



ARTIST AS ENTREPRENEUR:

A Guide to Federal Economic Development Grants for Arts Organizations

January 2011

Resource Guide

Introduction

This guide provides information and details on several federal program and opportunities that could support arts organizations and the work they do, such as loans for growing an organization's infrastructure or grants to support programs that work with at-risk youth. Most of the opportunities listed focus on economic development, job creation, and community growth rather than social and cultural development. However, this emphasis should not be disheartening to arts and culture groups. Instead, these programs—particularly those that emphasize comprehensive economic strategies and collaborative development—represent an opportunity to develop and promote meaningful partnerships between the non-profit arts community and the for-profit creative economy, which is the fastest growing, highest average wage industry sector in the country.¹ Perhaps even more importantly, these partnerships offer a means through which arts organizations at a local or regional level can take their rightful place at the table alongside business, government, and other nonprofit groups, and contribute ideas that will shape the future direction of the nation and the economy.

Some of the grant programs in this booklet are either new or expiring, and as such are not necessarily a dependable source of long-term funds. However, when viewed collectively, they form a coherent picture of an entire branch of federal grants that have historically been ignored as possible funding sources for the arts. The broader aim of this guide, therefore, is to provide recommendations and examples of alternative funding sources that will inspire organizations to both look beyond traditional grant channels and creatively develop grant proposals.

For example, many of the community development programs initially appear to exclude arts organizations, as only local and regional governments are eligible to receive funding. However, such programs often allow for government awardees to offer sub-grants to organizations to carry out the proposed changes. Furthermore, in such instances, arts organizations could even spearhead the initiative through collaborating with other sectors and developing a comprehensive proposal that their local government body could then submit.

¹Washington, DC Economic Partnership, 2010. *Creative Capital: The Creative DC Action Agenda*.

Table of Contents

Case Study: Milwaukee	p. 2
Economic Development Administration	p. 2
HUD Sustainable Communities	p. 8
HUD and DOT Community Challenge	p. 9
Brownfield: Pilot	p. 11
Regional Innovation Cluster Project	p. 12
i6 Challenge Fund	p. 15
USDA Rural Assistance Program	p. 16
HHS Capital Compassion Fund	p. 17
USDA Distance Learning	p. 17
DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation	p. 19

1. Economic Development Administration

1.1 Overview

The Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) was established and currently operates under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA). It aims to promote competitiveness and growth in rural and urban distressed communities by providing assistance for job creation, collaboration, and innovation. While it supports a range of activities, most of its funding is devoted to infrastructure development, job training, and support for new and struggling industries.

PWEDA grants can potentially be used for a range of arts-related activities:

- Building arts-related infrastructure
- Public art projects
- Incorporating the arts into transportation and public housing projects
- Supporting cultural heritage sites
- Designing a regional creative economy plan
- Developing partnerships between nonprofit and for-profit arts communities

1.2 Case Study: Creativity Works!—The Milwaukee Regional Creative Economy Project

1.2.1 Overview

In 2009, The Cultural Alliance of Greater Milwaukee was awarded a grant by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to research and develop strategies to improve the regional creative economy. This grant is believed to be the first of its kind to be awarded by the EDA directly to a nonprofit arts organization for creative economy work. Consequently, it represents a valuable source of insight and first-hand knowledge for arts organizations interested in integrating their activities into broader regional planning and development.

1.2.2 Background

Creativity Works! is a research and planning project that was conceived by the Cultural Alliance in 2008, following the publication of a regional study that concluded the Greater Milwaukee region possessed exceptional arts and culture assets, but weak supportive infrastructure. After consultation with regional governments, business leaders, and the local creative community, the Cultural Alliance formed a Creative Coalition with the Greater Milwaukee Committee, a private sector civic organization dedicated to economic and cultural development, in order to better integrate the interests of the for-profit and nonprofit arts communities.

In 2009, the Cultural Alliance underwent a national search and hired Mt. Auburn Associates, an economic development consultancy firm with significant experience in creative economy projects. It then applied for and received a \$146,250 grant under the EDA's Economic Adjustments program to define, inventory, and map the region's creative economy and develop a strategic action plan for its creative industries. Recently, it was awarded an additional \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to continue its research efforts. Currently, Creativity Works! remains in the data-collection phase.

1.2.3 The EDA Grant Application Process

The grant application to the EDA was led by Christine Harris, President and Chief Executive of the Cultural Alliance, and took approximately two weeks from conception to submission.

From the outset, Harris decided to approach the issue of regional arts planning from a creative economy perspective rather than the traditional 'cultural planning' route. This approach would mean including for-profit firms in addition to the traditional nonprofit arts community. She encountered an early setback, however, when upon calling the EDA regional office in Chicago to discuss possible grant opportunities, she was informed that the EDA 'did not fund arts projects' and was redirected to the NEA.

Eventually, Harris was placed in contact with a representative from Wisconsin's State Department of Commerce, who

1. Economic Development Administration (cont.)

after being convinced of the economic merits of the proposal, agreed to provide technical assistance throughout the EDA grant process. Together, they developed a draft proposal and submitted it to the regional EDA office in Chicago. This draft was positively received, leading to further draft submissions until the application was finally approved.

1.2.4 Recommendations for Applicants Based on the Creativity Works! Experience

- *Be Creative* – Many EDA programs have highly specific project eligibility criteria, such as mitigating the effects of military base closures and natural disasters, which to the average arts organization (and grant reviewer) may appear to have little or no relevance to the arts. However, if approached creatively, these sources of funding can be a significant and valuable source of support for a range of arts-related projects from infrastructural to artist development. In doing so, however, it is crucial that applicants clearly and explicitly detail the causal links between their arts-related project and the desired economic outcomes of the program.

