

Federal Resources to Address Access to Nature in Chicago

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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- **Choice Neighborhoods Grants Program** - Program leverages significant public and private dollars to support locally driven strategies helps communities transform neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant property, housing, businesses, services and schools.
 - <https://www.hud.gov/cn>
- **Community Development Block Grants** - The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program supports community development activities to build stronger and more resilient communities.
 - https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg

AMERICORPS

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- AmeriCorps Member Programs (including AmeriCorps State and National, VISTA, NCCC)
 - <https://americorps.gov/serve/americorps>

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION (FEMA)

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- **Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC)** - Through BRIC, FEMA invests in a variety of mitigation activities with an added focus on infrastructure projects benefitting disadvantaged communities, nature based solutions, climate resilience and adaption, and adopting hazard resistant building codes.
 - <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** - FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments so they can develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future disaster losses in their communities. This grant funding is available after a presidentially declared disaster.
 - <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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- **American Rescue Plan Program: Economic Adjustment Assistance Funds** - The (EDA) Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program invested \$500 million in American Rescue Plan funding to help plan, build, innovate, and put people into quality jobs in hundreds of communities across the nation.
 - <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/american-rescue-plan/economic-adjustment-assistance>
- **Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Funds** - The Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program is EDA's most flexible program; it provides a wide range of technical, planning, and public works and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time.
 - <https://www.eda.gov/economic-adjustment-assistance>
- **Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Habitat Protection and Restoration Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Competition** - Grant program for eligible state and territory Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZM Programs) for coastal habitat restoration; coastal habitat restoration planning, engineering, and design; and land conservation projects.
 - <https://www.federalgrants.com/Coastal-Zone-Management-CZM-Habitat-Protection-and-Restoration-Infrastructure-Investment-and-Jobs-Act-IIJA-Competition-91645.html>
- **National Coastal Resilience Fund** - The National Coastal Resilience Fund restores, increases and strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife.
 - <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund>
- **National Coastal Zone Management Program** - The National Coastal Zone Management Program comprehensively addresses the nation's coastal issues through a voluntary partnership between the federal government and coastal and Great Lakes states and territories.
 - <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/>
- **National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS)** - NIHHIS is seeking applications to create two new virtual applied research centers that will provide actionable, place-based information that communities and individuals can use to build equitable resilience to extreme heat.
 - <https://cpo.noaa.gov/Funding-Opportunities/NIHHIS-FY2024-IRA>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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- **Urban and Community Forestry Program** – Challenge Cost Share - This program helps establish new partnerships working to support disadvantaged communities experiencing low tree canopy and environmental justice issues.
 - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>
- **People’s Garden Initiative** - People’s Gardens grow fresh, healthy food and support a resilient, local food system; teach people how to garden using sustainable practices; and nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and greenspace for neighbors to gather and enjoy.
 - <https://www.usda.gov/peoples-garden>
 - urbantransformationnetwork.org (Chicago's People's Garden)
- **Urban Agriculture and Innovative Programs** - Competitive grants initiate or expand "efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs.
 - <https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/grants>
- **Community Forest and Open Space Program** - Offers an opportunity for communities to acquire and conserve forests that provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products.
 - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest/program>
- **Urban and Community Forestry Program** - By working with state partners and community tree groups, the program invests from the ground up in communities, improving more than 140 million acres of urban and community forest across the United States.
 - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>
- **Urban Field Stations/R&D** - The urban field stations aim to develop and deliver knowledge on urban social-ecological systems and the adaptation of practices that lead to sustainable, resilient, equitable, and healthy urban environments.
 - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/urbanfieldstations>

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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- **Brownfields Grants** - EPA's Brownfields Program provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, job training, technical assistance, and research.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-epa-brownfield-grant-funding>
- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)** - The CWSRF program is a federal-state partnership that provides low-cost financing to communities for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>
- **Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program** - This program provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working to address local environmental or public health issues in their communities.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-5>
- **Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program** - This program provides funding at the state, local, territorial, and tribal level to support government activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-government-government-program>
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Funds** - The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative accelerates efforts to protect and restore the largest system of fresh surface water in the world – the Great Lakes.
 - <https://www.glri.us/funding>
- **Green Infrastructure** - Various programs that seek to increase vegetation and trees in recreation areas, allowing urban residents to enjoy greenery without leaving the city.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure>
- **Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Program (G3)** - This initiative provides support for small to medium-sized communities in urbanized watersheds working to reduce stormwater runoff through the use of green infrastructure.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/G3>
- **Greening America's Communities** - Greening America's Communities is a program to help cities and towns develop an implementable vision of environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative green infrastructure and other sustainable design strategies.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/greening-americas-communities>
- **Superfund Redevelopment Program** - Program focuses on superfund sites that are being reused as "green space" and encompasses a wide range of reuse activities.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/superfund-sites-green-space-reuse>
- **The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program** - EPA has selected 16 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTACs) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy that will receive \$177 million to help underserved and overburdened communities across the country.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers>

