

From: Blue Horizons Project Chair <chair@bluehorizonsproject.com>
Subject: Re: Federal Funding Opportunities for BHP/ 100% Goal
To: Bridget Herring <bherring@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: Parker Sloan <parker.sloan@buncombecounty.org>; Maggie Ullman <maggieullman@avlcouncil.com>; Ian Baillie <ian@landofsky.org>; Jamie Wine <jamie@greenbuilt.org>; Jackie Hamstead <Jackie.Hamstead@buncombecounty.org>; Kiera Bulan <kbulan@ashevillenc.gov>; Jeremiah P. LeRoy <Jeremiah.LeRoy@buncombecounty.org>; Brownie W. Newman <Brownie.Newman@buncombecounty.org>; Sara Nichols <Sara@landofsky.org>
Sent: May 23, 2024 8:00 AM (UTC-04:00)

Hi all,

I wanted to mention that Jamie, Sara, and I had the opportunity to speak with someone at NREL yesterday. They encouraged us to apply for the in-depth partnership option in the C2C programs. They, without looking at our summary, mentioned very similar services to the ones I have outlined in my one-page proposal. They also said that they have experience not only with data-sharing arrangements with utilities, including Duke Energy, but also with data and modeling about residential and commercial buildings that can be used if we cannot get utility data. Similarly, that modeling can augment what they can pull from our public records.

They emphasized that there has never been an awardee from the Southeast and thought that would be a real selling point for our application. He also felt that the foundational investment in the BHPCC and the relationships it has fostered is the exact type of partnership that they look for in these applications. Every applicant gets feedback, so even if we apply now with our best shot, it will only help us pursue these funds in the future. He also really thought the Electrify ABC campaign was stellar and that our other work would show our ability to use the resources from NREL.

I left the meeting more committed to putting in some elbow grease to make this happen for our community and wanted to share.

I look forward to connecting after the holiday weekend and sharing more about that conversation and the potential of this grant.

All my best,
Michelle

On Tue, May 21, 2024 at 4:49 PM Blue Horizons Project Chair <chair@bluehorizonsproject.com> wrote:
Thanks for spending some of your brain power noodling on this.

First of all none of this is set in stone and I'd love to know what others would like to get out of this opportunity. This draft is largely from my perspective. I'd welcome more input on desired outcomes, and ideas for other federal funding beyond this first NREL with a very tight turnaround window.

1. I don't see specific roles and responsibilities listed in this document. What would be the specific roles and responsibilities of the City and County? What are we committing to?

One thing we hope to get from the meeting next week is at what level the City and County would like to be involved. I could see participating with NREL research and spearheading communication with City and County departments to get the data needed. If one of the outcomes of this grant is specific changes to the Land Use Incentive Grants or Community Benefits agreements, I could see laying the groundwork for policy changes based on those recommendations as a role staff might play. If you could see other uses for this research or something you would like to write into the grant I think that would be something we should

explore. If you have any capacity to help with the application on the short time table that would also be welcome!

2. Some of this work has been attempted previously, how are you incorporating that to not get stuck in the same place or move us past previous analysis?

I know Duke and GBA tried to approach high energy users at some point before I was on the council, but don't know the details. I think laying the foundation for those conversations with more detailed modeling on ROI from the research side and relationship development with key "strategic partners" on the community engagement side is the difference. This would give us expanded capacity to do it better. If you have more detail about what data and users were identified and what approached that would be helpful. There may be some additional understanding of this on the BHPCC but it was likely before Jamie or I were involved.

3. What other organizations are submitting letters of support?

We are working on that as we speak. You all are the essential partners so your buy in is sort of first at bat. Ed and Jim have a list and this will be something the community engagement committee takes up. So far, Deerfield and the Rotary Club.

4. My understanding is that Land of Sky will be the lead applicant. If this is the case, will this project serve their region or anywhere else beyond Buncombe County?

Like Sara explained, this would only be for the territory of the BHP - so Buncombe County and helping to meet our community 100% clean energy goal.

5. Will this grant include any facilitation specific to BHPCC?

I am not sure if I was thinking about this in terms of facilitation of the BHPCC, but more in terms of capacity to do outreach, but if the BHPCC is part of community engagement than some facilitation may be part of the scope. This is only a 3 year grant so I would not shift long term facilitation based on this funding, but could see it as an enhancement tool.

Keep them coming! What else should we be bringing into focus?

Thanks,
Michelle

On Tue, May 21, 2024 at 3:39 PM Bridget Herring <bherring@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Hi Michelle,

Thanks for sending out the calendar invitation. I have reviewed the local stakeholders document and have a few questions I am hoping you can answer in advance of our meeting next week that will facilitate getting to an answer on the letter of support quicker.

1. I don't see specific roles and responsibilities listed in this document. What would be the specific roles and responsibilities of the City and County? What are we committing to?
2. Some of this work has been attempted previously, how are you incorporating that to not get stuck in the same place or move us past previous analysis?
3. What other organizations are submitting letters of support?
4. My understanding is that Land of Sky will be the lead applicant. If this is the case, will this project serve their region or anywhere else beyond Buncombe County?
5. Will this grant include any facilitation specific to BHPCC?

Thanks in advance for addressing these preliminary questions. I'm sure I will have more as we dig in but these are my initial questions.

