

## University of MD Environmental Finance Center: Intro and Technical Assistance Opportunities

### Laura

- Discussion about the IRA, matchmaking opportunities for the grants
- Climate pollution reduction grant 99 million dollars, state has applied for 26 million dollars of that
- We want to help to ensure that we are connecting the right people to the right types of dollars
- Our mission is to be the central hub for those dollars

### Michelle

- Environmental finance center: 2 technical assistance opportunities
  - Types of EFC's
  - Multienvironmental media-dealing with land, air and water
  - Regional water infrastructure w bipartisan infrastructure law
  - National water infrastructure
  - They do a lot of their work thru a variety of tech assistance programs, constantly applying for grants
  - Direct contact work with local gov'ts, also community involved work
1. Capacity building and training: waterTA program, thriving communities tech assistance center, small systems capacity building program-g geared towards waste water efforts, more listed in slide
    - VA: Elizabeth River Project Watershed Action Plan Financing Seeking stormwater solutions cohort learning waterTA
    - PA: did work w Franklin CO Conservation District
    - MD: Emmitsburg Stormwater Utility feas study, port towns walkable watershed, MD Black Mayors...lack of continuity with the dollars, dev action plans for comms-her org helped bring those action plans to life
    - WV: Dig once – MOST center course, integrating water quality improvement w hazard mitigation
  2. Water Infrastructure TA: help comms access the systems and dollars. EPA recognizes that a lot of communities are underserved and don't have the access to that funding. This program wants to resolve that.
    - Bipartisan Infra law (BIL) and IRA
    - BIL: 1.2 trillion, infrastructure and jobs, 350 programs, 12+ agencies
    - IRA: 370 billion
    - The funding is there, the challenge is how do you navigate these programs, time constraints, etc
    - Their goals are to supply direct TA to communities
    - Their form is much faster than the EPA's
    - They do a lot of the same TA thru other designations as well
    - Complete their intake form to see if they can help reach other orgs goals
    - Thriving Comm TA Centers (TCTAC) program

- Provides grant funding
- Approach: Core partners will serve as hubs to ensure services are easily accessible both in location and culture
- Increase capacity to obtain funding
- Once you complete the intake process – you'll be redirected to the appropriate person (QR code in slide)
- List serv request from CBO's-we cannot do that as an entity-well inform thru newsletter
- Their goals is to get other orgs to where they have fundable concept; next step- do you have the right partners? Then see that application come to fruition either on their own or with additional assistance
- They do a lot of work w CBO's
- Partner identification best practices: they want to see a partnership on a project
- Can I do everything that this RFP is asking me to do or do we need partnerships in this area? Or do I have the capacity to do them all? Who makes sense for me to partner with?
- Best practices for budget mgmt when dealing with big grants? Prescriptive enough but not too prescriptive where the standards are too rigid
- You want a little ambiguity so that you have some movement in your budget
- Don't move money without talking to the agency first
- NFWIF grants
- Water infrast grants a lot of them are passing thru the grants
- A lot of the money with NFWIF is passed down from the EPA
- When you receive a grant from a funder like NFWIF, its probably coming from many pots
- You can use volunteer time as match; a lot of folks don't
- You get x amount of money on this date and they typically withhold 10%
- You can typically ask for a reimbursement grant whenever you want
- **Daniel Klein:** Are there buckets of money that are being under utilized in Richmond? **Michelle:** Water side of things: Chesapeake bay-G3 grant is under utilized-concept development>engineering etc. 5 star urban waters project thru NFWIF is underutilized because it's a difficult process and Tree money (no grants named)
- Hard to find funding specific to ops and maintenance
- You didn't include a plan for maintenance is a common comeback from funders
- Think long term maintenance-include ops and maintenance-include that in your proposal
- Plan for as much maintenance as you can
- Startup funding? NFWIF funding that will fund project that want to PILOT new technologies
- RISE group is a big one for developing a new technology