

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Federal Program Application Support

The Just Transition Fund is excited to announce an immediate grantmaking opportunity to support coal communities applying for federal funding! With historic levels of funding available through a range of federal agencies, we want to help ensure that coal communities have the support needed to apply for those funds and advance transition efforts on the ground.

Notably, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) recently launched its landmark **Coal Communities Commitment**, allocating \$300 million through the American Rescue Plan for communities experiencing economic distress from the declining coal industry—the federal government’s largest investment to date in coal community transition. (The EDA’s other programs include funding opportunities that, though not targeted to coal communities specifically, support community-based economic development more broadly.)

Other federal agencies also provide grants, loans, and technical assistance that support economic transition efforts in coal communities, including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Department of Interior, and Department of Labor. A guide to the broad range of federal programs available to communities in economic transition is available for download on our website [here](#).

Our Priorities

We aim to help drive federal investments in coal communities by helping local organizations submit competitive federal applications for community-led transition projects that advance an equitable, and inclusive local economy. We prioritize support for work that is led by and serves low-income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities most impacted by the transition. We look for projects that demonstrate significant potential to create local economic impact and to serve as models that can be replicated and scaled.

Specifically, we’ll support:

- Community economic development projects focused on promising sectors, including, but not limited to: clean energy, sustainable agriculture, reclamation, tourism, and the knowledge economy;
- Workforce development projects that train coal affected workers and community members for high-road, 21st century jobs in sustainable sectors; and
- Initiatives designed to improve broadband access and affordability. (Please note: If you are seeking resources for a community broadband project, beyond the federal funding you seek, we may be able to help! We will invite you to share more information about these needs in the application form linked to below.)

Use of Funds

Grants can be used for a variety of purposes to support the development of your federal application, including to:

- Engage expert technical resources for research, analysis, and/or grant-writing;
- Organize or deepen inclusive community partnerships;
- Conduct stakeholder engagement and support community planning; and
- Qualify as private matching funds.

Geographic Focus

We'll consider proposals from frontline coal communities in the following priority states: KY, VA, WV, NC, PA, OH, IL, IN, MO, MN, WY, AZ, CO, MT, NM, TX.

Eligible Organizations

Qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

Grant Amounts

Grant amounts will vary up to \$25,000.

Application Process

We are accepting applications on a rolling basis until November 15, 2021. Please submit an online application [here](#). We will aim to provide a funding decision as soon as possible and within four weeks, depending upon the volume of applications we receive. We also expect to renew this funding opportunity early in 2022.

Questions?

Contact Sara Sweeney at ssweeney@justtransitionfund.org to discuss eligibility.