



**U.S. House of Representatives
Office of Congresswoman
Nydia M. Velázquez
12th Congressional District of New York**

Grants Alert May 2008

Environmental Protection Agency: Announces the availability of funds under the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program (EJSG). The purpose of this grant program is to support and empower communities that are working on local solutions to local environmental and/or public health issues. The EJSG Program is designed to assist recipients in building collaborative partnerships that will help them understand and address the environmental and/or public health issues in their communities. Eligibility: non-profit organization with a 501 (c)(3) status; a non-profit organization, recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which it is located; and a city, township, county government and their entities. Deadline, June 30, 2008. For further information contact: Sheila Lewis at 202-564-0152 or email: lewis.sheila@epa.gov or visit: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>.

Administration for Children and Families: the Office of Community Service, contingent upon available funding, the Office of Community Services will award Community Economic Development (CED) discretionary grant funds for well-planned, financially viable, and innovative projects. The funds will be awarded to Community Development Corporations (CDCs) that are experienced in implementing economic development projects. The funds are intended to provide resources to eligible CDCs for their job creation and business projects, as a strategy to address broader objectives such as arresting tendencies toward financial dependency, chronic unemployment, and community deterioration in both urban and rural areas. Eligible CDCs must submit a business plan that demonstrates the economic viability of the venture. Eligibility: Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification. Deadline: letter of intent is May 22, 2008; deadline for full application is June 25, 2008. For further information contact: Rafael J. Elizalde at 1-800-281-9519 or email: OCSGRANTS@acf.hhs.gov.

Department of Health and Human Services: The Office of Population Affairs (OPA), Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs requests applications for Adolescent Family Life (AFL) prevention demonstration grants. These grants are for projects to develop, implement and evaluate a multi-site primary abstinence education program targeting youth ages 12-18, as compared with a multi-site "enriched" program model. Eligible applicants are public or private nonprofit organization or agency. Deadline: June 11, 2008. For further information contact the Deborah Speight at the OPHS Office of Grants Management at 240-453-8822 or email: deborah.speight@hhs.gov.

Administration for Children and Families: the Office of Community Service announces the availability of funds under the Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI) program. The program is meant to help low-income individuals achieve economic self-sufficiency. The program is also meant to create jobs to be filled by low-income individuals. JOLI applicants provide technical and/or financial assistance to private employers in the community to assist them in creating employment and business opportunities for individuals receiving TANF and other low-income individuals. In order to create these sustainable employment and other opportunities, funded projects should focus on the following three program strategies: (1) new business ventures, (2) business expansion, and (3) self-employment/micro-enterprise projects. Applicants must state clearly both in the abstract and at the beginning of the project, which one of these three program strategies they will be using. While OCS will accept applications that propose projects containing more than one of these program strategies, OCS encourages applicants to focus on one. Eligibility: non-profits with 501(c)(3) and non-profits having 501(c)(4) status, as well as faith-based and community organizations that meet the statutory eligibility requirements are eligible to apply under this announcement. Deadline: letter of intent May 22, 2008; application is due June 2, 2008. For further information contact: Rafael J. Elizalde at 1-800-281-9519 or email: ocsgrants@acf.hhs.gov.

Administration for Children and Families: The Office of Community Services (OCS) will accept applications for grants to establish and administer Assets for Independence (AFI) projects. Grantees provide an array of supports and services to enable individuals and families with low incomes to become economically self-sufficient for the long-term. A primary feature of each AFI project is that project participants are given access to special matched savings accounts called Individual Development Accounts (IDA), in which participants save earned income for the purchase of a home, for business capitalization, or to attend higher education or training. Applications will be screened and evaluated as indicated in this announcement. Unsuccessful applicants may submit new applications in any succeeding application cycle. Eligible applicants are State, city and county governments, universities and non-profits. For further information contact: Daphne Weeden at the Office of Grants Management Division of Discretionary Grants at 800-281-9519 or email: ocsgrants@acf.hhs.gov.

Environmental Protection Agency: Announces the availability of funds for a National Clean Diesel Campaign. EPA Regions 1 and 2, as part of the Northeast Diesel Collaborative (NEDC), are soliciting proposals for projects to reduce diesel emissions. Funding will be in the form of cooperative agreements or grants, which must be used to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of : (1) tons of pollution produced; and (2) diesel emissions exposure, particularly from fleets operating in areas designated by the Administrator as poor air quality areas. Under this solicitation, only the following entities are eligible to apply for assistance: A) a regional, State, local or tribal agency or port authority with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality; and B) a nonprofit organization or institution that: 1) represents or provides pollution reduction or educational services to persons or organizations that own or operate diesel fleets; or 2) has, as its principal purpose, the promotion of transportation or air quality. School districts, municipalities, metropolitan planning organizations, cities and counties are all eligible entities under this assistance agreement program within the extent that they fall within the definition above. Deadline: June 12, 2008. For further information contact: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 2, Matt Laurita at 212-637-3895 or email: laurita.matthew@epa.gov.

