobs, tourism and education while stimulating creativity, leadership, economic vitality and enhancing quality of life. Listed below are programs and grants that may be useful to you.



## LOUISIANA CULTURAL DISTRICTS

The Cultural Districts Program allows a local government to designate a Cultural District for the purpose of revitalizing a community by creating a hub of cultural activity; allows income and corporate franchise tax credits for eligible expenses for rehabilitation of owner-occupied or revenue generating historic structures in a Cultural District; provides an exemption from sales and use taxes for proceeds received from the sale of original, one-of-a-kind works of art from locations established within the Cultural District; requires local governments who designate such districts to report on impact to their community annually; and requires the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism to collate reports received and submit a single report to the legislature biannually.

## ARTS GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS

The General Operating Support Grant Program is on a two-year grant cycle. Who can apply: nonprofit arts organizations having an organizational mission statement which states that a primary goal of the organization is to create, present, or preserve one or more of the recognized disciplines. The arts disciplines include dance, design arts, folklife, literature, media, music, theatre, and visual arts and crafts.

Domiciled in Louisiana with a letter from the Internal Revenue Service declaring it exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)3 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, dated at least two years before the application deadline. Ability to demonstrate how the organization supports underserved populations within its geographical community with an outreach plan that corresponds to the organization's size and mission.

***For more information contact Erica Anderson at [eanderson@crt.la.gov](mailto:eanderson@crt.la.gov) or call 225.342.8175.***

## ARTS EDUCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY GRANTS

Arts Education and Accessibility grant supports existing music and arts education programs by providing funds for supplies and materials that will enhance learning. The ideal applicant should be able to clearly articulate the need and potential impact of the desired supplies and materials. The maximum grant award is \$2,500.00 and matching funds are not required.

***For more information contact Leea Reese Russell at [lrussell@crt.la.gov](mailto:lrussell@crt.la.gov) or 225.342.8209.***

## LOUISIANA PROJECT GRANTS (ARTS)

Louisiana Project Grants are administered jointly by the Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) and nine regional arts councils across the state. This program provides a system for funding arts projects in all regions of the state by giving artists, nonprofit arts organizations, nonprofit organizations, public and private schools, school boards, colleges and universities, and local government agencies in each region the opportunity to develop arts projects that meet their local needs. ***For more information contact your regional arts council.***

## Regional Arts Councils

Louisiana Division of the Arts works in partnership with 9 Regional Arts Councils (RACs) throughout the state enabling the exchange of resources, information and opportunities.

Part of this partnership includes the administration of the Louisiana Project Grants (LPG) Program, which allows for the funding of arts projects throughout the state to be informed by both local priorities and current state cultural initiatives. RACs can find LPG administration resources here. Below is a chart with links to each of our 9 RAC partners.

### REGION 7

Shreveport Regional Arts Council. Rebecca Bonnevier, Executive Director. Karen Labeau, Community Development Coordinator, [karen@shrevearts.org](mailto:karen@shrevearts.org). 318.673.6500. Represents parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Webster.

### REGION 6

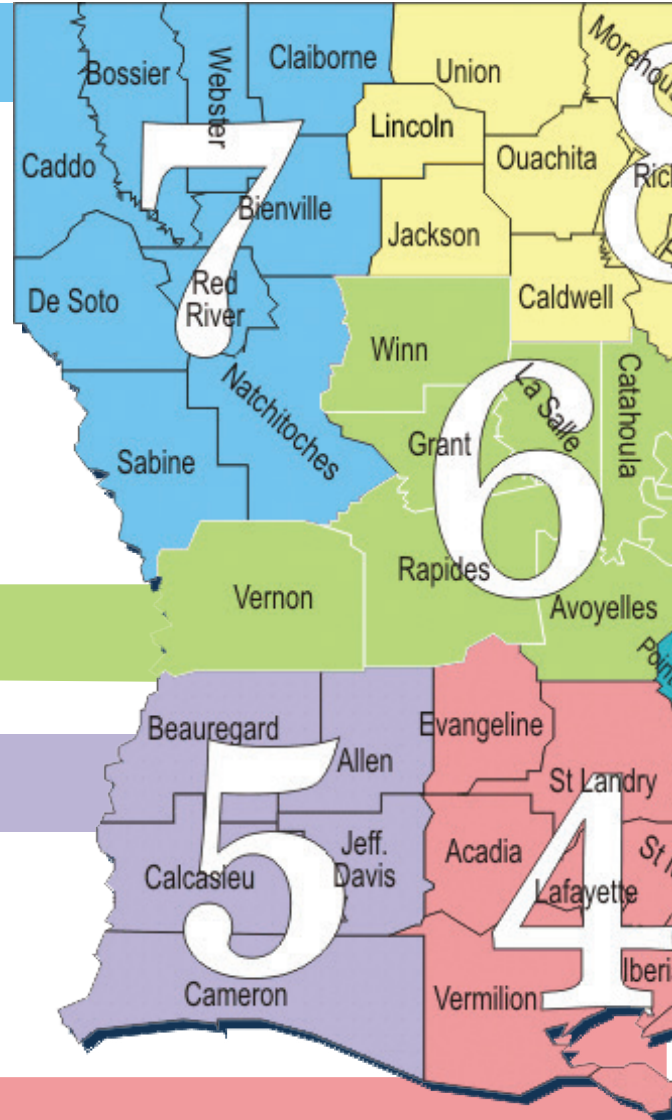
Arts Council of Central Louisiana, Matt Henry, Executive Director. Alyssa Guidry, Community Development Coordinator, [alyssa@louisiana-arts.org](mailto:alyssa@louisiana-arts.org). 318.443.4718. Represents parishes of Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon and Winn.