U.S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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- **Complete Streets** - Complete Streets addresses a wide range of elements, such as sidewalks, bicycle lanes, bus lanes, public transportation stops, crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, modified vehicle travel lanes, streetscape, and landscape treatments.
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/complete-streets>
- **Highway Mitigation** - The use of land from protected property such as a significant, publicly owned park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or any significant historic site) may not be approved unless a determination is made that there is no feasible and prudent alternative for such use.
 - https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/nepa/trans_decisionmaking.aspx
- **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program** - This program helps identify your community's challenges related to connectivity and barriers which include transportation barriers that make it difficult for community members of all ages and abilities to safely reach daily destinations like schools, jobs, grocery stores, parks, and healthcare services.
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities>
- **Thriving Communities Program** - This planning, technical assistance, and capacity building support enables disadvantaged and under-resourced communities to advance a pipeline of transformative infrastructure projects that increases mobility, reduces pollution, and expands affordable transportation options
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities>
- **Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program** - provides funding for a variety of generally smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities; construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas; community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management; environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trails; safe routes to school projects; and vulnerable road user safety assessments. https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/
 - **Recreational Trails Program**
 - https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/
 - **Safe Routes to School Program** <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/Safe-Routes-to-School-Programs>
- **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program** - The RAISE Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives.
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/about>
- **DOT Navigator** - The DOT Navigator is a new resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>
 - Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and
- **Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program** - The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law establishes the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program to help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.
 - https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/protect_fact_sheet.cfm

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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- **Urban Bird Treaty Cities** - Support partnerships of local, state, and federal government agencies, non-profit organizations, corporations, and local communities in conserving birds that live in and migrate through urban areas.
 - <https://www.fws.gov/program/urban-bird-treaty>
- **Urban Wildlife Conservation Program** - The Urban Wildlife Conservation Program improves lives by expanding access to green space, education and outdoor recreation for Americans living in and around cities.
 - <https://www.fws.gov/program/urban-wildlife-conservation>
- **Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grants (ORLP)** - ORLP is a nationally competitive program targeting grant assistance to help economically disadvantaged urban communities with no, or almost no, access to publicly available, close-by, outdoor recreation.
 - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/outdoor-recreation-legacy-partnership-grants-program.htm>
- **Youth Conservation Corps** - Youth Conservation Corps members work in a healthful outdoor setting on a variety of projects including building trails, maintaining fences, cleaning up campgrounds, improving wildlife habitat, environmental education planning and teaching, stream restoration, historic building preservation, and more!
 - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/ycc.htm>
- **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (NPS-RTCA)** - Supports locally-led conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the United States.
 - <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants (LCWF)** - Provides matching grants to state, local and tribal governments to create and expand parks, develop recreation facilities, and further local recreation plans.
 - <https://lwfcoalition.org/state-and-local-assistance>

U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS

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- **Planning Assistance to States and Tribes** - Every year, each state, tribal nation, local government, or other non-federal entity can provide the Corps of Engineers its request for studies under the program, and the Corps of Engineers then accommodates as many studies as possible within the funding allotment.
 - <https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Missions/Public-Services/Planning-Assistance-to-States/>
- **Floodplain Management Services (FPMS)** - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can provide the full range of technical services and planning guidance that is needed to support effective flood plain management.
 - <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/public-services/flood-plain-management-services/>
- **Continuing Authorities Program** - The purpose of the CAP is to plan and implement projects of limited size, cost, scope and complexity.
 - <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/public-services/continuing-authorities-program/>
- **Silver Jackets** - State-led Silver Jackets teams exist in all states and several territories, bringing together multiple state, federal, and sometimes local agencies and Tribes to learn from one another and work together to reduce risk from floods and sometimes other natural hazards.
 - <https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Silver-Jackets/>
- **Tribal Partnership Program (TPP)** - The Tribal Partnership Program provides an opportunity to assist with water resources projects that address economic, environmental and cultural resource needs through studies that may include flood damage reduction, environmental restoration, and protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources.
 - <https://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Programs-and-Projects/Authorities/Tribal-Partnership-Program/>