



STATE & FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE

New Programs, Funding News, and a Look at
Things to Come...

NLC-Leadership Training Institute, November 09

NEW YORK STATE UPDATES



GREEN JOBS, GREEN NEW YORK

- Provides \$112 million for energy-saving retrofits and creates 14,000 jobs
- How it works:
 - Funded by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
 - NYSERDA provides revolving loans of up to \$13,000 for homeowners and \$26,000 for businesses.
 - Department of Labor and NYSERDA create workforce training programs to prepare for mass-scale retrofitting.
 - Property owners repay loans through energy savings. Although borrowers will repay the full cost over time, their reduced energy usage will result in a net savings.
 - Local contractors certified to perform the retrofits can expand their crews, creating new and permanent jobs in green construction and product manufacturing.



NEW YORK'S "MAIN STREET" GRANT PROGRAM

- Began as a pilot program in 2004, signed into law September 22nd, making it permanent and increasing its scope and funding.
- Provides money to municipalities and non-profits to renovate buildings and streets in downtown areas.
- Encourages "mixed use" properties and adaptive reuse of critical "anchor" buildings.
- The maximum award increased from \$200,000 to \$500,000.
- Since 2004, the state has issued 265 grants, totaling \$61.3 million, in 175 communities.
- Applications will be processed by the Division of Housing and Community Renewal.



RESTORE NEW YORK

- Administered by Empire State Development to revitalize urban areas, stabilize neighborhoods and invite renewed investment.
- \$153.6 million awarded for 79 projects.

Example projects:

- \$7.6 million to Buffalo for neighborhood revitalization, including housing rehabilitation and demolition of vacant properties, focusing on structures that threaten public safety.
- \$6.3 million to the Connective Corridor project for residential, commercial and retail mixed-use projects in Syracuse.
- \$2.5 million to Plattsburgh for the New Homes for Business Project at Imperial Park, site of an old wall coverings factory.
- \$883,302 to the Village of Liverpool to rehabilitate a vacant three-story “anchor” structure.

For more information, visit www.empire.state.ny.us/restoreNY/default.asp.

NY BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREAS

- Provides a new area-wide approach, enabling communities to fully assess economic and environmental conditions.
- Communities are using BOA funds to attract new uses that are appropriate for their area including residential, commercial, manufacturing, and public amenities.
- Program grants support:
 - Public participation processes
 - Economic and market studies
 - Site contamination and environmental assessments
 - Site-specific redevelopment plans
 - Marketing to developers and investors
 - Architectural and streetscape design guidelines
 - Other actions to spur investment, clean-up, and redevelopment of brownfield sites.



FEDERAL UPDATES



NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

- Would provide subsidies and incentives to developers who rehabilitate and construct housing for extremely low-income families.
- Became law in 2008 but has never been financed. There are bills in the US House and Senate that would set aside \$1 billion for the fund. ([H.R.3766.IH] and [S.1731.IS])
- In addition to providing homes for the most vulnerable families, funding the NHTF would help provide much needed jobs to contractors and crews.
- Based on state-level programs, including New York.



COMMUNITY REGENERATION, SUSTAINABILITY, AND INNOVATION ACT [S. 453/H.R. 932]

- Would provide \$350 million in grants and strategic planning for cities suffering from population losses and high vacancy rates
- Would build the capacity of local governments to prevent, demolish, manage, and reclaim vacant properties through various strategies, including:
 - Regional or multi-jurisdictional approaches
 - Green infrastructure, economic development, or other strategies that provide long-term benefits to the public
 - Innovative reuse, including programs that create new jobs
 - Encouraging experimentation and sustainable practices
 - Starting or expanding publically controlled land banks



THE COMPLETE STREETS ACT OF 2009

[S. 584/H.R. 1443]

- Defines “complete streets” policies for State DOTs and MPOs
- Updates federal codes on bicycle and pedestrian accommodation
- Authorizes additional research, data collection, technical assistance, and dissemination of complete streets best practices.

A “Complete Street”:

- Is safe for people traveling by foot, bicycle, transit, and car.
 - Encourages use of public transportation
 - Reduces traffic congestion and auto emissions
 - Provides opportunities for physical activity
- More than 80 jurisdictions have adopted complete streets policies, including: Salt Lake City; Seattle; Charlotte, NC; and Bloomington/Monroe County, Indiana.



THE LIVABLE COMMUNITIES ACT [S. 1619]

- Would fund long-term planning to integrate transportation, housing, land use, and economic development at the town/regional level.
- Would fund investments in regional public transportation, affordable housing, complete streets, transit-oriented development, and brownfield redevelopment projects.
- Would establish a federal Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities at HUD to administer and oversee the Livable Communities grant programs
- Would establish a federal Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities that will include representatives from HUD, DOT, EPA, and other federal agencies to coordinate federal sustainable development policies.



COMMUNITY ACTION FOR A RENEWED ENVIRONMENT (CARE) PROGRAM

- Funds community partnerships to address local environmental concerns. Partnerships include residents, local businesses, and local government.
- Encourages consensus-based decision making.
- 68 grants have been awarded since 2005, totaling over \$10m. Applications are accepted yearly, with RFPs generally due in March.
- There are two levels of grants:

Grant Level	Purpose	Award Range
Level I	Partnership building, information gathering	\$75,000–\$100,000
Level II	Acting on recommendations from Level I	\$150,000–\$300,000



FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

“SMALL STARTS” GRANT PROGRAM

- Sub-category of the FTA’s “New Starts” program, the agency’s main channel for public transportation funding.
- Makes it easier for local governments to plan and implement small-scale transit projects (generally bus lines).
- Features a simplified application process, shorter waiting period, and less demanding reporting requirements.
- Maximum award is \$75 million, with a maximum total project cost of \$250 million.
- “Very Small Starts” program, with even more streamlined criteria and approval process, for projects with total costs less than \$50 million.
- For more information, visit www.fta.gov/smallstarts



ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG)

- DOE announced availability of \$454 million in grants.
 - Applications due Dec. 14 at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) (CFDA # 81.128).
 - "Retrofit Ramp-Up" Program:
 - Up to \$390 million for neighborhood-wide retrofits.
 - 8–20 grants with awards ranging from \$5–75 million.
 - Include a business model for providing cost-effective energy upgrades in a specific community.
 - Approaches could include public/private partnerships, utility retrofits and audits, innovative financing, etc.
 - "General Innovation Fund":
 - Up to \$64 million for small communities.
 - 15–60 grants with awards ranging from \$1–5 million.
 - To fund energy efficiency efforts in the commercial, residential, transportation, manufacturing, industrial sectors.
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