### REGION 5

Arts & Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana. Cameron Fultz, Executive Director. Erica Barrios, Community Development Coordinator, [ericab@artscouncilswla.org](mailto:ericab@artscouncilswla.org), 337.439.2787. Represents parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jefferson Davis.

### REGION 4

Acadiana Center for the Arts, Samuel Oliver, Executive Director. Gwen Richard, Community Development Director, [gwen@acadianacenterforthearts.org](mailto:gwen@acadianacenterforthearts.org); Anne Kojevnikov, Community Development Manager, [anna@acadianacenterforthearts.org](mailto:anna@acadianacenterforthearts.org). 337.233.7060. Represents parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion.



## REGION 8

Northeast Louisiana Arts Council, Barry Stevens, President & CEO. Abigail Handy, Community Development Coordinator, [abigail@nelaarts.org](mailto:abigail@nelaarts.org). 318.396.9520. Represents parishes of Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union and West Carroll.

## REGION 2

Arts Council of New Orleans, Joycelyn Reynolds, Executive Director; Grace Rennie, Community Development Coordinator, [grace@artsneworleans.org](mailto:grace@artsneworleans.org). 504.523.1465. Represents parishes of Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines.

## REGION 9

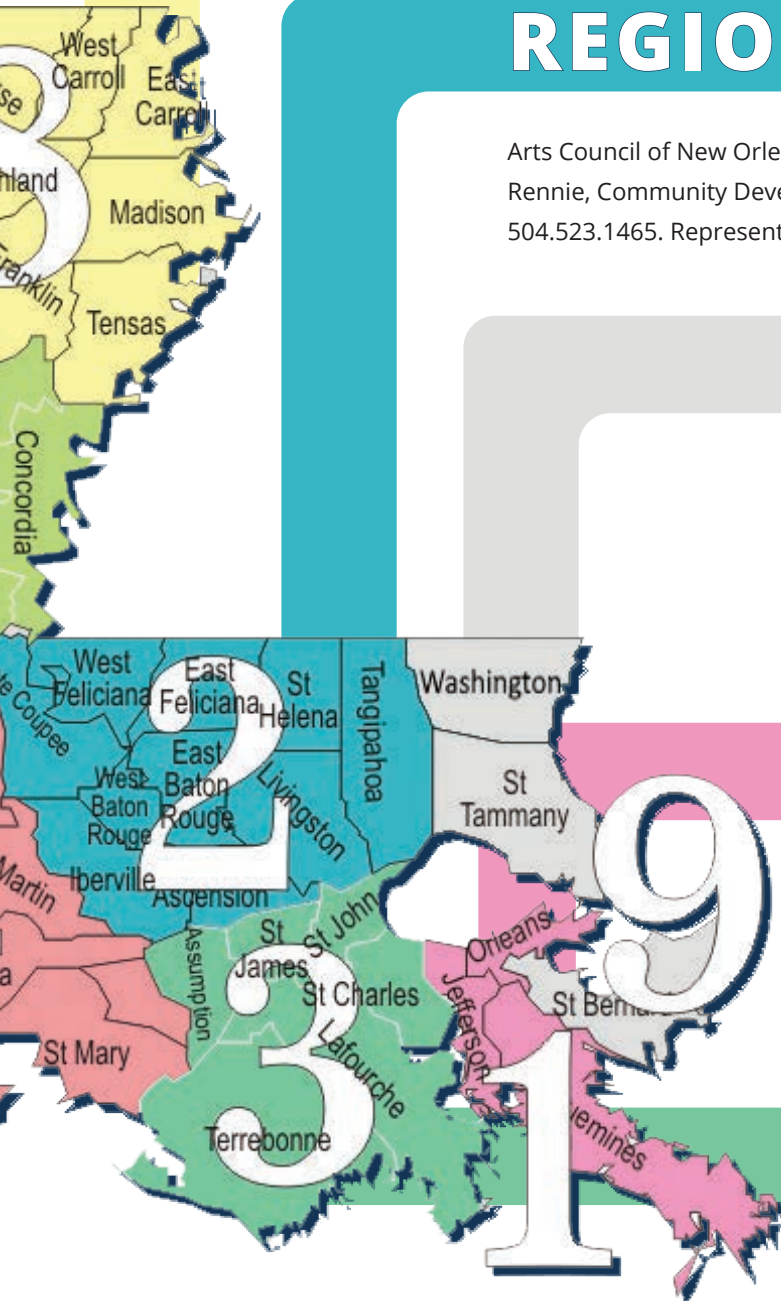
St. Tammany Parish Government Commission on Cultural Affairs, Jessica Madden, Community Development Coordinator, [jmadden@stp.gov](mailto:jmadden@stp.gov). 985.898.5243. Represents parishes of St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Washington.

## REGION 1

Arts Council of New Orleans, Joycelyn Reynolds, Executive Director; Grace Rennie, Community Development Coordinator, [grace@artsneworleans.org](mailto:grace@artsneworleans.org). 504.523.1465. Represents parishes of Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines.

## REGION 3

Bayou Regional Arts Council, Genie Ardoin, Executive Director. Whitney Bergeron, Community Development Coordinator, [cdc@bayouarts.org](mailto:cdc@bayouarts.org). Represents parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. John, St. James and Terrebonne.



## LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STATE PARKS, OUTDOOR RECREATION, RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana (RTPL) is a federal-aid assistance program to help provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trails use. The program provides funds for all kinds of recreational trail uses, such as pedestrian uses (hiking, running, wheelchair use), bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles.

The grant is administered by the Louisiana Office of State Parks, Division of Outdoor Recreation. RTPL provides funding for recreational trails in both urban and rural areas throughout the state. The program may be used on any trail that provides recreation.

