



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Funding Access Barriers Assessment

VERSION ONE: 12/2022



Acknowledgments

This report was developed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Connected Communities team to highlight the barriers to funding for many communities. The funding information in this guide is updated through October 2022, and funding information and programs may change quickly. Research completed for this report was in-depth and thorough, but new opportunities may have been created before this guide was published.

For more information on Connected Communities, please visit tva.com/connectedcommunities or email: connectedcommunities@tva.gov

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Access to Funding

A key success factor in communities' ability to become "connected" is to have access to funding to support development of related infrastructure and programs. Large amounts of funding are available to communities across the country as part of historic federal funding bills and through state and local sources. Based on input from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Connected Communities Steering Committee members, we learned that communities in the TVA service area have difficulty tracking and pursuing funding opportunities and would benefit from hands-on support. We set out to better understand the challenges communities face across the TVA service area and the types of support that would be most helpful for accessing funding. We also sought to provide resources we knew would benefit communities based on previous input. Specifically, we took the following actions:



Assessed Funding Barriers
through community conversations



Assembled a Database
of funding opportunities as a comprehensive directory and search tool

LOOKING AHEAD

Aid in Database Navigation

We will work with TVA community liaisons and representatives to help them navigate opportunities included in the database and align with particular communities' needs and priorities.

Develop Future Strategies

The outcomes of this work will inform future strategies and help communities get started with pursuing funding opportunities and making progress on their journey to become more "connected." Applying for and receiving funds for various projects, whether focused on broadband expansion, workforce development, clean energy or improving existing infrastructure, will help improve lives across TVA's service area.



A key success factor in communities' ability to become "connected" is their ability to access funding to support development of related infrastructure and programs.

Funding Barriers

In our conversations with community representatives, many indicated that their communities experience barriers that inhibit their ability to make meaningful progress in securing funding. Specifically, they experience difficulty in the following areas:



Funding Identification and Planning



Staff Capacity and Experience



Navigating Funding Requirements



The following pages present details of these barriers and potential forms of support that can address the needs identified.



Funding Identification and Planning

In speaking with different communities, many mentioned struggles with accessing easy-to-understand information about funding opportunities. They also explained that they lack the expertise to navigate complex federal funding applications and documentation requirements. These information-related challenges make it difficult for communities to plan and pursue federal funding. To address these challenges, communities need easy access to user-friendly information about funding opportunities and related requirements in order to assess which opportunities are worth pursuing. This information can help inform types of projects most aligned with future rounds of funding.

Communities need easy access to user-friendly information about funding opportunities in order to assess which ones are worthwhile.



“We could use support in identifying funding opportunities, and partnerships with suppliers or others who know about doing these things. There’s probably a lot going on. Connecting communities to people with that knowledge and who can help us understand and plan, would be very helpful”

— MAYOR IN TENNESSEE

Funding Barriers Insights



Staff Capacity and Experience

Several communities note that they do not have enough staff with the right expertise to apply for grants. Without dedicated staff who possess the right knowledge and skill set to adequately understand the requirements of different types of grants and funding, these communities are unable to pursue funding opportunities. To fill this gap, communities need the ability to leverage individuals with grant-writing experience who can help complete applications during short timeframes before funding deadlines.



Navigating Funding Requirements

Many federal grants have extensive requirements to guide recipients on how to submit an application and use funds. The complexity of the process proves to be a challenge for some communities. Additionally, many grants restrict the amount that can be used for administrative fees, so the rules and regulations increase the burden on existing staff and budgets. Communities need solutions to help minimize compliance challenges and more easily meet federal requirements.



“Finding the people to do the work [of applying for] funding is challenging. We have a small population, and big projects create a cost burden.”

– CITY GOVERNMENT STAFF, TENNESSEE



“Most of their funding is federal and has too much red tape. The state and local government [opportunities are] great!”

“The federal funding is trickling in. Everyone thinks it's easy and unlimited to get, but it's not.”

