

**WEBINAR**

**MAY 16, 2023 – 2PM ET**

# **BUILDING STATE CAPACITY TO UNLOCK FEDERAL CLIMATE DOLLARS**

Insights from the State  
Funding Readiness Project

CLIMATE **X**CHANGE

 **State Funding**  
Readiness Project



# Introduction

Kristen Soares



State Climate Policy  
Network Manager

CLIMATE X CHANGE  
[SCPN]

# State Climate Policy Network (SCPN)

- Network of 18,000+ policymakers, advocates, business leaders and experts pushing for effective and equitable climate policies in their states
- Host monthly national calls and webinars
- Share updates, research, and analysis on various climate policy topics

# How can we help you?

We specialize in state climate policy design and analysis. Reach out to [kristen@climate-xchange.org](mailto:kristen@climate-xchange.org) with your questions on:

- **Bill drafting**, analysis, and technical design
- **Gap analysis** of your state's climate policy landscape
- **Example states** to follow for a given policy

Or, check out our **State Climate Policy Dashboard**, which tracks state-level climate policy and resources across all 50 states.





# Speakers

Jasmine McAdams



**Equity and  
Environmental Justice  
Lead,**  
State Funding  
Readiness Project

Chris Bast



**Principal,**  
Hua Nani Partners

Melissa Hampe

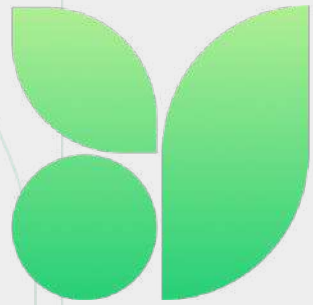


**Federal Grant  
Writing Expert,**  
State Funding  
Readiness Project

Cory Connolly



**Climate and Energy  
Advisor,**  
*Office of Climate and  
Energy, Michigan  
Department of  
Environment, Great  
Lakes, and Energy  
(EGLE)*

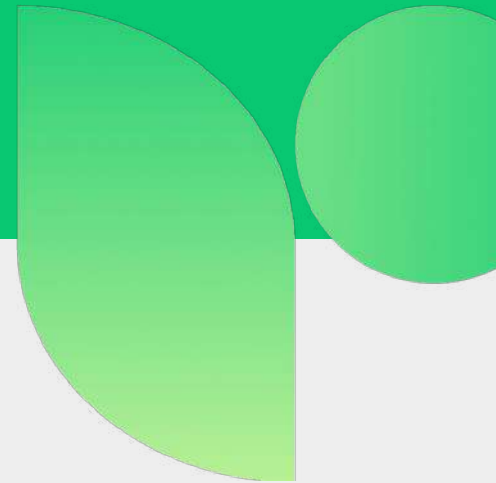


# State Funding

## Readiness Project

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# Overview of SFRP



# Who We Are

**The State Funding Readiness Project (SFRP)** Coalition is led by Hua Nani Partners in partnership with the US Climate Alliance.

Hua Nani Partners is a **Native Hawaiian, Woman-Owned Small Business** that provides purpose-built policy, strategy, and advisory services for global change. We bring **decades of experience in climate policy, politics, and strategy**, alongside deep **technical knowledge, tenacity, and a can-do attitude** to solving the climate crisis.





# What We Do

Thanks to philanthropic funding, SFRP provides **free technical support to states implementing funding** from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act for **climate-positive** projects that **advance climate equity** priorities.

SFRP helps states...

- **identify specific investment opportunities**
- **inform budget planning**
- **successfully apply for funding**
- **clarify program guidance**
- **understand Justice40 considerations**

We help boost state capacity through our **State Implementation Strike Team**, a cohort of **technical experts** across transportation electrification, energy and grid systems, grant writing, state budgets, and environmental justice.