“Our region’s creative industries are a significant economic industry cluster, with penetration across all businesses and counties, and targeting them for focused development will yield significant community return.”

–Key Finding, *CREATIVE INDUSTRIES: A New Economic Growth Opportunity for the Milwaukee 7 Region*, Milwaukee Regional Creative Industries Project, January 2011

For example, the Creativity Works! grant was awarded from a pool of funds under the Economic Adjustment program that was dedicated to reducing the economic distress caused by natural disasters. In making its application, the Cultural Alliance noted that in 2008 storms, tornados, and floods devastated Greater Milwaukee’s traditional infrastructure-dependent manufacturing industries, which were already suffering from anemic growth and economic crises. It also noted that the Innovation/Creative Industries (ISI) sector was the fastest growing and highest paid sector of the Greater Milwaukee regional economy, but that it was also highly mobile and could easily relocate following major economic and environmental disasters. Consequently, it argued, a regional creative economy plan was vital not only to encourage higher-paid ISI growth, but also to develop networks and peer connection systems to retain creative workers in the wake of economic and natural disasters.

- *Think Holistically* – Because the EDA supports programs that promote comprehensive economic development, it is crucial that applicants clearly demonstrate how their proposal will integrate the arts and culture sector into the broader economic fabric—particularly the creative economy—rather than simply considered how their membership is just one external component.

For arts organizations that, like the Cultural Alliance, are seeking to get involved in the initial stages of research and planning, this will most likely require cultivating relationships and partnerships with regional planning organizations, local business leaders, and other groups that play a large role in the regional economy. On the other hand, arts organizations operating in regions with an established Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) should attempt to link their project proposals to other projects of interest to the EDA, such as transportation and public works, housing, technology, and education.

- *Think Big* – One of the major aims of the EDA is to develop a single strategy for large geographic areas that face similar economic problems. Consequently, it prefers large-scale projects that offer deliverables throughout a region over those that merely target metropolitan hubs. The Creativity Works! project, for example, encompasses seven counties in the Greater Milwaukee region.

While this broad scope requirement raises obvious problems for small or highly specialized arts groups, it can be beneficial for larger arts organizations, as they can leverage their regional experience in order to get a seat at the strategic planning table alongside business and government. For example, during the initial consulting stage of Creativity Works! it was discovered that the Cultural Alliance was the most regional in scope of all of the organizations involved in planning with the Milwaukee 7 Regional Economic Development Council.

1. Economic Development Administration (cont.)

- *Ask for Help* – In addition to collaborating with other regional development organizations, arts organizations are advised to seek out assistance from public officials that are familiar with economic development grants and/or the specific EDA programs administered in their state. This can include local councils, representatives from state commerce departments, and even members of regional EDA offices. Compared to other federal agencies, there is an unusually high level of collaboration between the EDA and grant applicants during the project development phase, so it is possible to make a strong case to the EDA prior to submission for why they should ‘take a chance’ with an arts-related economic proposal.

For example, when designing the Creativity Works! proposal, the Cultural Alliance sought out the help of officials from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, as well as the Greater Milwaukee Committee. Both organizations were familiar with the EDA’s activities and their grant application process, and helped make the case to the regional EDA representative as to why they should consider a proposal by an arts organization.

- *Speak the Language* – EDA applicants are expected to use economic jargon that differs significantly from the language used in typical arts-related grant proposals. In particular, successful projects tend to emphasize outcomes such as high-paying job creation, increased private investment, improved economic stability, and sector growth. One useful resource for arts organizations in this regard is the Arts & Economic Prosperity III study, which was prepared in 2007 by Americans for the Arts and includes national data on the economic impact of the arts based on detailed information from 156 participating regions. The full study can be accessed here:

www.AmericansForTheArts.org/information_services/research/services/economic_impact/

1.3 Reauthorization

The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA) authorization expired in September 2008, and has since then operated through a series of continuing resolutions. The current continuing resolution expired in September 2010. On November 18, 2009, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approved S.2778, a bipartisan reauthorization bill that provides \$500 million annually to the EDA through FY 2013. On April 29, 2010, the Obama administration released its own reauthorization bill proposal, which provides only \$250 million annually through FY 2015. On July 29, 2010, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported H.R. 5897, which provides \$500 million annually through FY 2015. As of this publishing, PWEDA continues to operate through a lapsed authorization.

1.4 Public Works and Economic Development Act Programs

1.4.1 Description

Public Works and Economic Development Act (PWEDA) has four broad program categories that periodically offer grant opportunities specific to their individual area of interest. The first three categories are complementary and support localities and regions through the various stages of devising, enacting, and evaluating a comprehensive economic strategy. The final category is targeted to communities that are suffering economically due to severe external short- and long-term influences, and offers broader support encapsulating various aspects of the other programs.

- *Section 201: Public Works and Economic Development Investments* – PWEDA’s flagship program provides assistance to revitalize, expand, and upgrade communities’ physical infrastructure through the acquisition or development of land and improvements for use in a public works, public service, or other type of development facility. Improvements can include design, engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement. Projects should fulfill a locally pressing need; directly or indirectly create additional long-term employment opportunities; and/or primarily benefit the long-term unemployed and low-income families in the region.
- *Section 203: Planning Investments* – This program provides support to planning organizations and their partners for the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs). The program also supports related short-term planning investments and state plans designed to create

1. Economic Development Administration (cont.)

and retain higher-skill, higher-wage jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the nation's most economically distressed regions. Funded activities must involve continuous interaction with the private sector and private citizens, and can include analyzing local economies; defining economic development goals; determining project opportunities; and formulating and implementing an economic development program.