– VARIOUS COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

OTHER BARRIERS

Economic Development

Communities struggle to plan properly for economic development-related funding opportunities since very few government staff have the skill sets needed for such planning.

Operations and Maintenance

While many grants pay for the initial cost of the new asset, many communities find themselves responsible for future operations and maintenance costs (e.g., costs to maintain a fleet of electric vehicle (EV) chargers).

Resource Availability

Representatives at the federal, state, county and local levels experience challenges aligning interests in ways that could enable pooling of resources and joint pursuit of funding opportunities.

Lessons Learned

Through this research, we identified barriers holding communities back from successfully pursuing funding. These barriers helped demonstrate the opportunities for TVA to provide support to communities in the region.

BARRIERS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT

Communities do not know how to identify or prioritize opportunities that are a good fit for them.



Provide easy access to information about funding opportunities.

Staffing is a challenge when prioritizing projects and applying for grants. Communities need access to experienced grant writers.



Provide grant writing assistance to address staffing needs.

Communities need support managing solutions to minimize compliance burdens and easily meet federal requirements.



Match communities with institutions that can work as a conduit for federal funding/grant administrators.

Next Steps

There are both short-term and mid-term steps that TVA can take to help Valley communities access various funding opportunities. In order to succeed in the grant application process, a community needs to have a project plan lined up and a team of resources ready to execute. This takes a lot of planning and coordination that small- and medium-sized communities may not have resources to assemble. TVA can also look to incorporate funding support into the next stage of the Connected Communities initiative and to explore the potential for the next round of Connected Communities pilot projects to serve as leverage for applications to federal funds.

SHORT-TERM STEPS

- Post a funding opportunities database and search tool on the TVA website
- Dedicate staff who can support communities in identifying funding opportunities
- Offer technical support to communities to search the database for relevant funding and consider opportunities to provide easy access to a list of service providers that can assist with preparing funding applications
- Develop a plan for maintaining and updating the funding opportunities database

MID-TERM STEPS

- Provide assistance to assess community infrastructure needs and priorities, and prioritize projects to pursue
- Identify applicable funding opportunities and outline a funding application timeline
- Match communities with potential federal grant administrators
- Facilitate grant writing assistance
- Facilitate grant management assistance

Database Overview

The Connected Communities team developed a database that summarizes funding opportunities in an easy-to-use format. This resource will help communities get started on the path to finding opportunities that best fit their needs and priorities.

The database assembles funding information from many sources, including:

- Federal opportunities including from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), etc.
- State-level opportunities
- Local-level opportunities, including from foundations
- Information on funding approaches to consider (public/private partnerships, etc.)



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search criteria options

help narrow down funding opportunities.

Search Tool

The database was set up to be easy to search and filter, have consistent categories and provide funding details that would be relevant to communities searching for a specific project type. Communities can filter by funding type, geographic areas, availability, eligible entities, matching funds requirements and more. The search tool provides high-level summarized results and links to get more details.

SEARCH TOOL FIELDS

- 1 Matching Funds Required**
Select to see funding opportunities with/without cost sharing and opportunities where it is undefined.
- 2 Eligible Entities**
Choose multiple options to filter the database based on what funding is available to specific groups.
- 3 Availability**
Choose multiple options to filter the database based on what is currently availability, closed or coming soon.
- 4 Funding Type**
Choose multiple options to filter based on the entity administering the funds (federal, state or local).
- 5 Subtopic**
Choose multiple options to filter the database based on interests.
- 6 Geographic Area**
Choose multiple options to filter the database based on states.
- 7 Organization**
Search for opportunities offered by a specific organization.

Scope of Database: What Opportunities are Included?

The database includes a mix of federal, state and local opportunities that may apply to communities in TVA’s service area. Please note that the “local funding” category includes a mix of foundation, private and nonprofit funding opportunities. Additionally, we summarized the IRA in this report, but actual funding opportunities associated with the IRA are not yet included in the database itself.