**Contact Michael Domingue, Recreational Trails Program**  
at [mdomingue@crt.la.gov](mailto:mdomingue@crt.la.gov), 225.342.4435.



## LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STATE PARKS OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The program, administered by the National Park Service, seeks to identify and highlight new ways of providing opportunities for expanding outdoor play in areas with great need, as well as promoting the development of new or enhanced partnerships for outdoor recreation in urban communities across the nation. The grants must be matched at a minimum 1:1 ratio, at least doubling the impact of the federal investment in these communities. Eligible sponsors are areas with a population of 50,000 or more people and consisting of densely settled territory.

**For more information contact**  
**Mitchell Aleshire, 225.342.8102**  
**or Suzette Sims, 225.342.8088 or**  
**email [outdoorrec@crt.la.gov](mailto:outdoorrec@crt.la.gov)**



[lastateparks.com/grant-opportunities-for-outdoor-recreation](https://lastateparks.com/grant-opportunities-for-outdoor-recreation)



## LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STATE PARKS LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program promotes broad-scope outdoor recreation, ranging from land acquisition to development of park facilities such as spray parks, ball fields, picnic pavilions and restrooms. The federally-funded program provides 50% matching funds assistance, through grants to state governments and local municipalities. The LWCF is administered at the Federal level by the



[lastateparks.com/grant-opportunities-for-outdoor-recreation](https://lastateparks.com/grant-opportunities-for-outdoor-recreation)

Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. At the state level, the LWCF is administered by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of State Parks, Division of Outdoor Recreation.

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (NPS-RTCA) supports locally-led conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the United States. NPS-RTCA assists communities and public land managers in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors.

NPS-RTCA does not provide financial assistance or monetary grants. As a collaborative partner, the



[nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm](https://nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm)

organization provides professional services to support the successful realization of conservation and outdoor recreation project goals. Through an application process, community groups, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state and federal agencies can apply for NPS-RTCA technical assistance.

***For more information contact  
Deirdre Hewitt at [SER\\_RTCA@nps.gov](mailto:SER_RTCA@nps.gov)***



## RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program was established in the Agriculture Act of 1962, with responsibility for the administration of the program placed within the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

RC&Ds are not governmental entities, so the typical policies and constraints of local, state, and federal government programs do not limit the types of issues they address or the means they use. Within their respective areas (typically covering 5-8 parishes), RC&D Councils have a high degree of independence to carry out activities that will achieve their most important goals. RC&D Council volunteers are leaders and community stakeholders involved in multiple roles in local government, school boards, churches, and other civic activities.

At RC&D Council meetings, they draw from their professional expertise and community connections to determine the needs of their RC&D Council areas, address those needs, and make their communities better places to live, work, and play. Nationwide, over 25,000 volunteers serve on local RC&D Councils.

**Below are the Louisiana RC&D Councils:**

### **Capital Resource Conservation and Development Council, 985.276.3000**

The Capital RC&D Council serves 14 parishes in Southeast Louisiana by providing economic and conservation opportunities to urban and rural communities in balance with the environment. Projects include education programs and workshops on natural resource conservation, tourism and community development. It supports local and regional projects and is an incubator of ideas by bringing together motivated community leaders and technical professionals who can develop those ideas into action.

Capital RC&D Council is a nonprofit organization that partners with government agencies and other organizations to collaborate between communities and across parish lines to respond to needs not being met by other programs and organizations in the community.

Represents parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana.



[louisianalandcan.org/state-resources/Resource-Conservation-and-Development-Councils/61](https://louisianalandcan.org/state-resources/Resource-Conservation-and-Development-Councils/61)



[louisianalandcan.org/local-resources/Capital-RCD-Council/12907](https://louisianalandcan.org/local-resources/Capital-RCD-Council/12907)

### **Bayou Land RC&D, 504.828.1866**

Bayou Land RC&D is a regional non-profit that provides resource conservation and community development opportunities to the citizens of Southeastern Louisiana. They work all across Southeastern Louisiana in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne Parishes.



[louisianalandcan.org/local-resources/Bayou-Land-RCD/12908](https://louisianalandcan.org/local-resources/Bayou-Land-RCD/12908)

Bayou Land RC&D manages a variety of projects that promote healthy, sustainable communities throughout the Bayou Land area. The organization engages with children, students, and adults to educate local communities about resource conservation and sustainability. Outreach programs often focus on stormwater best management practices (BMPs), community gardens, native plant identification, and coastal restoration. Additional efforts include watershed planning and monitoring, as well as the collection and propagation of native Louisiana plants in collaboration with a vegetative specialist.

**Some of their programs include:**

- Louisiana Native Plant Initiative (LNPI)
- Louisiana Native Plant ID Workshops
- Bayou Terrebonne Watershed Planning & Monitoring
- Service on the Bayou
- Elmer's Island Community-Led Restoration
- Junior Master Gardener
- Blue Star Memorial Markers

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**Imperial Calcasieu RC&D Council, 337.824.0975**

Serves the parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jefferson Davis.



[louisianalandcan.org/  
local-resources/Imperial-  
Calcasieu-RCD-Council/12905](https://louisianalandcan.org/local-resources/Imperial-Calcasieu-RCD-Council/12905)

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**Northeast Delta RC&D Council, 318.435.7328**



[louisianalandcan.org/local-resources/  
Northeast-Delta-RCD-Council/12894](https://louisianalandcan.org/local-resources/Northeast-Delta-RCD-Council/12894)  
Serves Franklin Parish

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**Trailblazer RC&D Council, 318.255.9199**

Trailblazer provides leadership, coordination, and partnership to help landowners and managers, communities, and individuals conserve, manage, and protect the natural resources of the land. Through a series of workshops and training events, Trailblazer works with leaders in agriculture, conservation, the environment, education, business, and industry to offer information on best management practices for forestry, wildlife management, soil health, livestock management, natural resource conservation, and more. Serves parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, Webster and Winn.