Department of Education: The purpose of the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program is to carry out a coordinated program of scientifically based research and similar activities. This research should also include demonstration projects containing innovative strategies and creative approaches. This grant program is designed to build and enhance the ability of elementary and secondary schools nationwide to meet the special educational needs of gifted and talented students. This program is available to both public and private institutions. To ensure that grant program activities address the needs of private school children, teachers and other educational personnel, the local educational agencies are requested to engage in meaningful consultation with private school officials during the design and development of the program. Such consultations should occur before any decisions are made that would affect the opportunities of eligible private and public school children and their participation within the program. Eligibility: State level educational agencies, local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, other public and private agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, Indian tribes and Indian organizations as defined by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Deadline: June 5, 2008. For further information: Contact Teresa Cahalan, United States Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave, SW. Room 5W218, Washington DC 2020-8343; or call (202) 401-3947; or by e-mail: jacobk.javits@ed.gov.

Department of Labor: Announces the availability of funds under the Susan Harwood Training Grant Program. Grants are awarded to provide training and education programs for employers and employees on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of safety and health hazards in their workplaces. OSHA selects the safety and health topics and holds a national competition to award grants. Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations that are not an agency of State or local governments. State and local government supported institutions of higher education are also eligible to apply. Deadline: May 23, 2008. For further information visit the Department's website at: <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/ote/sharwood.html#Applying>

Administration for Children and Families: Announces the availability of funds under the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988. The purposes of this funding announcement are as follows: (1) to develop and implement programs of comprehensive community-based support services for the target population as described in the announcement; (2) to evaluate the implementation and outcomes of these comprehensive support services; and (3) to develop these programs as identifiable sites that other States/locales seeking to implement comprehensive support services for this population can look to for guidance, insight, and possible replication. Eligible applicants are State and City governments, public and private nonprofits, and community-based organizations. Deadline: May 27, 2008. For further information contact: Lisa Dammar by calling: 886-796-1591 or by email: ACFOGME-Grants@acf.hhs.gov or visit the ACF's website at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-ACYF-CB-0045.html>.

New York Department of Environmental Conservation: Funds are available to obtain independent technical assistance about State Superfund Program and Brownfield Cleanup Program sites that pose a significant threat to public health or the environment. A qualifying group must certify that its membership represents the interest of the community affected by the site, and that its members' health, economic well-being or enjoyment of the environment, are potentially threatened by the site. Portions of technical assistance work may be subcontracted based on unit price bids/quotes for professional services to subconsultants, subject to the guidance from and approval of the Department. The TAG recipient and its contractors must make good faith efforts to subcontract a portion of the contract amount to Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE). The percentage goals for MBE and WBE participation are 8.8% for equipment, supplies and services in the Upstate NYSDEC Regions 3-9. For New York City and Long Island NYSDEC Regions 1 & 2, MBE utilization goal percentages are 18.8% for equipment, supplies and services; for WBE these goal percentages are 20.5% for equipment, supplies and services. The TAG recipient and its contractors must make good faith efforts to employ 10% minority group members and 10% women for a portion of the workforce hours required to perform the work under this contract. Eligibility: Eligible community groups must be non-responsible parties incorporated as not-for-profit corporations under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Deadline: Applications are continuously being accepted. For more information: Application and guidance for the TAG grants are downloadable from the Department's website at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/guidance/tag/>

Department of Transportation: The NYS Dept. of Transp. has recently released a grant program intended to provide assistance to organizations which meet the transportation needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. This grant is funded from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5310 Grant Program, but is administered by the NYS Department of Transportation. Program grants will be awarded based on several factors including, the ability of the applicant to operate, maintain and finance a transportation service; the general mobility limitations and the level of need for a transportation service in the area; and the actual usage for transporting elderly and/or disabled individuals. Eligibility: not-for-profit organizations which serve elderly individuals and/or individuals with disabilities and municipalities and county level governments. This program will provide 80 percent of vehicle purchase costs for the accepted applicants. Deadline: June 1, 2008. For more information: Contact NY State Dept. of Transportation, Public Transportation Bureau, Section 5310 Grant Program, 50 Wolf Road, POD 54, Albany, NY 12232, or call (518) 457-8335.

New York State Education Department: NYS Dept. of Education, through the Office of Teaching Initiatives, is offering this grant for the development and implementation of mentor teacher-internship programs in local school districts. Funding for this program is subject to yearly approval by the New York State Legislature. These programs enable experienced teachers (mentors) in a district to provide guidance and support to beginning teachers (interns) in their first or second year of teaching. Essential components of these programs include, but are not limited to: Joint development of these programs by school administration and local teachers' bargaining agents, program focus on the mentor/intern relationship which develops through the project year, defined mentor selection process, including establishment of a mentor selection committee, mentor training, described activities for mentors, interns and principals as well as a final program evaluation. Eligibility: Public school districts and boards of cooperative educational services. Deadline: May 16, 2008. For more information: Contact Nancy Brennan,

Education Department Office of Teaching, 5N EB, State Education Department, Albany, NY 12234, or e-mail MTIPRFP@mail.nysed.gov or call at (518) 474-4661.