Federal

- Afterschool Alliance
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- American Recovery Plan
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Build America Bureau
- Delta Regional Authority
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Transit Administration
- Internal Revenue Service
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- National Science Foundation
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Labor
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Department of Treasury
- U.S. Economic Development Administration
- U.S. Economic Development Agency
- U.S. Economic Development Authority

State

- Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
- Alabama Department of Environmental Management
- Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet
- Kentucky Infrastructure Authority
- North Carolina Department of Information Technology
- North Carolina Department of Commerce
- North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
- Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
- Tennessee Department of Transportation
- Tennessee Energy Efficient Schools Initiative
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

Local

- American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
- Blue Grass Community Foundation
- Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund
- City of Asheville Community and Economic Development
- City of Chattanooga
- Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga
- Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville
- Humanities Tennessee
- North Carolina State University
- Pathway Lending
- The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- T-Mobile



Overview of Federal Funding Opportunities

Over 250 funding opportunities are currently open and available to communities in the TVA service area with most options involving federal funding, followed by state and local funding options. Something to note is that some federal funding, like American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-related funds, are passed on to state and local governments that then distribute to grant awardees. This pass-through funding may not have the same requirements as funding that comes directly from federal sources.

Current Funding Opportunities

AVAILABILITY	# OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Open	268	\$105,977,841
Coming Soon	3	\$1,235,000
Closed	136	\$110,048,483
Grand Total	407	\$217,261,324

FUNDING ENTITY	# OF OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Federal	219	\$104,262,292
Local	12	\$26,300
State	37	\$1,689,249
Grand Total	268	\$105,977,841

Funding Opportunities

Largest Federal Funding Opportunities - Currently Open

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	TYPE OF FUNDING	SUBTOPIC	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) loan program	Loan	Vehicle Manufacturing	\$15,100,000
Affordable Connectivity Program	Subsidy	Broadband	\$14,200,000
Program Upgrading Our Electric Grid and Ensuring Reliability and Resiliency	Grant	Energy Management	\$5,000,000
Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Grants	Grant	Disaster Planning	\$5,000,000
State of Good Repair Grants (SGR)	Grant	Transportation Infrastructure	\$4,750,000
Battery Manufacturing and Recycling Grant Program	Grant	Energy Management	\$3,000,000
Battery Material Processing Grant Program	Grant	Energy Efficiency	\$3,000,000

Funding Opportunities by Type - Currently Open

FUNDING TYPE	# OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Grant	151	\$46,727,188
Loan	85	\$27,592,197
Financial Assistance	12	\$579,555
Subsidy	2	\$28,400,000
Program	2	\$2,550,900
Appropriation	1	\$118,000
Cooperative Agreement	1	\$10,000
Capital Investments	7	-
Incentive	2	-
Bonds	1	-
Guaranteed Loan	2	-
Tax Credit	1	-
Technical Assistance	1	-
Grand Total	268	\$105,977,841

Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunities by Geographic Location - Currently Open

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	# OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Tennessee; Alabama; Georgia; Kentucky; Mississippi; North Carolina; Virginia	56	\$79,335,658
North Carolina	29	\$5,408,542
Georgia	29	\$4,915,520
Virginia	27	\$4,463,455
Kentucky	31	\$3,482,502
Alabama	26	\$3,418,861
Tennessee	39	\$2,458,082
Mississippi	25	\$2,395,219
Appalachia Region	3	\$100,000
Tennessee; Alabama; Kentucky	2	-
Tennessee; Alabama; Mississippi	1	-
Grand Total	268	\$105,977,841

Funding Opportunities by Focus Area - Currently Open

FOCUS AREA	# OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Energy and Environmental Justice (EEJ)	88	\$45,405,820
Broadband and Digital Literacy (BDL)	14	\$29,278,510
Economic Empowerment (EE)	76	\$25,199,117
Enhanced Community Resiliency (ECR)	90	\$6,094,393
Grand Total	268	\$105,977,841