- *Section 207: Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Investments* – These investments may be used for a range of purposes, including:
 - a. Project planning and feasibility studies
 - b. Innovative activities or strategic economic development investments
 - c. Management and operational assistance
 - d. Establishment of university centers
 - e. Establishment of business outreach centers
 - f. Studies evaluating the needs of, and development potential for, economic growth of areas that the Secretary of Commerce determines have substantial need for the assistance
 - g. Studies that evaluate the effectiveness of coordinating projects funded under this Act with projects funded under other Acts

Funding Example: In May 2010, the EDA announced the Mapping Regional Innovation Clusters Project competition, which provides up to \$1.5 million for a single applicant or consortia to develop a mapping tool to better understand regional innovation clusters that drive the national economy and how regional assets and innovation inputs help shape these clusters at the local level (more information can be found in Section 3.4 of this document).

- *Section 209: Economic Adjustment Assistance Investments* – This program provides assistance to communities experiencing sudden or long-term adverse economic changes due to factors such as military base closures, federally declared disasters, international trade, long-term economic deterioration, loss of a major community employer, or loss of manufacturing jobs. Various forms of funding are available, including strategic, implementation, and revolving loan fund grants.

The program aims to support activities such as:

- a. Developing innovative public and private approaches to economic restructuring and revitalization
- b. Developing, implementing, or overcoming obstacles in an existing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- c. Improving infrastructure
- d. Expanding the capacity of public and economic development organizations to work effectively with businesses
- e. Enabling communities to plan and coordinate the use of federal and other resources to support recovery and development of regional economies
- f. Helping regions meet a special need (see project eligibility below)

Funding Example: In May 2010, the EDA announced the i6 Challenge, which provides up to \$1 million in funding for up to six recipients to increase and accelerate technology commercialization in regions across the United States (more information can be found in Section 4.1 of this document).

1.4.2 Eligibility

All of the PWEDA programs have the same broad eligibility requirements. Applicants from the following list can apply individually or in consortia for grants:

- a. States, local governments, district organizations and Indian tribes, including special purpose units engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities
- b. Institutions of higher education
- c. Public or private nonprofit organizations or associations, including community or faith-based groups (typically with support from local government, although this requirement can be waived for projects of a regional or

1. Economic Development Administration (cont.)

national scope)

- d. Private individual or for-profit organizations (only for grants under Section 207. Training Research and Technical Assistance Investments)

1.4.3 Project Eligibility

With the exception of planning and research proposals, projects typically require a local Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is a roadmap that integrates human and physical capital planning and is designed to diversify and strengthen regional economies. A CEDS is produced by an Economic Development District (EDD), which is an Economic Development Administration-recognized regional planning and/or development body that collaborates with private and public sector representatives from the region. In regions without an existing EDD, other organizations can apply to receive support and assistance from the EDA to develop their own CEDS.

More information on CEDS can be found here:

<http://www.eda.gov/PDF/CEDSFlyer081706.pdf>

Additionally, projects brought under Section 201 and Section 209 must be located in or affect a region that satisfies one of the following economic distress criteria:

- a. High unemployment (at least one percentage point greater than the national average for the most recent 24 months of data)
- b. Per capita income that is 80 percent or less of the national average per capita income
- c. A special need arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from:
 - Substantial outmigration or population loss
 - Underemployment
 - Military base closures or realignments, defense contractor reductions-in-force, or U.S. Department of Energy defense-related funding reductions
 - Natural or other major disasters or emergencies
 - Extraordinary depletion of natural resources
 - Closing or restructuring of an industrial firm or loss of a major employer
 - Negative effects of changing trade patterns
 - Other circumstances set forth in a Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO)

1.4.4 Funding

Public Works and Economic Development Act (PWEDA) funding has remained around approximately \$250 million in recent years, with slightly less in regular funding in 2009 due to an extra \$190 million being awarded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The vast majority of funds (\$130–\$150 million) have historically been allocated to Public Works and Economic Development Investments, with the Economic Adjustment Assistance program and Economic Development Planning Assistance program also receiving significant shares (\$42–\$47 million and \$27–\$31 million, respectively). In 2010, the EDA allocated \$15.7 million from the Economic Adjustment program to a newly established Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund, which supports projects that foster economic competitiveness while enhancing environmental quality. The president's FY 2011 budget has also outlined a plan to transfer approximately \$90 million from the Public Works program to the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program in order to fund new programs that support the Administration's Regional Cluster Initiative (see below). These changing funding levels provide a sense of the available funds for applicants and grant program possibilities.

1.4.5 Additional Links

Official Website:

<http://www.eda.gov/>

1. Economic Development Administration (cont.)

EDA Program Descriptions:

http://www.eda.gov/ImageCache/EDAPublic/documents/pdfdocs2008/13cfrchapter_20iii_2d2006andifr_2epdf/vl/13cfrchapter_20iii_2d2006andifr.pdf

National Association of Development Organization (NADO)'s EDA Issue Updates

<http://www.nado.org/legaffair/issupdate/eda.php>

1.4.6 Additional Links

Creativity Works! The Milwaukee Regional Creative Economy Project:

<http://www.creativityworksme.com/>

The Creative DC Action Agenda:

<http://www.planning.dc.gov/planning/cwp/view,a,1354,q,646285.asp>

Mt. Auburn Associates:

<http://www.mtauburnassociates.com>

2. Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative

2.1 Overview

In 2009, the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) joined in a partnership to improve access to affordable housing, provide more transportation options, and lower transportation costs in local communities. At the same time, the partnership aims to protect the environment, promote equitable development, and help to address the challenges of climate change. The initiative is based upon six Livability Principles:

- *Provide more transportation choices* – Develop safe, reliable, and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
- *Promote equitable, affordable housing* – Expand location and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
- *Enhance economic competitiveness* – Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services, and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets.
- *Support existing communities* – Target federal funding toward existing communities through strategies, like transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling, in order to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes.
- *Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment* – Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.
- *Value communities and neighborhoods* – Enhance the unique characteristics of rural, urban, and suburban communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods.

