Here’s a roundup of current open opportunities that local and state agencies may wish to explore for project funding. If NACAA can be helpful in connecting with or applying for funding, we’re your team and have experience in this kind of thing – please don’t hesitate to ask.

**National Association of Clean Air Agencies**

**Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local and State Agencies**

August 29, 2018

* Denotes new opportunity since the last NACAA Grant and Funding Opportunities Newsletter

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Volkswagen Mitigation Trust**
The U.S. government and VW resolved allegations that VW violated the Clean Air Act by selling diesel vehicles equipped with defeat devices. As part of this settlement, VW has provided significant funding into an Environmental Mitigation Trust. States will develop plans for the use of these funds, including grant programs for nitrogen oxide mitigation efforts. See [www.vwclearinghouse.org](http://www.vwclearinghouse.org)

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
LIHEAP has provided assistance to families for costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises and weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs. See [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap/about](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap/about)

**Department of Homeland Security**

*FY 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation*
The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program makes available federal funds to implement and sustain cost-effective measures to reduce the risk to individuals and property from natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future disasters. See [https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=307874](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=307874)

**IC Bus**

**Grants Toward the Purchase of Propane School Buses**
This grant program offers qualifying school districts throughout the U.S. $5,000 in grants per newly purchased propane-powered CE Series school buses. See [https://www.icbus.com/bus](https://www.icbus.com/bus)
U.S. Department of Energy

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program
PACE is an innovative mechanism for financing energy efficiency, solar and related improvements on private property. PACE programs allow local and state governments and other authorities, when authorized by state law, to fund the up-front cost of energy improvements on commercial and residential properties, which are paid back over time by the property owners. See http://energy.gov/eere/slsc/property-assessed-clean-energy-programs and http://www.pacenation.us/resources/all-programs/

SolSmart Technical Assistance – Nationally Distinguished, Locally Powered
SolSmart is a technical assistance program for local governments. The program is designed to drive greater solar deployment and help make it possible for more homes and businesses to access affordable and renewable solar energy to meet their electricity needs. SolSmart experts will design personalized action plans for communities that outline a path to designation as a SolSmart community, along with an approximate timeline. See http://www.gosparc.org/

U.S. Department of Transportation

Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Finance (RRIF) Loans
Funds are used to acquire, improve or rehabilitate intermodal facilities, refinance outstanding debt and develop new intermodal facilities. Direct loans can fund up to 100 percent of a railroad project with repayment periods of up to 35 years and interest rates equal to the cost of borrowing to the government. Priority is given to projects that provide public benefits, including benefits to public safety, the environment (including air quality) and economic development. See https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/programs-services/rrif and https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/programs-services/rrif/applicant-information

Federal Aviation Administration, Voluntary Airport Low Emissions Program (VALE)
Some airports are included on a fairly short list of airports that are eligible to apply for funds for low emission vehicles, refueling and recharging stations, gate electrification and other airport air quality improvements. See https://www.faa.gov/airports/environmental/vale/

Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration
The Federal Highway Administration AID Demonstration provides incentive funding for any project activities eligible for assistance under title 23, U.S.C. in any phase of a highway transportation project between project planning and project delivery including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment and construction that address the program goals. See http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=288651 and https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/grants/

Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)
The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act authorizes $1.435 billion in capital over five years for the TIFIA credit assistance program; assistance supports critical infrastructure projects with national or regional significance. Letters of interest may be submitted by states and cities for direct loans, loan guarantees and standby lines of credit.
Transit-oriented development (including pedestrian and cycle facilities) and other projects may be eligible for assistance. See https://www.transportation.gov/tifia/notice-funding-availability

**National Park Service and Clean Cities**

**National Parks Initiative**
This effort supports transportation projects that educate park visitors on the benefits of cutting petroleum use and vehicle emissions. Since 2010, 35 projects have deployed alternative fuel and fuel-efficient vehicles to the road, reduced vehicle idling and improved vehicle efficiency. See https://cleancities.energy.gov/national-parks/

**Patagonia**

**Environmental Grants**
This grant opportunity is available to organizations working to protect the environment. Projects must be action-oriented, build public involvement and support, be strategic, focus on root causes and accomplish specific goals and objectives. One proposal per group will be accepted each fiscal year (May 1-April 30) and the funding amount will range between $5,000-$20,000. See http://www.patagonia.com/grant-guidelines.html

**Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Program**

**Environmental Education Grants**
Grants of up to $1,000 are available to organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project that they help design to green their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood’s environment. The projects partner students with their whole school, local businesses and/or community organizations and provide opportunities for student leadership. See https://www.plt.org/resources/greenworks-grants/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term

**Captain Planet Foundation**

**EcoTech Grants**
EcoTech grants are offered to engage children in inquiry-based, STEM-related projects (including air quality education) that leverage technology and/or use nature-based design to address environmental problems in local communities. EcoTech grants encourage educators and students to explore the role technology can play in designing and implementing solutions to some of our most pressing environmental challenges. Grants are available as cash of up to $2,500 and support the purchase of materials and other project implementation expenses. See https://captainplanetfoundation.org/grants/ecotech/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term
Ford Foundation

Funding to Fight Inequality
The Foundation supports projects that address inequality; projects should relate to themes including investing in and protecting vital public goods (may include air quality environmental justice-related projects). See https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/our-grants/

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF)

Orchard Donation Program
FTPF is a nonprofit charity dedicated to planting fruit trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities and improve the air, soil and water. FTPF programs strategically donate orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low income neighborhoods and Native American reservations. See http://www.ftpf.org/apply.htm