Funding Opportunities by Focus Area - Opening Soon

FOCUS AREA	# OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Energy and Environmental Justice (EEJ)	2	\$1,225,000
Economic Empowerment (EE)	1	\$10,000
Grand Total	3	\$1,235,000

Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunities by Subtopic - Currently Open

SUBTOPIC	# OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Broadband	11	\$29,252,510
Vehicle Manufacturing	2	\$17,600,000
Economic Recovery	7	\$16,500,000
Energy Management	6	\$13,500,000
Transportation Infrastructure	4	\$9,186,000
Economic Development	63	\$8,754,004
Disaster Planning	1	\$5,000,000
Energy Efficiency	11	\$4,090,000
Environmental Management	54	\$901,120
Cybersecurity	2	\$800,000
Community Development	50	\$136,258
Housing	37	\$129,248
Public Health	1	\$118,000
Renewable Energy	10	\$10,700
Business Support	6	-
Workforce Development	2	-
Education	1	-
Grand Total	268	\$105,977,841

Funding Opportunities by Subtopic - Opening Soon

SUBTOPIC	# OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Transportation Infrastructure	1	\$1,000,000
Energy Efficiency	1	\$225,000
Workforce Development	1	\$10,000
Grand Total	3	\$1,235,000

ARPA Funding Overview

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed into law on March 11, 2021, provided \$350 billion nationally for state and local governments. \$25.5 billion was distributed equally to each state and the District of Columbia. Another \$169 billion was allocated to states based on the state’s share of unemployed workers. ARPA provided \$130.2 billion to local governments, and the remainder was distributed to tribal governments (\$20 billion) and U.S. territories (\$4.5 billion). Funds delivered to local governments were divided between cities and counties using a formula that factored in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and population. Local governments and other entities then allocated the funds to specific projects and programs. Some jurisdictions have already assigned all their ARPA funds to projects, while others may still have unallocated funds available. Funding priorities are listed to the right.

An important note for ARPA funding is that it must be spent by the end of calendar year 2024.

FUNDING EXAMPLES

- Revenue replacement and expenditures due to impacts of COVID-19
- Assistance to small businesses, households (including weatherization) and hard-hit industries
- Economic recovery
- Premium pay for essential workers
- Investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure

ARPA Opportunities - Currently Open

ORGANIZATION	FUNDING NAME	STATE	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
North Carolina Department of Information Technology	American Rescue Plan Act: Completing Access to Broadband Grant (CAB)	North Carolina	\$400,000
Alabama Department of Environmental Management	American Rescue Plan Act: Drinking Water	Alabama	\$225,000
North Carolina Department of Information Technology	American Rescue Plan Act: Broadband Make-Ready Accelerator Grant	North Carolina	\$100,000
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	American Rescue Plan Act: Enhanced Nutrient Removal Certainty, Pound and Petersburg (ENRCPP) Program	Virginia	\$100,000
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	American Rescue Plan Act: Sewer Collection System Program	Virginia	\$65,000
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	American Rescue Plan Act: Septic Local Partner Program	Virginia	\$5,000
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	American Rescue Plan Act: Combined Sewer Overflow Program	Virginia	\$5,000

