

From: Bridget Herring <bherring@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Re: Federal Funding Opportunities for BHP/ 100% Goal
To: Blue Horizons Project Chair <chair@bluehorizonsproject.com>
Cc: Jackie Hamstead <Jackie.Hamstead@buncombecounty.org>; Kiera Bulan <kbulan@ashevillenc.gov>; Jeremiah P. LeRoy <jeremiah.leroy@buncombecounty.org>; Maggie Ullman <MaggieUllman@avlcouncil.com>; Brownie W. Newman <brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org>; Parker Sloan <parker.sloan@buncombecounty.org>; ian@landofsky.org <ian@landofsky.org>; sara@landofsky.org <sara@landofsky.org>; Jamie Wine <jamie@greenbuilt.org>
Sent: May 20, 2024 10:54 AM (UTC-04:00)

I have some other meeting requests out there so this is subject to change but currently Kiera and I have availability:

- 5/28 at 11am
- 5/29 at 4pm
- 5/30: 9am or 1pm

Let me know if there is a time in there that works for you. Should we try to include Jenneifer Bennett? If not, will you have had a chance to speak with them before this meeting?

On Fri, May 17, 2024 at 6:35 AM Blue Horizons Project Chair <chair@bluehorizonsproject.com> wrote:
Thanks Bridget,

Yes, let's get something on the books for the week of May 28th. Why don't you send a few times that work for you.

There is a bit to waid through her but if folks could review the one page summary of the NREL grant and offer yay or nay in concept/ or with more specf that would be very helpful. Again that application is due on June 15th. Again, we are seeking a letter support from the City and the County at minimum and I am not sure what that process entails. We'd like your sign-off on working with Land of Sky to move the draft forward as well.

Best,
Michelle

On Thu, May 16, 2024 at 7:57 AM Bridget Herring <bherring@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:
Good morning Michelle,

Thank you for this information. This is the first I am hearing of this effort and there is a lot here to consider. I agree we need to meet and discuss, however, I am at a conference next week and will not be able to meet on May 22. Can we look at the week of May 28th?

I will continue to review the information you provided but at glance I do want to share that I don't think that EECBG is an option. The City and County have already applied for our formula funding. My understanding is that the competitive grant funding was only available to local governments not eligible for formula funding (so would require a lead agency outside BC) and I think they awarded those grants already.

Thanks for your efforts to look for creative solutions to move this work forward!

Cheers,
Bridget

On Wed, May 15, 2024 at 2:05 PM Blue Horizons Project Chair <chair@bluehorizonsproject.com> wrote:

Hello Bridget, Jeremiah, Kiera, and Jackie,
and Commissioner Newman, Commissioner Sloan, and Councilmember Ullman,

There has been a lot of discussion at the BHPCC about the potential grant funds that are available from the federal agencies to support the shared goal of transitioning to clean energy. I am aware that it is really beyond the ability of the council to administer these grants and want to kick off a dialogue with you, our government partners.

I believe that Buncombe County is well positioned to take advantage of the C2C opportunity from NREL, full RFP attached as well as a brief summary of what I see as the potential goals for the grant, within that summary is a link to the start of the grant application. This summary is informed by initial conversations with City/ County staff and Jennifer Bennet from Duke Energy, as well as a longer conversation with Land of Sky staff and Jamie from GBA who are also included on this email. You can provide feedback by commenting directly in this [REDACTED] document, or send feedback to myself and Jamie.

I am sure many of you are aware of the EECBG and Climate Pollution Reduction funds coming to other communities in NC for weatherization and low income solar installations. We could also pursue these funds, as a compliment to the forthcoming Solar For All program. [Here is the link to the EECBG](#) FAQ; that application is due in October.

Federal grant applications and reporting can be cumbersome, we understand. Land of Sky staff, Sarah and Ian, have experience and are willing to support this work and may even serve as the recipient of the funds. If the City or the County also have additional grant writing capacity, please let us know. The grant writer for Durham County has been essential in securing funds for the [EBERP program](#), and that the Centralina and Central Pines COGs have been successful in getting funds for subsidized solar.

It would be beneficial for us to set up a call to talk about these funding opportunities. We have a standing meeting coming up next week to plan the BHPCC meeting at noon on May 22. We could extend the meeting for this purpose -- though time is essential with the NREL application due on June 15th. At minimum we need a letter of support from the City, County, and Duke.

I look forward to continued conversation and to bringing resources to support our vision for a sustainable and clean energy future in Buncombe County.

Sincerely
Michelle on behalf of the
Blue Horizons Project Community Council

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