From transportation and water management to broadband, solar, and electric vehicles, transformation is underway in the booming infrastructure and clean energy industries. Driven by $2+ trillion from public investments like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, along with hundreds of billions more in private sector investment, we’re accelerating toward a 21st-century economy expected to create 15 million jobs over the next decade. This shift presents a once-in-a-generation chance for economic opportunity and good job creation – especially for the people who have been most locked out of our country’s prosperity.

The Powering Climate & Infrastructure Careers Challenge, an initiative of the Families and Workers Fund, is designed to support the state and local agencies, education and training providers, communities, small businesses, and workers at the forefront of this effort. From an open application, the Challenge will deploy flexible, gap-filling philanthropic funding and technical assistance to scale inclusive workforce development, support effective planning and implementation, and deliver uplifting careers.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

$150,000 to $1.5 million in direct funding or technical assistance over 1-3 years

This funding is designed to be flexible, and may be used in any way that directly advances the mission of your project, from staffing to supplies to engaging vendors to support the implementation of your work.

Grant Tracks

1. TRAINING & CAREER PATHWAYS
   - Scaling catalytic models to train, place, support, and retain a diverse workforce that meets the growing labor demand in the clean energy, infrastructure, and related industries and spurs uplifting careers

2. GOVERNMENT PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION
   - Supporting state, Native, and local agencies and their partners with workforce data analysis and planning, procurement, and job quality efforts to ensure effective, impactful delivery of federal funds

Focus

Higher ed/community colleges, workforce agencies, employer partnerships, community-based organizations, and other training providers in any U.S. state or Native land

Who Should Apply?

Government agencies and/or their nonprofit and community partners in Native lands or the states of AZ, CA, FL, GA, IL, MI, NV, NM, NY, NC, OH, PA, TX, WI

Sample Project Types

- Scaling effective, inclusive training and placement programs (e.g., youth climate corps) to reach thousands of people
- Delivering supportive services, such as childcare, to improve training and/or apprenticeship programs
- Coalition-building across workers, training and education providers, unions, government, and employers
- Improving employers’ ability to retain and support new, diverse talent
- Conducting data analysis to project new job creation and local skills requirements
- Creating and coordinating regional workforce development roadmaps
- Incorporating good jobs standards and/or inclusive training and hiring incentives or standards into public procurement and planning (e.g., community benefits agreements, public-private partnerships, etc.)
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Primary applicants must be:

- A 501(c)(3)-designated nonprofit or fiscally sponsored entity; public agency or Native government; or public-private partnership (e.g., workforce development boards) based in the United States.
- Using, applying for, or otherwise leveraging climate, infrastructure, or other related public or private funding.
- Committed to advancing career opportunities and improving economic mobility, especially for underinvested communities.

We encourage collaborative applications but must identify a primary applicant as sole recipient of funding. Potential partners to a primary applicant may include: community-based nonprofits, labor unions, community colleges, other training providers, state/local/Native government agencies, public utilities, industry associations, and employers.

Questions? Get in touch at challenge@familiesandworkers.org

APPLICATION & SELECTION

We’ve designed the Challenge process to be as concise and efficient as possible. Our Round 1 application focuses on basics about your project and needs, assessing projects for:

- **IMPACT ALIGNMENT**: Clear path to deliver uplifting careers and/or effective, inclusive training in climate and/or infrastructure.
- **SCALE**: Potential to impact workers and families at scale, either reaching 1,500+ people in your community or spreading to new geographies or sectors.
- **SUPPORTING UNDERINVESTED COMMUNITIES**: Prioritization of projects that serve underinvested communities and/or have leaders who bring lived experience with the problems being addressed.
- **LEVERAGE**: Potential to use Challenge support to raise or impact significant additional federal funding, private funding, or other investment.

Advancing organizations will be invited to complete a Round 2 application building off the information shared in Round 1 and sharing additional detail about capacity, partnerships, implementation plans, and budgeting.

KEY DATES

- **NOV 14 2023** Challenge Opens
- **DEC 12 2023** Info Session for All Applicants
- **JAN 19 2024** Round 1 Application Deadline
- **FEB 2024** Round 2 Application (by invitation)
- **MAR–APR 2024** Finalist Interviews
- **Q2 2024** Awardees Selected and Grants Made

Get more info and submit your project at: FAMILIESANDWORKERS.ORG/CHALLENGE

If your organization is working on climate and infrastructure careers through strategies other than the two described above, please get in touch. The Families and Workers Fund provides additional funding by invitation.