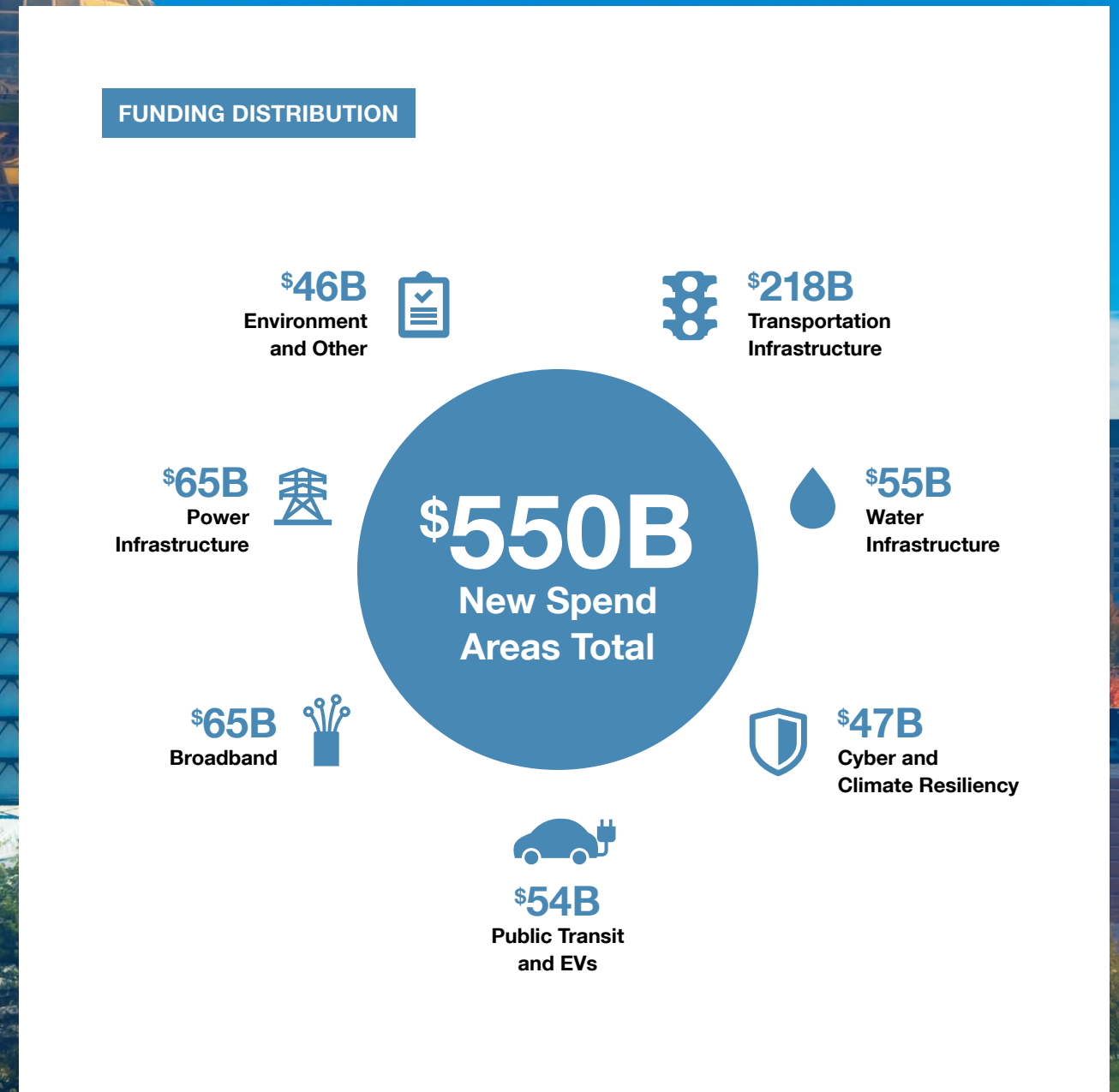
BIL Funding Overview

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) also known as Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed on November 15, 2021, and provides infrastructure-related funding of approximately \$1.2 trillion. This bill integrates existing infrastructure legislative authorizations (\$650 billion) with \$550 billion in new program spend. The funding from BIL focuses on a number of key priorities listed to the right.

Because of the scope and diversity of funding opportunities supported, it is difficult to summarize the timeline. Funding can be used for programs that build a network of EV chargers, increase access to broadband or make infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change, cyber-attacks and extreme weather events, for example. Additionally, many different federal entities are responsible for individual programs. As such, much of the funding will be provided through Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA), posted on federal websites.