These principles can potentially relate to a broad range of arts-related activities, including:

- Arts-related infrastructural development
- Public art projects

2. Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative (cont.)

- Green design
- Integration of the arts into transportation and public housing projects
- Supporting cultural heritage sites
- Arts-based community development and education

The following sections outline three major programs that have emerged this year under the partnership: the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program, The Community Challenge and Transportation Planning Grant, and the Brownfields Pilots Initiative.

A full list of projects that currently operate under the partnership can be found here:
http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/2010_0506_leveraging_partnership.pdf

2.2 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (SCRPG)

2.2.1 Description

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (SCRPG) was launched in 2010 to provide grants for metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments. The program ultimately aims to empower jurisdictions to address the interdependent challenges of economic competitiveness and growth, social equity and opportunity, energy use and climate change, and public health.

In keeping with these aims, SCRPG prioritizes investing in partnerships, including nontraditional partnerships (in particular, arts, culture, and recreation) that translate the Livability Principles into strategies that direct long-term development and reinvestment, demonstrate a commitment to addressing issues of regional significance, utilize data to set and monitor progress toward performance goals, and engage stakeholders and citizens in meaningful decision-making roles.

2.2.2 Eligibility

Applicants must be a consortium consisting of the largest unit of local government within the targeted region, and can include additional smaller units of government, metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) or regional planning agencies, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and educational institutions that have the capacity to engage a diverse representation of the target population and engage with other members of the consortium.

2.2.3 Funding

Approximately \$100 million was available in 2010, with individual grant sizes ranging from \$100,000 to \$5 million.

2.2.4 Examples

Grant Recipient	Amount	Associated Organizations/Programs	Summary of Cultural Connection
Franklin Regional Council of Governments, MA	\$452,500	Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Franklin County towns; Franklin Regional Transit Authority; Greenfield Community College, Franklin-Hampshire Regional Employment Board, River Culture, Communities Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), Franklin County Home Care, Franklin Regional Planning Board, and Franklin County Chamber of Commerce	Conduct a comprehensive planning process to assess the needs of the region – particularly among disadvantaged populations – with respect to housing, transportation, economic development, energy, infrastructure (water, sewer, telecommunications), and natural and cultural resources.

2. Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative (cont.)

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission of Pittsfield, MA	\$590,700	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Metropolitan Planning Organization; City of Pittsfield; City of North Adams; Berkshire Towns; Berkshire Creative; Berkshire Visitors' Bureau; Housatonic Heritage; Berkshire Community Action Council; Berkshire Housing Development Corporation; Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority; Berkshire United Way; Berkshire Health Systems; Berkshire Natural Resources Council; MA Fisheries and Wildlife, Andrew Madden; Center for Ecological Technology	Plan will integrate all components of the economy—including the “creative economy” into a comprehensive strategy with the infrastructure, housing, and land use supports needed to achieve strong economic competitiveness.
Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc., WI	\$525,000	Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc; Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin; Sokaogon Chippewa Community; Shawano County Economic Development Progress, Inc.	The main objectives of the grant include: a three-year plan of work that in Year 1 assists Tribes and Member Partners in completing preliminary design work for Benchmark Projects including: Lac du Flambeau Indian Bowl Cultural Complex and Menominee Eco- and Cultural Trails.
Southeast Florida Regional Partnership	\$4.25 mil	Southeast Florida Regional Partnership, a seven county area of the east coast including Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach and St. Lucie. South Florida Cultural Consortium (SFCC) was one of the partners in the grant, with support from the individual local arts agencies in the seven county area	SFCC will assist with developing the Community Assets and Culture Element of the 2060 Regional Plan. Attention will be given to partnering with local arts and housing partners and redevelopment agencies to identify areas that would accommodate arts-related enterprises and serve as strategic targets for a cultural or innovation district that creates opportunities for the arts sector to partner with businesses, civic organizations, and community leaders and that are or could be well-served by transit and provide opportunities for live/studio units

2.2.5 Additional Links

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program website:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/Sustainable%2520Communities%2520Regional%2520Planning%2520Grants?msource=cp5

2.3 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Transportation (DOT) Community Challenge and Transportation Planning Grants

2.3.1 Description

This collaborative program aims to better align transportation, housing, economic development, and land use planning through improving linkages between two existing grant programs: the HUD’s Community Challenge Planning Grant (CCPG) and the DOT’s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery II (TIGER II) Planning Grant. Applicants make a single grant request, and the DOT and HUD collaboratively determine which funding source is most appropriate for each application. This approach allows for greater collaboration and provides support for proposals that integrate surface transportation and affordable, sustainable housing projects.

Both programs have a local rather than regional focus. The CCPG funds various efforts, including promoting mixed-use development, affordable housing, the reuse of older buildings and structures for new purposes, and similar activities with the goal of promoting sustainability. TIGER II, on the other hand, funds surface transportation projects such as bridges, highways, and pedestrian facilities.

Both programs are potentially relevant for arts organizations interested in architecture, design, public art, and infrastructure.

2.3.2 Eligibility

State and local governments, including metropolitan planning organizations, other political subdivisions of state or local governments, and multi-state or multijurisdictional groupings are eligible to apply. Nonprofits, while not directly eligible, are encouraged to collaborate with eligible entities to develop collaborative development proposals that incorporate their activities and ideas.

2. Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative (cont.)

2.3.3 Funding

The total allocation is \$75 million, consisting of \$40 million for HUD's CCPG program and \$35 million for the DOT's Tiger II program. Individual awards have no minimum, but are capped at a maximum of \$3 million.

2.3.4 Examples

Grant Recipient	Amount	Associated Organizations/Programs	Summary of Cultural Connection
City of Santa Monica, CA	\$652,500	Pico Neighborhood Association, Pico Improvement Organization, Santa Monica City Arts Commission	Transformation of 140 acres of industrial land into neighborhood that features creative arts employment and exhibition. Will strengthen the local economy and reputation as a dynamic creative arts district.
Colorado Department of Local Affairs, CO	\$1,831,965	Colorado Sustainable Main Streets Initiative; Five Points, Fowler, Monte Vista, City of Rifle, Colorado Creative Industries, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, American Planning Association, Colorado Chapter, State Historic Fund, Department of Health Care and Public Financing	Joint planning initiative to redevelop their downtowns and overcome barriers of aging infrastructure. Plans to cover "arts and culture".
City of Tampa, FL	\$1,181,250	Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority, Corporations to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc., David A Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, Urban Charette, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Arts Council Hillsborough County, V.M. Ybor Neighborhood Association, Tampa Theatre Foundation, Tampa Downtown Partnership, East Ybor Historic and Civic Association, Inc., University of South Florida College of the Arts	A detailed corridor master plan for the Nebraska-Hillsborough Avenue Primary Transit Corridor that includes cultural and natural preservation.
City of University City, MO	\$315,687	Parkview Gardens: A Sustainable and Accessible Neighborhood project; Washington University in St. Louis, Parkview Gardens Association, Great Rivers Greenway District, St. Louis Regional Arts Commission, Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance, Trailnet, Arcturis, Gateway Foundation	Redevelopment of Parkview Garden's parks and open spaces with local arts and economic development.
City of Hattiesburg, MS	\$150,000	Forrest County, University of Southern Mississippi, Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg Clinic, HUB Development, LLC, BancorpSouth, Area Development Partnership	Planning a housing district that will allow workers to live closer to their jobs and amenities, enabling them to walk or bike to schools, hospitals, parks, arts and entertainment destinations.
City of Burlington, VT	\$286,750	Church Street Marketplace Foundation, City Arts, State of Vermont, Dept. of Economic, Housing and Community Development, Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization	Community plan that will emphasize the importance of preserving historic and cultural features and architecture, and encouraging high-quality building design to complement the existing fabric.
City of Indianapolis, IN	\$20.5 million	[This project received funds from the original TIGER discretionary grant program, which was established through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in 2009 and is similar in design to TIGER II.]	To build the remaining 4.5 miles of an 8 mile, \$60 million culture trail that links various districts of the city through an environmentally conscious bike and pedestrian path. The trail connects major arts facilities throughout the city, was designed in collaboration with local curators, landscapers and design professionals, and features installations by internationally renowned artists. More information can be found here: http://www.indyculturaltrail.org http://bikeportland.org/2010/04/27/lessons-learned-metro-ponders-tiger-ii/

2. Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative (cont.)

2.3.5 Additional Links

HUD-DOT Community Challenge & Transportation website:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/HUD-DOT_Community_Challenge_Grants

2.4 The Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Transportation Brownfields Pilots Initiative

2.4.1 Description

**Note: Brownfields are defined as abandoned or underused industrial and commercial facilities.*

Federal Brownfield redevelopment programs have traditionally been decentralized, with pockets of funding offered by various federal departments (see below). In 2009, however, the Brownfields Pilots Initiative was launched to encourage a comprehensive area-wide planning approach to transit, housing, and brownfields.

The first round of five awardees was announced in 2010. These awardees received investment and technical assistance from the three participating departments in order to improve:

- a. Planning for assessment, cleanup, and sustainable redevelopment of brownfield sites,
- b. Area-wide brownfield redevelopment planning,
- c. Access to expert environmental and economic analysis,
- d. Affordable housing creation and preservation, and
- e. Access to green space for recreation.

Both the Pilots Initiative and other brownfield revitalization programs (see links below) represent a source of direct grants for design-oriented arts organizations. However, other arts groups can also become indirectly involved, for example, by collaborating on a communitywide proposal in order to incorporate an arts facility or public art project into the redevelopment proposal.

2.4.2 Eligibility

Both government and nonprofit groups are eligible for planning, cleanup, and assessment grants. However, typically the applicant must own the brownfield site in order to be eligible for a direct grant. Nonprofits can also apply for sub-grants from government entities through revolving loan funds.

2.4.3 Funding

The Pilots Initiative primarily utilized funds from the EPA's extensive brownfields program, which received \$79 million in 2010. This program provides other direct grants for assessment, cleanup, and job creation—up to a maximum of \$200,000 per project—as well as revolving loan fund grants of up to \$1 million per project.

2.4.4 Examples

- *The City of Oakland, West Oakland, CA*, gave \$200,000 of a \$500,000 revolving loan grant to the Oakland Redevelopment Agency to revitalize a lead-contaminated park into a thriving public space that now features a public art project and a plaza for live performances.
- *The Local Council of Tillamook, OR*, partnered with various arts, school, and environmental organizations to pool grants and transform a contaminated rundown mill into a recreational and educational venue, featuring an historical interpretive trail and sculptures by local artists. Among the various funds used was a \$29,000 revolving loan fund grant to the local government.

3. Interagency Regional Innovation Clusters Taskforce

2.4.5 Related Brownfields Programs

EPA's Brownfields Program – This program administers grants for various activities related to brownfield redevelopment, including planning, assessment, cleanup, job training, and technical assistance.