Cheers,
Bridget

On Tue, May 21, 2024 at 11:36 AM Parker Sloan <Parker.Sloan@buncombecounty.org> wrote:

Thanks Team, I can make next Tuesday work. It's always better to get a letter from Brownie as Chair but otherwise yes happy to send one from me on our letter head. Interested to hear more about the program and what our goal for it would be!

There's more money falling out of the federal government right now than any other time since FDR so I really want to make sure we are going after every single dollar we can so thank you Michelle, Jeremiah, and Bridget for staying on top of all this. And please don't hesitate to shoot up a flare if you need more resources.

Thanks!



Parker Sloan

He/Him/His

Buncombe County Commissioner

cell (828) 231-4784

200 College St., Asheville, NC 28801

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From: Blue Horizons Project Chair <chair@bluehorizonsproject.com>

Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 6:07 PM

To: Maggie Ullman <maggieullman@avlcouncil.com>

Cc: Ian Baillie <ian@landofsky.org>; Jamie Wine <jamie@greenbuilt.org>; Jackie Hamstead <Jackie.Hamstead@buncombecounty.org>; Bridget Herring <bherring@ashevillenc.gov>; Kiera Bulan

<kbulan@ashevillenc.gov>; Jeremiah P. LeRoy <Jeremiah.LeRoy@buncombecounty.org>; Brownie W. Newman <Brownie.Newman@buncombecounty.org>; Parker Sloan <Parker.Sloan@buncombecounty.org>; Sara Nichols <Sara@landofsky.org>

Subject: Re: Federal Funding Opportunities for BHP/ 100% Goal

Ok, Tuesday 5/28 at 11am works for Jennifer as well.

Look for a calendar invite coming shortly.

On Mon, May 20, 2024 at 1:14 PM Maggie Ullman <maggieullman@avlouncil.com> wrote:

I am out of the office next week and look forward to hearing how this meeting goes.

Many thanks,

Maggie



Maggie Ullman (she/her)
Asheville City Council

www.AshevilleNC.gov



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On Mon, May 20, 2024 at 1:12 PM Ian Baillie <ian@landofsky.org> wrote:

Michelle,

Our availability is better on the 28th in the am, but I am available for either slot.

-Ian

📧 [Book time to meet with me](#)

From: Blue Horizons Project Chair <chair@bluehorizonsproject.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:09 PM
To: Jamie Wine <jamie@greenbuilt.org>
Cc: Jackie Hamstead <Jackie.Hamstead@buncombecounty.org>; Bridget Herring <bherring@ashevillenc.gov>; Kiera Bulan <kbulan@ashevillenc.gov>; Jeremiah P. LeRoy <Jeremiah.LeRoy@buncombecounty.org>; Maggie Ullman Beryhiaume <maggieullman@avlcouncil.com>; Commissioner Brownie Newman <brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org>; Parker Sloan <parker.sloan@buncombecounty.org>; Ian Baillie <ian@landofsky.org>; Sara Nichols <Sara@landofsky.org>
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Be Advised: This email originated from outside Land of Sky

Ok, great!

FYI - I kicked off a separate thread with Jennifer and she is trying to get clarification on data sharing structures that might work. I will loop her in but let's proceed with a meeting either way.

Please hold 5/28 at 11 am and 5/29 at 4 pm. We will need to meet over Zoom. I am out of town for the week and flying home Thursday 5/30 - 9 am that day is out and 1pm is risky. Any feedback Kiera or Jackie would like to provide to help us move the ball forward at the meeting this Weds is welcome.

Sara and Ian, are one of you available to attend at either of those times?

Maggie, Brownie and Parker I'll include you on the invite unless one of you has a strong scheduling preference you'd like us to consider now. I remain available for one on one input if others would like to offer suggestions but cannot make it to this meeting. Again letters of support will be essential. Do you three think you can provide something in your capacity as a public official, and/ or from your other professional affiliations?

Thank you,

Michelle

On Mon, May 20, 2024 at 11:31 AM Jamie Wine <jamie@greenbuilt.org> wrote:

I can do those times, in person.

It has to be Zoom if it's 5/28, have a mtg with Bright Spaces at 11:30 that day.

On Mon, May 20, 2024 at 11:08 AM Jackie Hamstead
<Jackie.Hamstead@buncombecounty.org> wrote:

I am available any of the times Bridget listed. It would be very helpful to have Jennifer there.

From: Bridget Herring <bherring@ashevillenc.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 10:54 AM

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; sara@landofsky.org; Jamie Wine <jamie@greenbuilt.org>

Subject: Re: Federal Funding Opportunities for BHP/ 100% Goal

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

--

Michelle Myers

Chair, [Blue Horizons Project Community Council](#)

c:) (828) 551-9402

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Michelle Myers

Chair, [Blue Horizons Project Community Council](#)

c:) (828) 551-9402

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--

Jamie Wine

Executive Director, Programs

Green Built Alliance

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Pronouns: He/Him/His <https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why>

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jamie@greenbuilt.org

It can take me up to a week to respond to email. If you need a quicker response, please call or text my cell phone.

--

Michelle Myers

Chair, [Blue Horizons Project Community Council](#)

c:) (828) 551-9402

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