FUNDING EXAMPLES

- Transportation infrastructure
- Water infrastructure
- Cyber and climate resiliency
- Public transit and EVs
- Broadband
- Power infrastructure
- Environment and other



Funding Opportunities

BIL Opportunities - Currently Open

ORGANIZATION	FUNDING NAME	FOCUS AREA	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
U.S. Dept. of Energy	Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Grants	ECR	\$5,000,000
Federal Transit Admin.	State of Good Repair Grants (SGR)	EEJ	\$4,750,000
U.S. Dept. of Energy	Battery Manufacturing and Recycling Grant Program	EEJ	\$3,000,000
U.S. Dept. of Energy	Battery Material Processing Grant Program	EEJ	\$3,000,000
U.S. Dept. of Transportation	Grants for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure	EEJ	\$2,500,000
U.S. Dept. of Transportation	Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Savings Transportation (PROTECT) Program	EEJ	\$1,400,000
U.S. Dept. of Energy	Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas	EEJ	\$1,000,000
U.S. Dept. of Commerce	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program	EEJ	\$550,000
U.S. Dept. of Energy	State Energy Program	EEJ	\$540,000
U.S. Dept. of Transportation	Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program	EEJ	\$500,000
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	Watershed Rehabilitation Program	EEJ	\$118,000
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)	Appalachian High Speed Broadband Deployment Initiative	BDL	\$100,000
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program	BDL	\$62,510

(BDL) Broadband and Digital Literacy | (EEJ) Energy and Environmental Justice | (ECR) Enhanced Community Resiliency | (EE) Economic Empowerment

BIL Opportunities - Opening Soon

ORGANIZATION	FUNDING NAME	FOCUS AREA	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
U.S. Dept. of Transportation	Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program	EEJ	\$1,000,000
U.S. Dept. of Energy	Cost-Effective Codes Implementation for Efficiency and Resilience	EEJ	\$225,000
U.S. Dept. of Energy	Career Skills Training	EE	\$10,000

BIL Opportunities - Closed

ORGANIZATION	FUNDING NAME	FOCUS AREA	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
Federal Transit Admin.	Low or No Emission Vehicle Program	EEJ	\$5,250,000
Environmental Protection Agency	Clean School Bus Program	EEJ	\$5,000,000
U.S. Dept. of Commerce	Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program	BDL	\$1,250,000
Nat'l. Telecommunications and Information Admin.	Enabling Middle Mile Infrastructure Program	BDL	\$1,000,000
U.S. Dept. of Transportation	Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program	EEJ	\$1,000,000
U.S. Dept. of Energy	Grants for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities	EEJ	\$500,000
Federal Transit Admin.	Bus Facilities Competitive Program	EEJ	\$372,341
U.S. Dept. of Energy	Electric Drive Vehicle Battery Recycling and Second Life Applications	EEJ	\$200,000

Broadband Funding Overview

Various federal entities currently provide funding opportunities for broadband expansion and assistance. While these opportunities may differ in type or focus of funding, all of them are directed towards bringing broadband access to Americans everywhere.

Broadband Funding Opportunities - Currently Open

ORGANIZATION	FUNDING NAME	FOCUS AREA	TOTAL FUNDING (in thousands)
U.S. Dept. of Commerce	Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program	BDL	\$42,500,000 (min. \$100,000 / state)
Federal Communications Commission	Affordable Connectivity Program	BDL	\$14,200,000
Federal Communications Commission	Rural Digital Opportunity Fund	BDL	\$11,200,000
Nat'l. Telecommunications and Information Admin.	Digital Equity Capacity Grant	BDL	\$1,440,000
Rural Business-Cooperative Service	Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program	BDL	\$1,300,000
Nat'l. Telecommunications and Information Admin.	Digital Equity Competitive Grant	BDL	\$1,250,000

(BDL) Broadband and Digital Literacy | (EEJ) Energy and Environmental Justice | (ECR) Enhanced Community Resiliency | (EE) Economic Empowerment



Please refer to the **Broadband Funding Guide on the TVA Connected Communities website for additional detail on broadband-related funding opportunities.**

Affordable Connectivity Program

The \$14.2 billion Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program on December 31, 2021. ACP supports eligible low-income households struggling to afford monthly internet service and allows individuals and tribal entities to enroll online throughout the year. Federal partners that supported the EBB, such as the Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development and others are still collaborating on the ACP. The funding for the program is administered through the Universal Service Administrative Company.