[louisianalandcan.org/  
local-resources/Trailblaz-  
er-RCD-Council/12891](https://louisianalandcan.org/local-resources/Trailblazer-RCD-Council/12891)

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**Twin Valley RC&D Council, 318.352.4946**

Serves the parishes of Caddo, DeSoto, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine and Vernon.



[louisianalandcan.org/  
local-resources/Twin-  
Valley-RCD-Council/12892](https://louisianalandcan.org/local-resources/Twin-Valley-RCD-Council/12892)

## NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE, USDA

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to support environmental quality, conservation stewardship, watershed protection, flood prevention, and landscape conservation initiatives—all of which contribute to the protection and preservation of landscapes along Louisiana Scenic Byways.



[nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/land](https://nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/land)

***On the website, there is a service center locator to find your own parish local service center. The main Louisiana USDA contact is in Alexandria, 318.473.7752, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302***

### PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

#### **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

#### **Agricultural Land Easements**

Agricultural Land Easements help private and tribal landowners, land trusts, and other entities such as state and local governments protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements.

#### **Agricultural Management Assistance**

The Agricultural Management Assistance helps agricultural producers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing or natural resource conservation practices.

#### **Air Quality Initiative**

The National Air Quality Initiative helps agricultural producers meet air quality compliance requirements by providing technical and financial assistance for improving agricultural operations.

#### **Conservation Innovation Grants**

Conservation Innovation Grants is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.

#### **Conservation Reserve Program**

The Conservation Reserve Program provides a yearly rental payment to farmers who remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality.

#### **Conservation Stewardship Program**

The Conservation Stewardship Program helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation.

#### **Emergency Watershed Protection**

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program, a federal emergency recovery program, helps local communities recover after a natural disaster strikes.

#### **Emergency Watershed Protection Program Buyouts**

The Emergency Watershed Protection Buyout Program is designed for emergency recovery work, including the purchase of floodplain property buyouts.

#### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.

#### **Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative**

The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative was developed as a coordinated effort to identify priority issues, find solutions, and effect change on private grazing land, enhancing existing conservation programs.



### **Healthy Forests Reserve Program**

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program helps landowners restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private and tribal lands through easements and financial assistance.

### **High Tunnel Initiative**

A High Tunnel System, commonly called a “hoop house,” is an increasingly popular conservation practice for farmers, and is available with financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

### **Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partnership**

The Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partnership program (16 U.S.C. § 6592d) is working to improve the health and resilience of forest landscapes across National Forest System land and state, tribal, and private lands.

### **Landscape Conservation Initiatives**

Landscape Conservation Initiatives are used to accelerate the benefits of voluntary conservation programs, such as cleaner water and air, healthier soil and enhanced wildlife habitat.

### **Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative**

Best known for their dramatic courtship display, the lesser prairie chicken depends on prairie and grassland ecosystems that have evolved under the interaction of fire and large herbivore grazing over the years.

### **Longleaf Pine Initiative**

Longleaf pine forests once encompassed more than 90 million acres across the Southeast, stretching from eastern Texas to southern Virginia.

### **Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative**

The Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative is accelerating voluntary, on-farm conservation investments and focused water quality monitoring and assessment resources in the Mississippi River watershed.

### **Monarch Butterflies**

NRCS is working with America’s farmers, ranchers, and forest managers on voluntary conservation efforts to combat the decline of monarchs on private lands by establishing new habitat and managing existing habitat for monarchs and pollinators.

### **National Water Quality Initiative**

As USDA’s premiere water quality initiative, National Water Quality Initiative provides a way to accelerate voluntary, on-farm conservation investments and focused water quality monitoring and assessment resources where they can deliver the greatest benefits for clean water.

### **On-Farm Energy Initiative**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program On-Farm Energy Initiative helps farmers and ranchers make voluntary improvements that can boost energy efficiency on the farm.

### **Organic Initiative**

The National Organic Initiative, funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, is a voluntary conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance for organic farmers and ranchers, or those interested in transitioning to organic.

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.

### **Sage Grouse Initiative**

The sage grouse, a chicken-like bird uniquely adapted to this habitat, is the poster child of the sagebrush country. NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help ranchers voluntarily conserve sage grouse habitat on private lands.

### **Sentinel Landscapes Initiative**

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that work with private landowners to advance sustainable land management practices around military installations and ranges.

### **Source Water Protection**

Source water protection includes a wide variety of actions and activities aimed at safeguarding, maintaining or improving sources of drinking water and their contributing areas.

### **Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program**

The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program provides funding to help State and tribal governments encourage landowners to allow public access to their land for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

### **Water Bank Program**

The intent of the Water Bank Program is to keep water on the land for the benefit of migratory wildlife such as waterfowl.

### **Watershed Programs**

Watersheds impact everyone; every community, farm, ranch, and forest. They provide a vital resource for all living things to survive and thrive. All watersheds are interconnected, creating a land-water system that conveys water to its final destination such as a river, lake, wetland, or estuary.

### **Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations Program**

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations Program helps units of federal, state, local and federally recognized tribal governments (project sponsors) protect and restore watersheds.

### **Watershed Rehabilitation**

The Watershed Rehabilitation Program helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet federal or state safety criteria or performance standards. Since 1948, NRCS has assisted local sponsors in constructing over 11,850 dams.

### **WaterSMART**

WaterSMART Initiative is a collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation to coordinate investments in priority areas for improving water conservation and drought resilience.