More information can be found here:

http://epa.gov/brownfields/grant_info/index.htm

HUD's Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) – This competitive program aims to spur the return of brownfields to productive economic use, with a focus on projects that incorporate business creation and retention as well as decontamination and infrastructural development.

More information can be found here:

<http://hud.gov/offices/cpd/economicdevelopment/programs/bedi/index.cfm>

2.4.6 Additional Links

Official website:

<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership/>

Descriptive summary of Initiative:

http://epa.gov/brownfields/sustain_plts/factsheets/scbpb_fs_web_final.pdf

3.1 Overview

The Interagency Regional Innovation Clusters Taskforce leverages the collective resources and expertise of seven federal agencies—the Department of Energy, Department of Labor, Small Business Administration, Department of Commerce, Department of Housing & Urban Development, National Science Foundation and Department of Education—to establish regional economic clusters. Regional economic clusters are geographically bounded networks of complementary or similar organizations engaged in or with a particular industry sector. They provide active channels for business transactions, communications, and dialogue, and share specialized infrastructure, labor markets, and services.

Currently only one program is being administered under the Taskforce. However, many departmental cluster-based programs still exist, and have been included in this section of the guide due to their similarity.

Similar to many of the other programs mentioned in this guide, the grants listed here are potentially relevant to arts organizations interested in participating in broader regional economic planning, as well as specific projects aimed at building regional infrastructure and human capital. In addition, the strong scientific focus of the Taskforce renders it attractive for arts organizations involved in technological development, architecture, design, and research.

3.2 Energy Regional Innovation Cluster Program (E-RIC)

3.2.1 Description

Energy Regional Innovation Cluster Program (E-RIC) is the first pilot program of the Interagency Regional Innovation Clusters Taskforce. E-RIC, which will be around a DOE-funded Energy Innovation Hub. The E-RIC's mission will be to spur regional economic growth while developing innovative energy efficiency building technologies, designs and systems.

The E-RIC will have a strong research and development focus, however its objectives also include:

- Developing, expanding, and commercializing innovative energy efficient building systems, technologies, designs, and best distribution practices;
- Reducing the carbon footprint of the United States;
- Create and retain Good Jobs (as defined by the current Funding Opportunity Announcement)
- Eliminate gaps between the supply and demand for skilled workers in the E-RIC through training and education;
- Increase regional gross domestic product (GDP);

3. Interagency Regional Innovation Clusters Taskforce (cont.)

- Promote innovation in science and technology generally and, with respect to the Hub, promote energy efficient building systems, designs and best practices; and
- Enhance the economic, technological, and commercial competitiveness of the United States on the global stage.

This program has a great deal of future potential for arts organizations with an interest in green design and building environmentally sustainable communities. However, only one award is expected in 2010, limiting its short-term relevance to those in regions that are already in the process of developing an application.

3.2.2 Eligibility

The program will award funds to a consortium consisting of four co-applicants who submit a joint proposal containing separate applications for funding to the Department of Energy, Economic Development Administration, National Institute of Standards & Technology and the Small Business Administration. Each co-applicant can consist of multiple synergistic and complementary entities. For example, the DOE co-applicant could be lead by a university, DOE national laboratory, nonprofit organization, or private firm, partnering closely with local or state government officials, and leveraging expertise of local architects, builders, and manufacturers. The clusters are also able to provide support for other businesses that address the full production lifecycle for building technologies and thus create more jobs. More information on eligible applicants can be found in the Q&A section (link below).

3.2.3 Funding

Approximately \$130 million will be available over five years, with the vast majority coming from the DOE.

3.2.4 Examples

None available.

3.2.5 Additional Links

Official site:

<http://www.govpulse.us/entries/2010/04/02/2010-7467/eda-participation-in-the-energy-efficient-building-systems-regional-innovation-cluster-initiative>

<http://www.energy.gov/hubs/eric.htm>

3.3 Small Business Administration (SBA) Regional Cluster Initiative

3.3.1 Description

The Small Business Administration (SBA) initiative focuses on accelerating small business growth and job creation through clusters that leverage and align a region's economic, business, and workforce assets. RICs will be assessed on the impact they will have on economic growth, creation of sustainable jobs, and the opportunities provided for small businesses.

This is another cluster program that is potentially valuable for arts organizations seeking to align and integrate their activities within a broader regional economic development strategy. Arts organizations with a strategy for developing local skills and creating jobs should apply in collaboration with other nonprofits, for-profits, and local government organizations.

3.3.2 Eligibility

Applications should be submitted by a lead organization, in collaboration with a network of organizations and businesses located within the targeted geographic area.

3.3.3 Funding

Approximately \$11 million has been allocated for FY 2010, divided into \$600,000 per cluster to support up to 15 clusters. The deadline for applications for this round of funding was September 2010.

3. Interagency Regional Innovation Clusters Taskforce (cont.)

3.3.4 Examples

None available.

3.3.5 Additional Links:

Official Website:

<http://www.sba.gov/clusters/index.html>

Informational Webinar:

http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/ric_rfp_webinar_ppt.pdf

3.4 Economic Development Administration's Mapping Regional Innovation Clusters Project

3.4.1 Description

In May 2010, the EDA announced the Mapping Regional Innovation Clusters Project competition, which supports a single applicant to undertake a study aimed at better understanding regional innovation clusters that drive the national economy and how regional assets and innovation inputs help shape these clusters at the local level.

As this project is primarily aimed at developing a regional mapping tool, it is unlikely to be of use for most locally focused arts groups. However, larger organizations with an interest in the broader creative economy might benefit from becoming involved with other regional planning organizations intending to apply for this grant. Doing so will enable them to ensure that regional economy mapping tools include and acknowledge the importance of nonprofit and for-profit arts sectors.