ACP BENEFITS

RECEIVE UP TO

\$30

per month

from participating providers towards broadband service.

RECEIVE UP TO

\$75

per month

towards broadband service for homes on tribal lands, including Hawaiian Home Lands.

RECEIVE UP TO

\$100

as a one-time discount

to purchase a computer, laptop, desktop or tablet.

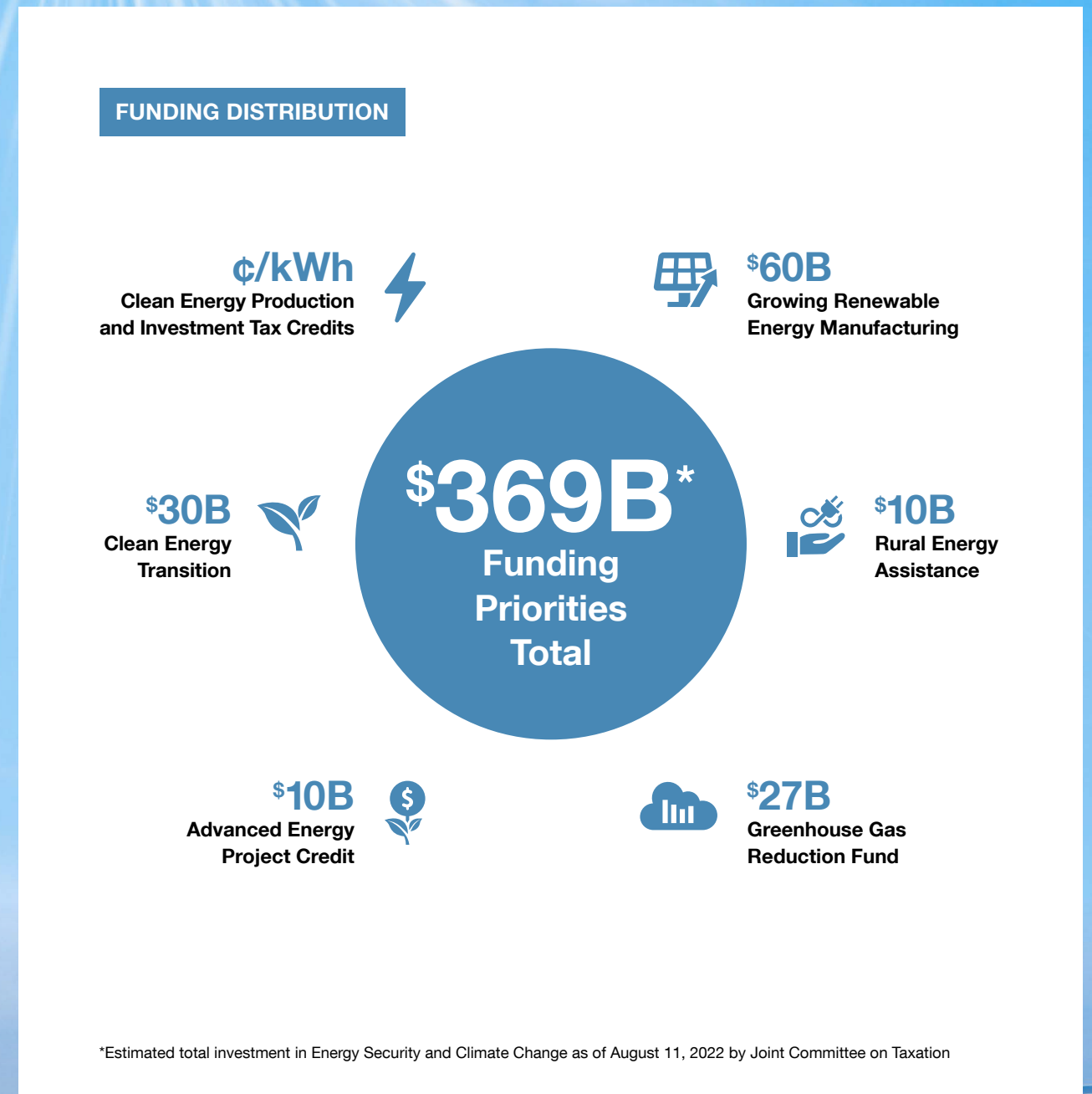
Funding Opportunities

IRA Funding Overview

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was signed on August 16, 2022, to provide funding related to a wide range of topics. For the purposes of this report, relevant funding priorities are listed below.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Growing Renewable Energy Manufacturing
- Rural Energy Assistance
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
- Advanced Energy Project Credit
- Clean Energy Transition
- Clean Energy Production and Investment Tax Credits



Funding Opportunities

Potential IRA Benefits



Future Investments Benefits

- Renewable Production Tax Credits (PTC) 45Y
- Renewable Investment Tax Credits (ITC) 48D
- Credit for Wind, Solar in Low-Income Communities 48
- Carbon Capture and Sequestration Credit Section 45Q
- Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit Section 45V
- Alternative Fuel Refueling Property Credit Section 30C



Competitive Grants

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund - \$27B
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants - \$5B
- Low Emissions Electricity Program - \$87M



Current Assets and Development Benefits

- Renewable Production Tax Credits (PTC) 45D, 45Y
- Renewable Investment Tax Credits (ITC) 48, 48D
- Zero-Emission Nuclear Power Production Credit 45U



EE and EVs Benefits

- Clean Vehicle Credit 30D - credit for previously owned
- Qualified Commercial Clean Vehicle - 15/30% by type
- Clean Heavy Duty Vehicles - grant and rebate program
- Section 25D ITC for direct ownership solar
- 48/48D ITC for third-party-owned residential
- Multiple home rebate/credit changes and new programs



Manufacturers, Rural Utilities and Environmental Justice Benefits