### **Wetland Mitigation Banking Program**

The Wetland Mitigation Banking Program is a competitive grants program that supports the development and establishment of wetland mitigation banks to make credits available for agricultural producers.

### **Wetland Reserve Easements**

Wetlands Reserve Easements help private and tribal landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.

### **Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership**

The Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership is a voluntary program through which NRCS enters into agreements with eligible partners to leverage resources to carry out high priority wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement and to improve wildlife habitat.

### **Working Lands for Wildlife**

Through Working Lands for Wildlife, the USDA uses a win-win approach to systematically target conservation efforts to improve agricultural and forest productivity which enhance wildlife habitat on working landscapes.



## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (SWCD)

The Louisiana Office of Soil and Water Conservation, part of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, provides technical and financial assistance to the state's 44 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). With assistance from state and federal partners and local SWCDs, they identify natural resource concerns through a locally led process, starting with the meeting of resource management agencies, local landowners, and community stakeholders. Local Work Groups then convene to evaluate natural resource conditions in a conservation needs assessment and establish broad conservation goals to meet those needs. SWCDs will then harness the necessary resources to successfully conserve and manage local resources through implementation of voluntary conservation programs and practices.



[Idaf.la.gov/about/organization/oswc](http://Idaf.la.gov/about/organization/oswc)

### SERVICES INCLUDE:

-  Agricultural Solid Waste Management
-  Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement
-  Agricultural Prescribed Burner Certification
-  Marshland Prescribed Burner Certification
-  Coastal Wetlands Re-vegetation
-  Conservation Information & Education
-  Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
-  Farm Bill Program Assistance
-  Provides assistance with invasive species removal
  - Feral hog trap rentals
  - Giant Salvinia Weevil Program

**For more information contact the Office of  
Soil & Water Conservation at 225.922.1269  
or [soilandwater@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:soilandwater@ldaf.state.la.us)**

## DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) collaborates with local, state, and federal leaders to make investments into projects supporting transportation infrastructure, basic public infrastructure, workforce training, and business development. In addition, DRA works with a number of federal partners on programs designed to promote development and growth in economically distressed communities.



[www.dra.gov](http://www.dra.gov)

### STATES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

States' Economic Development Assistance Program provides direct investments for basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, business development with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, and workforce development.

Persons interested in the States' Economic Development Assistance Program are encouraged to contact the Local Development District, which are also the state's Economic Development Districts. As front-line project managers, the Local Development Districts (LDD)

within the DRA footprint provide technical assistance, application support and review, and other services to DRA and those entities in their district wishing to apply for DRA funding. The LDDs help the DRA identify effective and impactful economic development projects for consideration for DRA investment. They also provide on-ground support for public outreach and participate in DRA-sponsored programs and policy initiatives, often helping to drive attendance to DRA events.

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

The Community Infrastructure Fund complements the States' Economic Development Assistance Program as a primary investment tool for DRA. Investments support projects that address flood control, basic public infrastructure, and transportation infrastructure improvements.

## DELTA WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM


The Delta Workforce Grant Program is an initiative designed to build long-term community capacity and increase economic competitiveness by providing grants to support workforce training and education programs throughout the lower Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions.











DWP supports projects and initiatives that create a more vibrant economic future for the Delta region by expanding opportunities to recruit, train, and retain a diverse and local workforce; aligning workforce and economic development strategies; creating sustainable talent pipelines; establishing or enhancing locally/regionally significant sector-based partnerships; and supporting enhanced workforce productivity through investments in innovative programming or services.

## WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission, and Northern Border Regional Commission, the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) initiative supports workforce training and education in rural communities across the Delta, Appalachian and Northern Border regions.

### SERVICES INCLUDE:

-  State and county governments
-  City or township governments
-  State or local workforce development boards
-  Special district governments
-  Regional organizations

-  Independent school districts
-  Public/state-controlled institutions of higher education
-  Indian/Native American tribal governments (both Federally Recognized and non-Federally Recognized)
-  Indian/Native American tribally designated organizations
-  Public/Indian housing
-  Nonprofit organizations (with or without 501(c)(3) status)
-  Private institutions of higher education
-  Hispanic-serving institutions
-  Historically Black Colleges and Universities
-  Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities

***For more information about WORC, visit the Employment and Training Administration website.***

## STRATEGIC PLANNING PROGRAM

Communities across DRA's eight-state region lack the capacity and resources to strategically plan. This program will give public entities access to strategic planning funds to address long-standing issues and develop a roadmap for economic growth and opportunity. Applicants for this program have the autonomy to apply for a plan that fits the unique needs and challenges in their community. Eligible plans include, but are not limited to, economic development plans, utility rate studies, transportation plans, workforce development plans, and broadband deployment plans.

Applicants are encouraged to contact DRA program staff for additional information regarding submission requirements as well as assistance in developing their application. Technical questions about the NOFA should be directed to [strategy@dra.gov](mailto:strategy@dra.gov) with the subject line "Strategic Planning Grant NOFA." Include the contact name, applicant organization, and phone number in the body of your email.



## LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS COMMUNITY SUPPORT PILOT PROGRAM

The Local Development Districts (LDD) Community Support Pilot Program is a noncompetitive grant program open to the 45 LDDs in the DRA service area. This program targets capacity-building and community support resources to LDDs that are helping economically distressed, isolated areas of distress, and persistent poverty communities navigate federal, state, and other resources that impact economic and community development. The program is designed to enhance the region's resiliency and ability to compete for and leverage resources.



[dra.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/LDD-Community-Pilot-Program-Manual\\_UpdatedApril2024.pdf](https://dra.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/LDD-Community-Pilot-Program-Manual_UpdatedApril2024.pdf)

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS) INCLUDE:

#### **Capital Region Planning**

**Commission**, Baton Rouge.

225.383.5203. Serves the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana.

#### **Regional Planning Commission**,

New Orleans. 504.483.8500. Serves the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard.