# How We Do It



**Direct  
Technical  
Assistance**



**Surge  
Capacity**



**Implementation  
Support**

## Priority Programs Include:

**NEVI** - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

**CFI** - Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants

**CRP** - Carbon Reduction Program

**PROTECT** - Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, & Cost-Saving Transportation Program

**Grid Resilience Grants** - Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Program

**RAISE** - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program

**Reconnecting Communities** - Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

**SS4A** - Safe Streets and Roads for All

**CPRG** - Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

**GGRF** - The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund



# Why We Do It

SFRP provides modular support services to states that would otherwise not have the staff capacity, expertise, or resources to maximize opportunities from IIJA and IRA funding. We help states with:

- **Capacity** Constraints
- Equity and **Justice40**
- **Tight Deadlines** and Aggressive Timeframes
- Structural **Bureaucratic Hurdles**
- Program **Complexity**
- Intergovernmental and Interagency **Collaboration**



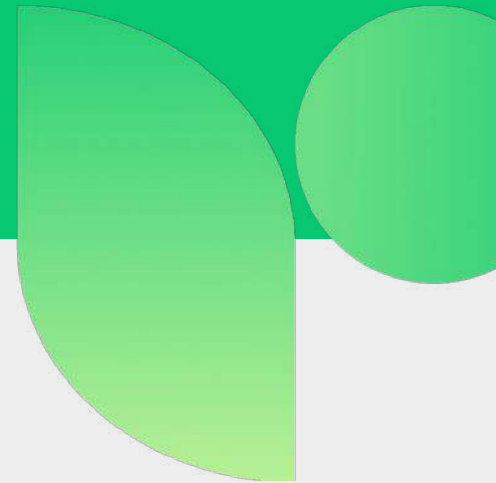
# The SFRP Advantage

Direct Assistance | Modular Support

- Locking in **positive climate outcomes** from prospective projects and plans
- Bringing expertise and commitment to **equity and Justice40**
- Maximize **climate co-benefits** from program planning
- Cohesive **conduit between states and federal agencies**
- Subject **expertise** across topics and **agility** to work across jurisdictional levels and programs



# State Grant Support



# How We Have Worked, Examples of Issues Flagged

## Direct Assistance for Federal Applications

- Detailed, section-by-section review of **DOE Grid Resilience Formula Funding Program** application by a southwestern state
  - *Issues flagged!*
    - Project goals were nonspecific and not tied to federal goals
    - Narrative needed structural changes, did not flow well
    - Funding items not prioritized well

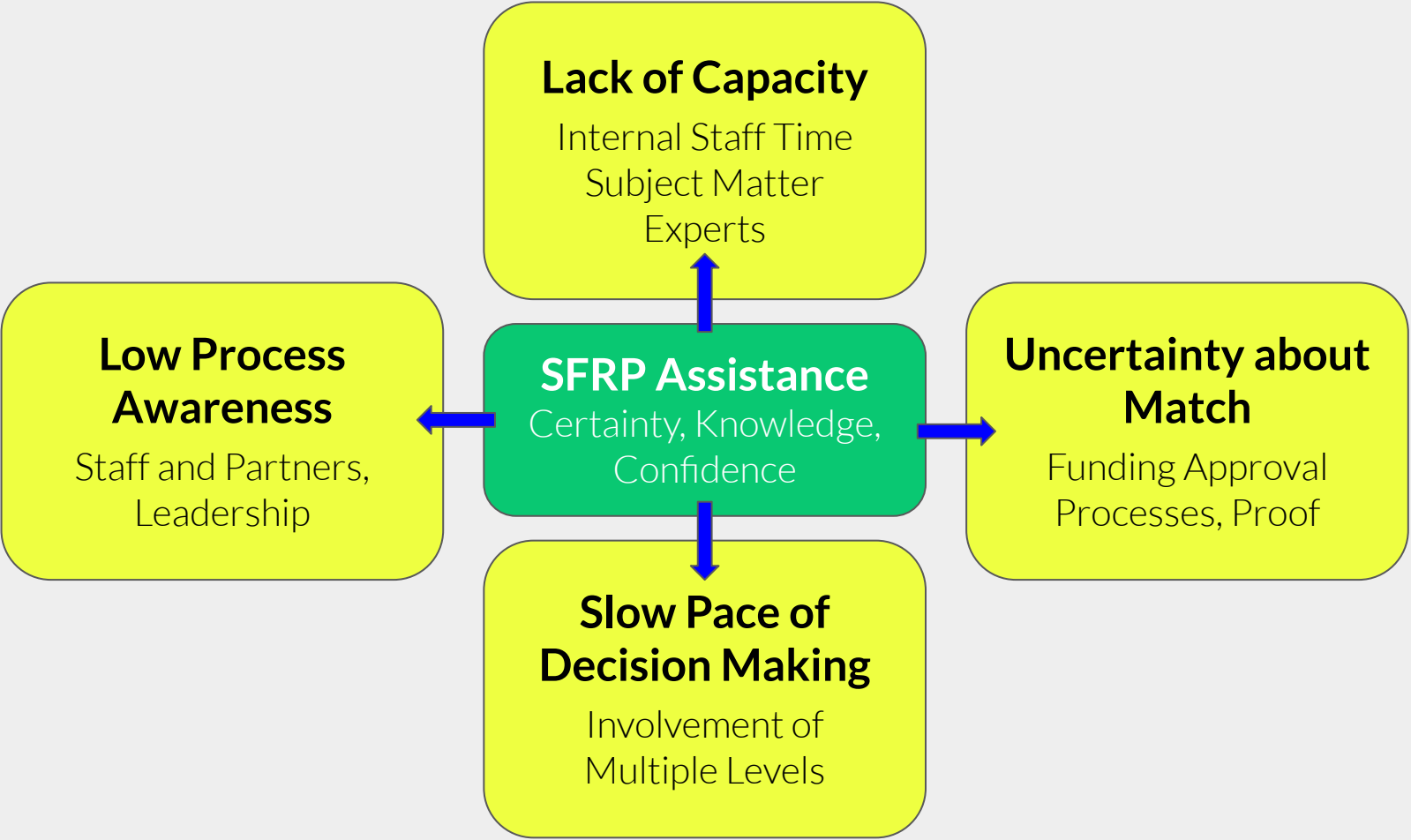
## Assistance to Local Governments for Federal Applications, via State