New York State Department of Transportation: The Department has recently released a grant program intended to provide assistance to organizations which meet the transportation needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. This grant is funded from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5310 Grant Program, but is administered by the NYS Department of Transportation. Program grants will be awarded based on several factors including, the ability of the applicant to operate, maintain and finance a transportation service; the general mobility limitations and the level of need for a transportation service in the area; and the actual usage for transporting elderly and/or disabled individuals. Eligible applicants are not-for-profit organizations which serve elderly individuals and/or individuals with disabilities as well as public bodies, such as municipalities and county level governments, in rural counties that are approved by New York State to coordinate services for the elderly and/or disabled. Deadline: June 1, 2008. For more information: Contact the New York State Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Bureau, Section 5310 Grant Program, 50 Wolf Road, POD 54, Albany, NY 12232, or call (518) 457-8335.

New York Department of Environmental Conservation: This notice is to advertise the availability of State assistance funding to municipalities for Environmental Restoration Projects to investigate and/or remediate hazardous substances on property held in title by a municipality. A municipality may obtain "temporary incidents of ownership" during a tax foreclosure proceeding for a property in order to conduct such investigations. Portions of investigation and remediation activities may be subcontracted based on unit price bids/quotes for professional services to subconsultants, subject to guidance from and approval of the Department. The recipient and its contractors must make good faith efforts to subcontract a portion of the contract amount to Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE). The percentage goals for MBE and WBE participation are 8.8% for equipment, supplies and services, and 6% for construction in the Upstate NYSDEC Regions 3-9. For New York City and Long Island NYSDEC Regions 1 & 2, MBE utilization goal percentages are 18.8% for equipment, supplies and services and 21.5% for construction. WBE goal percentages are 20.5% for equipment, supplies and services, and 13.7% for construction for New York City and Long Island. The recipient and its contractors must make good faith efforts to employ 10% minority group members and 10% women for a portion of the workforce hours required to perform the work under this contract. Eligibility: local public authority or public benefit corporation, county, city, town, village, school district, supervisory district, district corporation, improvement district within a county, city, town or village, or Indian nation or tribe recognized by the State and the U.S. within a reservation wholly or partly within NY State boundaries, or any combination thereof. Deadline: Ongoing. For more information visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov> or call 18-402-9711.

New York State Affordable Housing Corporation: This private organization has two primary goals: to promote home ownership among families of low- and moderate-income and to stimulate the development, stabilization and preservation of New York communities. Grants are made available to government and non-government sponsors which develop affordable housing or assist homeowners in funding such endeavors. These agencies or organizations are then responsible for ensuring that the homebuyers or homeowners are income qualified and otherwise eligible recipients. The Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC) ensures that grant funds are equitably distributed throughout the state, and among urban, suburban and rural communities. Eligibility: Municipalities, including municipal housing authorities and housing development fund companies, and not-for-profit corporations and charitable organizations that have affordable housing or home improvement as one of their primary purposes. Deadline: Contact the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation for more information. For more information: Contact the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation, 641 Lexington Avenue, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10022, or call (212) 688-4000.

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance: Announces the availability of funds under the Single Room Occupancy Support Service Program and Supportive Housing for Families and Young Adults Program. These programs will offer funding opportunities to provide supportive services to three distinct populations. The first eligible population are singles, including but not limited to victims of domestic violence, the mentally disabled, substance abusers, ex-offenders, and individuals living with a life threatening illness. The second eligible population are families, including homeless families, families with multiple barriers to employment and housing stability, families at risk of foster care placement, and/or those that are reuniting after foster care placement. The final group eligible is young adults, defined as adults age 18-25 who are eligible for benefits under the State Plan for the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. Eligible young adults shall include young adults aging out of the foster care system, runaway and/or homeless youth, and/or youth subject to criminal charges who are at risk of incarceration. Eligibility: Social Service districts, municipalities, not-for-profit corporations including charitable or faith-based organizations, incorporated or eligible to do business in New York State. Deadline: May 30, 2008. For more information: Contact Andrea Collins, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Center for Specialized Services, Bureau of Housing and Shelter Services, 40 N. Pearl St., 10-B, Albany, NY 12243; or e-mail at: Andrea.Collins@otda.state.ny.us.

The History Channel: The History Channel is offering a grant under the Save Our History Grants. These grants are intended to inspire youth to become the preservationists of tomorrow. Museums, historic sites, libraries and archives are all encouraged to participate in this grant program. All eligible organizations are expected to partner with local elementary, middle or high schools as well as other local youth organizations which provide educational programming. These partnerships are expected to undertake community preservation projects that will engage students in learning about documenting and preserving the history of their local communities. Any organization that received a Save Our History grant within the last three years is not eligible to apply. Eligibility: Not-for-profit organization such as a museum, historical society, preservation organization, historic site, library, archive or other history organization. Local governments, government agencies and departments relating to local history are also eligible. Deadline: June 6, 2008. For more information: Contact the History Channel through their Web site: www.history.com; or e-mail: saveourhistory@rockpa.org.