#### **South Central Planning and Development Commission**,

Houma, 985.851.2900. Serves the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and St. Mary.

**Imperial-Calcasieu Regional Planning and Development Commission**, Lake Charles. 337.433.1771. Serves the parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jefferson Davis.

#### **Kisatchie-Delta Regional Planning and Development District**, Alexandria.

318.729.8996. Serves the parishes of Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides and Winn.

#### **North Delta Planning and Development District**,

Monroe, 318.387.2572. Serves the parishes of Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union and West Carroll.

#### **Acadiana Planning Commission**,

Lafayette. 337.806.9368. Serves the parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermilion.

#### **The Coordinating and Development Corporation**, Bossier City. 318.632.2022.

Serves the parishes of Bienville, Claiborne, DeSoto, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River and Webster.



U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has a wide variety of programs and funding opportunities available. Open grant programs are listed on Grants.gov. Louisiana is in the Austin Region. The Louisiana EDA representative is Robert Peche. His contact information is rpeche1@eda.gov. 512.568.7732.

The EDA works in concert with Louisiana's eight Economic Development Districts. If interested in applying for EDA grants, it is highly recommended to contact the appropriate Economic Development District to work through the application process.

## THE EIGHT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS ARE:

### **Capital Region Planning Commission,**

Baton Rouge. 225.383.5203.

Serves the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana.

### **Regional Planning Commission,**

New Orleans. 504.483.8500.

Serves the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard.

### **South Central Planning and Development Commission, 985.851.2900.**

Serves the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and St. Mary.

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### **North Delta Planning and Development District, Monroe. 318.387.2572.**

Serves the parishes of Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union and West Carroll.

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Lafayette. 337.806.9368.

Serves the parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermilion.

### **The Coordinating and Development Corporation, Bossier City. 318.632.2022.**

Serves the parishes of Bienville, Claiborne, DeSoto, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River and Webster.

## **OVERALL FUNDING CATEGORIES ARE:**

### **DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

EDA periodically receives disaster supplemental funding to address economic challenges in areas where a Presidential declaration of a major disaster has been issued. Funding helps communities devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through a variety of construction and non-construction projects.

### **ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE**

The Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. It focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base. Among the EAA initiatives EDA administers is Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program, which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand. EAA also delivers investment and support on a wide-array of construction, development, and expansion initiatives.

### **PLANNING AND LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Planning and Local Technical Assistance programs help communities prepare economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and economic resiliency. They provide support to local organizations, including Economic Development Districts, Tribes, and other eligible areas, with short and long-term planning efforts.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

EDA's Public Works program helps distressed communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure. This program enables communities to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, generate local investment, and create or retain long-term jobs through land acquisition, development, and infrastructure improvement projects that establish or expand industrial or commercial enterprises.

### **UNIVERSITY CENTERS**

EDA's University Centers program enables institutions of higher education and consortia of these institutions to establish and operate University Centers focused on leveraging university assets to build regional economic ecosystems that support innovation and high-growth entrepreneurship, resiliency, and inclusiveness.

### **COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE**

EDA's Communities of Practice program strengthens America's economic development infrastructure by capturing, organizing, and scaling practices at a national level. Each Community of Practice consists of a cohort of EDA grantees who share a similar programmatic, functional, and/or organizational focus.

## **FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR REMOVING BARRIERS AND ACCOMMODATING CUSTOMERS WITH DISABILITIES**

ADA-compliant grants are awarded to businesses, government entities, and nonprofit organizations to help make services accessible to people with disabilities. Funding spans a broad spectrum from retrofitting stairways to purchasing assistive technologies to aid visually impaired individuals.

Businesses doing alterations to improve accessibility are eligible for two federal tax incentives. The Disabled Access Credit (Internal Revenue Code, Section 44) is available to help small businesses cover ADA-related eligible access expenditures. A small business is one that had either revenues of \$1,000,000 or less or 30 or fewer full-time workers in the previous tax year. The credit can be taken to: (1) remove barriers that prevent a business from being accessible to or usable by individuals with disabilities; (2) provide qualified interpreters or other methods of making audio materials available to hearing-impaired individuals; (3) provide qualified readers, taped texts, and other methods of making visual materials available to individuals with visual impairments; and (4) acquire or modify equipment or devices for individuals with disabilities. The credit cannot be taken for the costs of new construction or planned alterations/renovations. The amount of the tax credit is equal to 50% of the eligible access expenditures in a year, up to a maximum expenditure of \$10,250. There is no credit for the first \$250 of expenditures. The maximum tax credit is \$5,000.

A business of any size can take a tax deduction under Internal Revenue Code - Section 190 for the costs of removing architectural or transportation barriers. Businesses can also take a business expense deduction of up to \$15,000 per year for costs of removing barriers in facilities or vehicles. These two incentives can be used together by eligible businesses if the expenditures qualify.

***For more information contact the  
ADA National Network at 1.800.949.4232.***

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)**

Established by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, CDBGs provide financial assistance with grant funds to improve accessibility in public spaces.

They can be used for any number of things, from accessibility modifications (e.g., installing wider bathroom stalls) to retrofitting existing housing units to meet accessibility standards.

Another benefit of CDBG grants is that they lend themselves to a lot of partnership opportunities. For example, local governments can partner with nonprofit organizations, the private sector, or community advocates to consolidate resources, combine expertise, and join forces to promote inclusive design.

Don't forget about accessibility awareness and education. Funds can even be used to provide community services to people with disabilities, including municipalities and state governments. Resume help, employment assistance, and similar offerings could all be available.



