



# Federal Funding Programs - Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Projects

U.S. EPA Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center  
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## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE OF FUNDED PROJECTS
<p>Clean Water State Revolving Fund</p>	<p>Using a combination of federal and state funds, provides loans to construct municipal wastewater facilities, control nonpoint sources of pollution, build decentralized wastewater treatment systems, create green infrastructure projects, protect estuaries, and fund other water quality projects.</p> <p><a href="#">The Best Practices Guide</a> (2015) highlights successful case studies and examples of ways state CWSRF programs can prioritize green infrastructure projects for funding by implementing priority point systems, program set-asides, and marketing strategies for state programs.</p> <p><a href="#">Green Infrastructure Approaches to Managing Wet Weather with Clean Water State Revolving Funds Factsheet</a> (2008).</p>	<p>The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) – a regional wastewater service provider and distributor of wholesale water and recycled water in San Bernardino County, CA – received more than \$30 million in financing from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). A portion of these funds will be used for stormwater capture in local groundwater aquifers and green infrastructure projects to improve the water quality of the Chino Creek Watershed and improve wildlife habitat by restoring the degraded riparian ecosystem.</p> <p>In 2004, the Nature Conservancy used a \$9 million CWSRF loan to fund the interim financing and holding a critical portion of land, known as the Palo Corona Ranch, in Monterey County, CA. This project protected 9,898 acres of pristine Redwood and Monterey Pine forests from imminent development. Without the Nature Conservancy’s purchase increased sedimentation and stormwater runoff would have cause severe impaired to coastal and aquatic resources. The property will be retained by the Department of Parks and the Monterey Peninsula Recreational Park District with dedicated funds over a seven-year period.</p>
<p>Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program</p>	<p>Funding goes to states to reduce nonpoint source pollution (pollution caused by rainfall running over the ground and carrying pollutants including trash, oil and grease, and fertilizers into nearby waterways). EPA’s most recent program <a href="#">guidance</a> recognized the “importance of green infrastructure ... in managing stormwater” and supported awarding funding to green infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>The District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) used Section 319 funding to partially fund remediation of the <a href="#">Watts Branch</a> watershed in northeast D.C. Watts Branch suffered from severe erosion and sediment pollution due to frequent flooding. DDOE led a project to restore the stream bed and control flooding using tree and shrub plantings, regrading of the stream bed, and upstream low-impact development practices to manage impervious surface runoff.</p>
<p>Urban Waters Small Grants Program (UWSG)</p>	<p>Funding to communities to improve the quality of urban waters while simultaneously stimulating neighborhood revitalization. The Urban Waters Small Grants Program has a focus on underserved communities, defined as “communities with environmental justice concerns and/or susceptible populations.” The Program can be used specifically for innovative or new green infrastructure practices that improve water quality; state, local, and tribal governments, as well as universities and nonprofit organizations, are eligible to apply.</p>	<p>The Constitutional Rights Foundation, in partnership with Los Angeles Waterkeeper and UCLA, award to work with four high schools in Los Angeles County. College- aspiring students will be taught how to collect data related to trash and industrial stormwater pollution. Up to five seniors from UCLA’s Environmental Sciences bachelors program will serve as peer mentors and role models for participants (2015/6).</p> <p>Heal the Bay will monitor bacterial water pollution at two recreational zones in the Los Angeles River. Water quality data will be made available regularly to the public. Results of the study will be used to make recommendations to agencies and watershed stakeholders for improving water quality and protecting public health (2015/6).</p>

## U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE OF FUNDED PROJECTS
<p>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)</p>	<p>Eligible to fund stormwater and green infrastructure because these projects can create jobs, increase economic activity, and increase property values. Urban tree planting can increase economic activity in a commercial district. Additionally, green infrastructure can increase property values by mitigating flooding, improving neighborhood aesthetics, and providing other co-benefits.</p>	<p><a href="#">Detroit, MI</a>, used \$8.9 million in CDBG funds in 2014 to create a major flood prevention and economic development program. Detroit is using the funding to demolish blighted properties, landscape and install trees on 200 vacant lots to improve stormwater management and neighborhood aesthetics, and install infrastructure that will direct stormwater into new bio-retention basins.</p> <p>Chicago has used CDBG funding to put a new green roof on its historic Cultural Center.</p>
<p>Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants</p>	<p>Supports metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts to integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of economic competitiveness and revitalization, social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity, energy use and climate change, and public health and environmental impact.</p>	<p><a href="#">Green Infrastructure and the Sustainable Communities Initiative report</a> provides case studies of 30 local governments who have used U.S. HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants or Community Challenge Planning Grants to fund green infrastructure programs. Generally, HUD SCI grantees have planned for climate resilience by identifying strategic areas to implement stormwater best management practices with a dual approach to stormwater management that uses both traditional gray infrastructure and green infrastructure.</p> <p>Although the HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative grant programs have not received appropriations since 2011, the case studies provide excellent examples of how local governments can combine various funding streams to pay for green infrastructure programs.</p>
<p>Community Challenge Planning Grants</p>	<p>Fosters reform and reduces barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities. Such efforts may include amending or replacing local master plans, zoning codes, and building codes, either on a jurisdiction-wide basis or in a specific neighborhood to promote mixed-use development, affordable housing, the reuse of older buildings for new purposes, and similar activities with the goal of promoting sustainability at the local or neighborhood level.</p>	<p>For example, the City of Pittsburgh combined funding from a HUD Community Challenge Planning Grants with funding from a U.S. DOT TIGER II grant to fund the planning of the Allegheny Riverfront Green boulevard project.</p>
<p>Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program</p>	<p>Allows future CDBG allocations to be used to guarantee loans for neighborhood revitalization projects, including construction and installation of public facilities and infrastructure. Section 108-guaranteed projects can incorporate green infrastructure into their design and construction.</p>	
<p>Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)</p>	<p>Provides federal aid to states post-disaster, and funds can be used for a variety of community development activities that benefit low- and moderate-income individuals, reduce blight, or address an urgent community need. In rehabilitating housing and constructing public amenities, cities may be able to incorporate green infrastructure techniques (like street trees and permeable pavements) in street design.</p>	<p>Louisiana used CDBG funds to acquire properties in floodplains after Hurricane Katrina.</p>

## Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE OF FUNDED PROJECTS
<p><a href="#">Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)</a></p>	<p>Provides post-disaster federal aid to states to mitigate the risks of future disasters and can fund flood mitigation projects, including acquisition and relocation of flood-prone properties and soil stabilization projects like the installation of vegetative buffer strips</p>	<p><a href="#">New Orleans</a> used HMGP funding for its post-Katrina rebuilding process, including the reconstruction of the city’s stormwater infrastructure. Although the New Orleans Stormwater plan calls for a significant expansion of green infrastructure to manage the city’s chronic flooding, the city initially had difficulty demonstrating the benefits of green infrastructure under FEMA’s required benefit-cost analysis because the city 1) lacked the data to demonstrate potential flood losses avoided and 2) could not count many of green infrastructure’s environmental benefits. Demonstrating the cost-benefit of green infrastructure under HMGP has been much easier since FEMA amended its policy to allow counting of some “ecosystem services” (including aesthetic value, air quality, recreation space, and water filtration) as benefits.</p>
<p><a href="#">Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program</a></p>	<p>Funds to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program. The goal is to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding in future disasters. This program awards planning and project grants and provides opportunities for raising public awareness about reducing future losses before disaster strikes. Mitigation planning is a key process used to break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. PDM grants are funded annually by Congressional appropriations and are awarded on a nationally competitive basis.</p>	

# U.S. Department of Transportation

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE OF FUNDED PROJECTS
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program	Funds investments in road, rail, transit and port projects. TIGER grants have been awarded to projects that included green infrastructure components	<a href="#">Syracuse Connective Corridor project</a> The Connective Corridor project in Syracuse created more bikeable and walkable streets to encourage active transportation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and incorporated green infrastructure elements such as tree trenches and porous pavements.
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Surface Transportation Block Grant – Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside	Provides funding for “transportation alternatives,” including “off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.” TAP funding could be used to pay for green infrastructure components of trails and sidewalks such as permeable pavements.	<a href="#">The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)</a> used TAP funding in 2015 from the state of Michigan to fund the Detroit – Inner Circle Greenway Railroad Acquisition, which included 1) installation of green infrastructure such as green streets and bioretention and 2) repurposing of 8.3 miles of abandoned railway near Detroit
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program	Allocates federal funding for infrastructure projects that reduce congestion and improve air quality. Bicycle transportation and pedestrian walkways are eligible uses of the money, and can be designed to include green infrastructure features, such as permeable surfaces for trails, and bioswales and bioretention for areas adjacent to trail surfaces.	

## U.S. Department of Agriculture

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Rural Development Water and Environmental Programs (WEP)	WEP is exclusively focused on the water and waste infrastructure needs of rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less. The programs provide technical assistance and financing for development of drinking water, waste disposal, and stormwater systems in rural areas.
Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program	Provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas.
U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program	Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) is a cooperative program of the US Forest Service that focuses on the stewardship of urban natural resources – provides grants for urban forestry projects

## U.S. Department of the Treasury

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
New Markets Tax Credit program	Encourages private investment in a range of project types in distressed areas (e.g., real estate or business development projects). Awards are allocated to nonprofit and private entities based on their proposals for distributing the tax benefits.

## U.S. Department of Energy

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Energy Efficiency Savings – Tax Incentives and Rebates	Green infrastructure can be integrated into project design to claim tax incentives and rebates. For example, Eugene, Oregon, a new biofuel station built on an abandoned gas station site included a green roof, bioswales and rain gardens. Nearly \$250,000 worth of tax credits reduced income and sales tax for the private company that built and operated the project.
Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program	Provides grants, technical assistance, and information tools to states, local governments, community action agencies, utilities, Indian tribes, and U.S. territories for their energy programs. The funding can be used to encourage installation of green infrastructure—such as green roofs—as part of the weatherization process.

## Department of the Interior – National Park Service

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program</a>	Assists community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation initiatives. RTCA staff provide guidance to communities on conserving waterways, preserving open space, and developing trails and greenways.

## U.S. Department of Commerce

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">Economic Development Administration: Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs (EDAP)</a>	Support a range of business and industrial development activities—including infrastructure development—that create or retain jobs. EDA-capitalized revolving loan funds encourage new business development in economically distressed communities.
<a href="#">National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration: Community-Based Restoration Program</a>	Program began in 1996 to inspire and sustain local efforts to restore coastal habitat. It has funded more than 1,500 projects in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands that have restored more than 41,000 acres of habitat and opened more than 1,700 stream miles for fish passage.

Sources: <http://www.georgetownclimate.org/adaptation/toolkits/green-infrastructure-toolkit/federal-funding.html>  
<https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-funding-opportunities>