3.4.2 Eligibility

Eligible applicants include state and local governments, Native American tribes, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher learning, and for-profit organizations other than small businesses.

3.4.3 Funding

\$1.5 million has been allocated for this project in FY 2010, with the expectation that successful grant applicants will receive \$1 million per year over a multi-year period.

3.4.4 Examples

None available.

3.4.5 Additional Links

Official Executive Summary:

<http://www.eda.gov/PDF/Cluster%20mapping%20FFO%20FINAL.pdf>

4. Other Federal Grant Programs

4.1 Multiagency i6 Challenge

4.1.1 Overview

The i6 Challenge brings together funds from the Economic Development Administration, National Institute of Health and National Science Foundation to assist local and regional organizations in driving technology commercialization and entrepreneurship in their regions. The EDA provides the bulk of the funding through its Economic Adjustment Assistance Program, which gives funds to economically disadvantaged regions, while the NSF and NIH offer supplemental funding for previous Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grantees that are either partnered or leading applications.

To achieve the i6 objectives, applicants, such as economic development organizations, academic institutions, or other non-profit organizations, are expected to propose mechanisms to fill gaps in the continuum or leverage existing infrastructure and institutions. Applicants are also expected to leverage regional strengths, capabilities, and competitive advantages. Furthermore, they are expected to identify an urgent or persistent problem or an unaddressed opportunity with a sense of urgency, cultivate strong public-private partnerships, provide a credible plan to access resources, demonstrate how the effort will be sustained, and bring together a well-qualified team and partners.

Despite its strong emphasis on research-to-deployment, this grant seems to be relatively open in describing potentially eligible activities, provided they enhance commercialization and entrepreneurship, suggesting the possibility of funding for arts-related activities. Suggested activities included biotechnology, nanotechnology, IT, education, and other areas of national importance.

4.1.2 Eligibility

Applicants must either be nonprofit organizations such as entrepreneurs, universities, SBIR grantees, foundations, other nonprofit organizations, or a combination of such entities that apply jointly for a single award. Other individuals and entities (including for-profit entities) can also support applicants as partners, although they are not eligible to receive funding directly.

4.1.3 Funding

The EDA has allocated \$6 million to the i6 Challenge, which will fund at least six applicants for grants of up to \$1 million each. In addition, the NIH and NSF have contributed an additional \$6 million, of which \$100,000–\$500,000 will be awarded to SBIR grantees affiliated or partnered with winning proposals.

4.1.4 Examples

None available.

4.1.5 Additional Links

Official i6 Site:

<http://www.eda.gov/i6FAQs>

Information on SBIR grant:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-050.html>

Information on STTR grant:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-051.html>

4. Other Federal Grant Programs (cont.)

4.2 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)

4.2.1 Description

The purpose of RMAP is to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. Assistance provided to rural areas under this program may include the provision of loans and grants to rural Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) for the provision of microloans to rural microenterprises and microentrepreneurs; provision of business-based training and technical assistance to rural microborrowers and potential microborrowers; and other such activities as deemed appropriate by the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure the development and ongoing success of rural microenterprises.

This grant could be utilized by arts organizations seeking to develop local arts entrepreneurs through service provision and/or micro loans, as well as rural artists themselves seeking loans in their areas. While the overall thrust is for microloan providers, it is possible for non-lending organizations to receive assistance to provide training, operational support, business planning, market development assistance, and other services to rural entrepreneurs.

More information about rural development grant opportunities can be found in the Americans for the Arts Resource Guide for Rural Development, which can be accessed here:

http://www.artsusa.org/pdf/get_involved/advocacy/RuralDev07.pdf

Alternatively, visit the USDA's website at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ProgramsAndOpportunities.html>

4.2.2 Eligibility

Funding is open to nonprofit organizations as well as public institutions of higher education. Applicant organizations do not need to be located in a rural area, but must serve rural entrepreneurs. Microenterprises can be agriculture or food-related, but are not required to be.

4.2.3 Funding

\$45 million was invested in the program in 2010, with the first round of applications closing on August 16. Congress has approved mandatory funding of \$4 million in FY 2011 and \$3 million in FY 2012, with an additional discretionary budget of up to \$40 million.

4.2.4 Examples

- The Center for Rural Affairs, Lyon, NE runs the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project, which delivers small business training, networking, one-on-one technical assistance, and microloans to rural entrepreneurs. <http://www.cfra.org/>
- North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, NC, runs a Business Loan Program to provide loans to rural small businesses. It also provides technical assistance and business planning to microentrepreneurs in partnership with small business centers at local community colleges and technology development centers. <http://www.ncruralcenter.org/>

4.2.5 Additional Links

RMAP Program overview:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/OR/biz/RMAPoverview.pdf>

Notice of Funding Availability:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-13380.pdf>

4. Other Federal Grant Programs (cont.)

Center for Rural Affairs RMAP Information Site:

<http://www.cfra.org/renewrural/federal-micro-program>

4.3 Department of Health & Human Services Capital Compassion Fund

4.3.1 Description

The Capital Compassion Fund supports two programs. The Demonstration Program funds intermediary organizations that serve as a bridge between the federal government and smaller organizations by providing them with training, technical assistance, and capacity-building sub-awards. The Communities Empowering Youth Program funds experienced lead organizations and collaborating partners to together build organizational capacity to foster positive youth development and provide alternatives to gang involvement, youth violence, and child abuse and neglect.

The Demonstration Program is potentially valuable for both larger arts agencies seeking to develop local arts organizations, as well as smaller organizations seeking sub-grants to build organizational capacity. On the other hand, the Communities Empowering Youth Program could be used by state or local arts agencies to support and develop arts organizations seeking to target at-risk youth.