**RURAL DEVELOPMENT** 318.473.7920

The Louisiana United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) office is located in Alexandria. The USDA offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing, health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure.

It promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. It offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations.

The USDA provides technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs. We help rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make health and safety repairs to their homes.

**Various programs include:****RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

This program provides grant money to assist with economic development planning and/or the financing or expansion of rural businesses. Applications will compete in two separate categories, business opportunity grants and business enterprise grants, for use in funding various business and community projects that serve rural areas. Grants may be made to a Public Body/ Government Entity, an Indian Tribe, or a Nonprofit entity primarily serving rural areas.

Rural Business Development Grant money must be used for projects that benefit rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more.

**ENTERPRISE FUNDS**

Enterprise funds may be used for training and technical assistance, such as project planning, business counseling and training, market research, feasibility studies, professional or technical reports, or producer service improvements.

Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, renovation of buildings; plants, machinery, equipment, access for streets and roads; parking areas and utilities.



### **Pollution control and abatement.**

The capitalization of revolving loan funds, including funds that will make loans for start-ups and working capital.

- Rural distance learning for job training and advancement for adult students.
- Rural transportation improvement.
- Community economic development.
- Technology-based economic development.
- Feasibility studies and business plans.
- Leadership and entrepreneur training.
- Rural business incubators.
- Long-term business strategic planning.
- Opportunity funds may be used for:
  - Community economic development.
  - Technology-based economic development.
  - Feasibility studies and business plans.
  - Leadership and entrepreneur training.
  - Rural business incubators.
  - Long-term business strategic planning.

### **Opportunity grant funds may be used for:**

- Community economic development.
- Technology-based economic development.
- Feasibility studies and business plans.
- Leadership and entrepreneur training.
- Rural business incubators.
- Long-term business strategic planning.

### **RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS GRANT**

This program helps qualified nonprofits and tribes create a revolving loan fund to increase access to clean, reliable water and septic systems for households in eligible rural areas. Grant funds may be used to help a nonprofit create a revolving loan fund for eligible individuals who own and occupy a home in an eligible rural area. The fund may be used to construct, refurbish, or service individually owned household water well and septic systems. Terms for the loans include one percent fixed interest rate, 20-year maximum term, and an \$15,000 maximum loan per household. Ten percent matching funds.

### **RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

The Rural Cooperative Development Grant program improves the economic condition of rural areas by helping individuals and businesses start, expand or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually owned businesses through Cooperative Development Centers. Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register. Grants may be made to nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education. Grants may not be made to public bodies. The individuals and business assisted must be located in an eligible rural area.

Funds may be used for conducting feasibility studies, developing business plan, providing leadership and operational improvement training and facilitating strategic planning.

### **SOCIALLY-DISADVANTAGED GROUPS GRANT**

The primary objective of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant program is to provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups through cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a Notice published in the Federal Register and an announcement posted on Grants.gov. Funds may be used for feasibility studies, business plans, strategic planning and leadership training.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Rural areas including cities, villages, townships and towns including Federally Recognized Tribal Lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census Data are eligible for this program. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings. Public bodies, community-based non-profit corporations and federally-recognized Tribes may apply. Funds may be used to purchase, construct, and / or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

### Examples of essential community facilities include:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities                      |  Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools  |
|  Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements   |  Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment  |
|  Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing                               |  Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses |
|  Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment |   |

## RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS & ENERGY EFFICIENT IMPROVEMENT LOANS AND GRANTS IN LOUISIANA

The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. Projects must be located in rural areas with a population of 50,000 residents or less.

### Funds may be used for the purchase, installation and construction of energy efficiency improvements, such as:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  High efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC). |  Biomass (for example: biodiesel and ethanol, anaerobic digesters, and solid fuels). |
|  Insulation.   |  Geothermal for electric generation or direct use.                                   |
|  Lighting.   |  Hydropower below 30 megawatts.  |
|  Cooling or refrigeration units.   |  Hydrogen.   |
|  Doors and windows.  |  Small and large wind generation.  |
|  Electric, solar or gravity pumps for sprinkler pivots.                    |  Small and large solar generation.   |
|  Switching from a diesel to electric irrigation motor.                     |  Ocean (tidal, current, thermal) generation.   |
|  Replacement of energy-inefficient equipment                               |   |

## **SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) is a participating state in the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service's funded Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). LDAF accepts applications for Louisiana grant project proposals to be included in Louisiana's annual State Plan. This grant awards funds to projects which enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty Crops are broadly defined as fruits, vegetables, dried fruits, tree nuts, horticulture products, and nursery crops including floriculture. Lists of eligible and ineligible crops may be found on the USDA-AMS website.

## **VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grants are available to assist rural fire departments in Louisiana. These grants 1) address critical preparedness needs for firefighter safety, 2) increase initial attack capability suppression efforts and training, and 3) protect state and private lands threatened by wildfire.

A rural volunteer fire department is defined as "an organized, not for profit, fire protection organization that provides service primarily to a community or city with a population of 10,000 or less or to a rural area, as defined by the Secretary of Agriculture, whose firefighting personnel is 80 percent or more volunteer, and that is recognized as a fire department by the laws of the State." 16 U.S.C. 2106

***For more information contact Matt Polk at [forestprotection@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:forestprotection@ldaf.state.la.us) or call 225.925.4500.***

## **FOREST PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM**

The Forestry Productivity Program (FPP) provides financial assistance to eligible landowners for establishing and improving a crop of trees. This program helps provides an incentive to offset the cost of implementing specific forestry practices designed to produce a timber crop.

Incentive payments to the landowner help with the cost of implementing one or more forestry practices to establish and manage a timber crop. Eligible landowners can receive up to the maximum approved amount of FPP assistance each fiscal year.