- Advanced Energy Project Credit Section 48C
- Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit Section 45X
- Additional Electric Loans for Renewable Energy - \$1B
- Rural Energy for America Program - \$1B
- USDA Assistance for Rural Electric Cooperatives - \$9.7B
- Add'l Funding to the Department of Energy Loans - \$3.6B
- Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing - \$3B
- Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grants - \$2B
- Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants - \$3B

IRA REWARDS



Low-Income Communities

By building in low-income communities to foster job growth and development, companies can net another 10% increase to credits.



Domestic Content

If certain percentages of the manufactured content is domestic there is a 10% increase to tax credits (these requirements increase from 2023 to 2027).



Energy Communities

By building in communities that have historically been involved in coal, oil or natural gas there is a 10% bonus to PTC and ITC credits.



Wage Requirement

By paying prevailing wages and using apprentices for 10%-15% of the work, a 5x tax multiplier can be applied.

Overcoming Barriers to Leverage Funding Opportunities

Historic amounts of federal funding are now available to support projects that can help communities improve the quality of life and make progress toward the Connected Communities vision. However, accessing information about the wide range of funding opportunities, determining which opportunities are a good fit and submitting high quality applications can be challenging for the resource-constrained staff of local governments and community organizations. The Connected Communities initiative is developing tools to help communities address gaps in knowledge and information and to prepare them to pursue funds that can propel them on their journey to become more “connected.”



Visit the Connected Communities website to access the Funding Opportunities Database and see what opportunities are available for your community.



Funding Access Barriers Assessment