4.3.2 Eligibility

Both programs target nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, tribal government organizations, public agencies, and colleges and universities, while the Demonstration Program also targets state and local governments.

4.3.3 Funding

In 2007, the fund distributed approximately \$30 million across the two programs. In 2009, it gave out \$17.5 million for another round of Demonstration Program grants. Currently, no funding is available for the Communities Empowering Youth Program, although it has not been discontinued.

4.3.4 Examples

- *Park Hill Network Collaborative, New York City*, was awarded \$250,000 in 2007 to build the organizational capacity of three nonsectarian community-based organizations—the International Rescue Committee (the lead applicant), the African Refuge, and the Century Dance Complex—in order to serve refugee and immigrant youth in Staten Island.
- *The National Indian Justice Center, Santa Rosa, CA*, was awarded \$250,000 in 2007 in collaboration with the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center, as well as the Sonoma County Indian Health Project to invest in capacity-building, online and individual financial services for at-risk Native American youth in Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino counties.
<http://www.nijc.org/>

4.3.5 Additional Links

Official site:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ccf/>

4.4 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loan and Grant Program

4.4.1 Description

The DLT program aims to deliver critically needed educational and medical services in rural areas through structured interactive educational training and/or medical professional presence over distances. Funding covers the capital costs of acquiring and installing telecommunications hardware and other non-recurring capital costs of establishing a distance learning system. The program facilitates “networking” of multiple dispersed sites over a geographic area, and proposals should, to

4. Other Federal Grant Programs (cont.)

the extent possible, maximize the number of geographically dispersed sites.

This loan and grant program might be useful for arts organizations seeking to develop distance-education arts education programs, as well as isolated schools seeking to develop their own arts programs.

4.4.2 Eligibility

Rural schools, libraries, or related organizations which operate rural educational or healthcare facilities; Native American tribes, consortiums or partnerships; and other incorporates organizations that operate educational or medical facilities in rural areas. Urban institutions are encouraged to participate as network partners. However, grant funding will be provided only to facilitate services to rural areas.

4.4.3 Funding

Overall funding for grants and loans in 2010 is approximately \$30.25 million, with each grant between \$50,000–\$500,000. The grant covers 85–100 percent of the costs of acquiring eligible equipment, depending on the grant-loan ratio.

4.4.4 Examples

- *United Utilities, Inc, Anchorage, AK*, received a \$3.6 million loan in 2009 to install new satellite stations to provide educational services such as instructional video services and internet access to the Lower Yukon and Kuskokwim school districts. This has allowed them to offer a range of subjects, including art and music, which are not normally available to students in the area. <http://www.unicom-alaska.com/>
- *Cordova City School District, Alaska*, received a \$475,000 grant in 2009 to introduce videoconferencing, online learning, laptops, and iPod devices in order to expand educational opportunities and develop a community of online teachers throughout the area and the state. <http://www.cordovasd.org/>
- *Choctaw County Board of Education, Butler, AL*, received a \$230,000 grant in 2002 to purchase and install interactive distance learning equipment in four remote schools, enabling them to provide essential courses such as math, science, art, and music for more than 2,200 students.

4.4.5 Additional Links

Official site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/dltfsht.pdf>

4.5 Enterprise and the National Housing Trust Community Development Fund's Green Mini Loans Program

4.5.1 Description

These private Green Mini Loans provide below-market financing to incorporate green designs and techniques into preservation projects. They can be used for standard predevelopment activities, capital needs assessments, and energy audits. The funding can be used for existing, affordable, multifamily housing. Funding also covers standard predevelopment expenses, due diligence, and third party expenses needed to apply for new and expanded federal stimulus funds and other available programs to green/weatherize affordable multifamily projects.

These grants are small, but are potentially valuable for architects, landscapers, or other nonprofit groups interested in environmentally sustainable renovation.

4.5.2 Eligibility

Borrowers must be 501(c)(3) organizations or Limited Partnerships with a nonprofit organization as the managing general partner and co-general partners or wholly owned and controlled subsidiaries of a nonprofit.

4. Other Federal Grant Programs (cont.)

4.5.3 Funding

Individual applicants are eligible to receive loans of up to \$50,000 at favorable loan rates.

4.5.4 Examples

None available.

4.5.5 Additional Links

Official site:

http://www.nhtinc.org/downloads/nht_enterprise_green_mini_loans.pdf

4.6 Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (Currently Lapsed)

4.6.1 Description

The program was modeled around the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and aims to reduce fossil fuel emissions; reduce total energy use; create jobs; and improve energy efficiency in transportation, building, and other appropriate sectors.

Among the various activities covered by the program include:

- Providing grants to nonprofit organizations to perform energy efficiency retrofits,
- Developing/implementing programs to conserve energy used in transportation, such as transportation infrastructure and pedestrian walkways, and
- Developing public education programs to increase participation and efficiency rates for recycling programs.

This program is not currently being funded due to the administration's three-year spending freeze on discretionary spending, but is worth supporting and investigating if talks renew on funding in the future. In particular, architects, designers, and public artists could receive funding from this program upon renewal.

4.6.2 Eligibility

State and local governments are eligible for the block grants, which are then distributed to support local projects.

4.6.3 Funding

The program was authorized in 2007, but received funding first in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009, with \$2.7 billion in formula grants and \$454 million in competitive grants. The majority of the funding (\$1.86 billion) went to cities and counties, with \$770 million for states, and approximately \$55 million for eligible Native American tribes.

4.6.4 Examples

None available.

4.6.5 Additional Links

Official site:

<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/eecbg.html>