FPP assistance is available to landowners in all Louisiana parishes who own a minimum of 10 contiguous acres suitable for growing a commercially valuable timber species. There is no maximum size of ownership limiting a landowner's participation in the program. Applications for FPP assistance are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each landowner who participates in an FPP cooperative agreement with LDAF is required to maintain the forestry usage for a period of 10 years. If land is sold, conveyed, etc., before the end of the agreement, the original recipient of funds is bound unless the new owner assumes responsibility in writing.

***For more information email [fpp@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:fpp@ldaf.state.la.us)***

## **FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM**

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a USDA Forest Service program in partnership with Louisiana that will help support local efforts to protect environmentally sensitive, privately owned forest lands threatened by conversion to non-forest use through land acquisition and conservation easements. The FLP is an entirely voluntary program designed to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands with the help of willing landowners. Through the program, conservation easements, which are legally binding agreements, transfer a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another, without removing the property from private ownership. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development and require sustainable forestry practices.



**There are currently two funding sources for the Forest Legacy Program:**



Annual funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) allocated by Congress



Funding made available through the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

***For more information contact the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry at 225.925.4500 or [forestry@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:forestry@ldaf.state.la.us).***

**BEEES AND BEEKEEPING**

LDAF's apiary programs prevent the introduction and spread of infectious diseases and pests of honey bees through hive registration, surveys, inspections, sampling, and control of pests of honey bees.

***For more information contact Horticulture and Quarantine, 225.952.8100 or [horticulture@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:horticulture@ldaf.state.la.us).***

**LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Through this grant, Louisiana businesses can establish internship programs that grow the next generation of agriculture professionals while strengthening their own businesses. Participating businesses may receive reimbursement of up to 50% of the intern hiring costs, with a maximum award amount of \$5,000. Eligible businesses include agricultural producers, entities engaged in agriculture, and those providing related support activities or services. Eligible interns are Louisiana secondary or postsecondary students and beginning farmers or ranchers employed by agricultural businesses. Internships should offer at least 130 hours of work experience, not exceeding one year in duration, and interns must be paid at least the minimum wage rate as per the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Businesses must also possess Workers' Compensation insurance.

***For more information contact the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority at 225.925.3982 or [agworkforce@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:agworkforce@ldaf.state.la.us).***

**FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM**

The Farmers Market Promotion Program grants are to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets by developing, improving, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to, or assisting in the development, improvement, and expansion of, domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. The maximum amount awarded for any one proposal cannot exceed \$100,000; the minimum award is \$15,000.

***For more information contact USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, 202.720.0933.***

**FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

The Forest Stewardship Program provides assistance to owners of forest land where good stewardship, including agroforestry practices, will enhance and sustain multiple forest resources and contribute to healthy and resilient landscapes. The program also helps create jobs in rural communities by sustaining local markets for forest products and increasing demand for qualified private forestry consultants and state field foresters.

**The Forest Stewardship Program focuses on three main areas:**



Assisting landowners to actively manage their land and related resources



Keeping land in a productive and healthy condition for present and future owners



Increasing the economic benefits of land (timber harvesting, for example) while conserving the natural environment

There are currently more than 25 million acres being managed under Forest Stewardship Plans.

***For more information contact the Landowner Assistance Programs at 202.281.9375.***

**VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA**, 225.342.2038



<https://volunteerlouisiana.gov>

## **VOLUNTEERISM, STATEWIDE**

Volunteer Louisiana is the state service commission for Louisiana, established in 1993 to promote national service and volunteerism throughout the state. The agency and its staff are housed in the Office of Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. Volunteer Louisiana is governed by a board of volunteer commissioners from across the state. These are leaders in their fields, and great advocates for service and volunteerism in their communities. Programs of Volunteer Louisiana include AmericaCorps, Disaster Services and Volunteerism.

Volunteer Louisiana seeks to connect citizens of all skills, interests, and abilities to non-profit and governmental organizations seeking volunteers. Its online volunteer management system is a free service that facilitates connections between volunteer coordinators and volunteers. These connections are especially important following a disaster to create an orderly system of communications and management that minimizes self-deployment and interference with response and recovery efforts. Volunteer Louisiana also provides free services to organizations and individuals to recognize outstanding volunteers through two signature award programs, Louisiana Volunteer Service Awards and Champions of Service Awards.

## **AMERICORPS LOUISIANA**

AmeriCorps Louisiana network spans every region, making it easy for Corps members to serve close to home and school. AmeriCorps members serve directly with nonprofits and help them address six key focus areas: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families.

## **DISASTER SERVICES, STATEWIDE**

Volunteer Louisiana collaborates with volunteers, non-profit organizations, and state and local officials to enhance emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. In times of disaster, Volunteer Louisiana coordinates spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers according to the state's emergency operations plan. Throughout the year, Volunteer Louisiana strengthens community resilience by providing skilled volunteer training, including Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). These CERT teams are tailored to their specific communities and play a crucial role in disaster preparedness and response.

# FOUNDATION GRANTS

## HOW TO LOCATE FOUNDATION GRANTS

Private foundation grants are financial awards offered by private entities, often funded by a single individual, family, or corporation. These grants support various activities and initiatives of specific interest to the foundation. Foundation grants may be only interested in certain geographic regions, so be sure to fully research the foundation and its funding programs thoroughly before applying.

### **Resource: Foundation Directory Online**

The Foundation Directory is a database containing information on foundations and the kind of projects they fund. The database provides information on each foundation's application process, recently awarded grants, the number and dollar amount of grants made each year, geographic focus, specified areas of interest, contact information, and more.

There is a cost to subscribe to foundation databases, but your local library, or a library located nearby, may provide access to the database free of charge.



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