- Grant writing, benefit cost analysis for **DOT RAISE** grant submission by rural county, referred by state agency
  - *Issues flagged!*
    - Lack of necessary hard data; e.g., county had to find pedestrian counts mid-project
    - Project not in State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)
    - Point of contact switched mid-project





# Examples of Lessons Learned

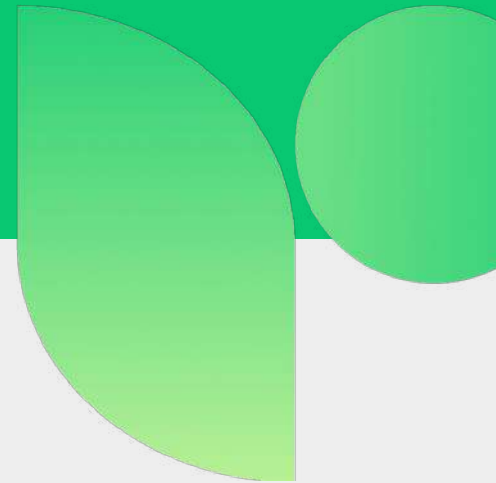


# Tips and Insights

- **Get your team together early**
  - It will take longer than you think
- **Ensure cross-sectoral involvement**
  - Robust collaborations with history are more likely to be funded
- **Start before the funding announcement posts**
  - A lot of information is already available
- **Prove it**
  - No argument by assertion
- **Align with federal plans, goals**
  - Funders need to see you as part of the team, movement, & effort
- **Be specific**
  - Use SMARTIE goals
- **Connect with underserved, Justice40 communities at the beginning**
  - This is a must to ensure competitive federal applications



# Equity & Environmental Justice Support



# Justice40 Technical Assistance - Examples of Support

## Grant-Specific Support

### Grants

- **CPRG** - Climate Pollution Reduction Grants
- **GRIP** - Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program
- **NEVI** - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program
- **RAISE** - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program

### Activities

- Outreach and stakeholder engagement plans
- Community benefit agreements
- J40 metrics

## Strategic Support

**Workforce Development:** Coordinated between a state's Governor's Office and DOT to provide a clean energy workforce development landscape assessment and recommend applicable funding opportunities to advance the state's climate goals.

**Stakeholder Mapping:** Identifying key agency stakeholders and evaluating prior engagement activities to identify best practices, lessons learned, and recommendations for improved outreach and engagement.



# Getting Started

## Identify barriers to engagement and implementation

- Recognize agency and community-level barriers that may hinder outreach and implementation
- Example: Digital divides may make internet outreach less effective for some populations
- **Related Technical Assistance:** community engagement plan development



## Identify tools and measures to achieve collective goals

- What mapping tools are available to complement federal tools? (state agencies, academic institutions, nonprofits, etc)
- Identify equitable solutions and related metrics to measure progress
- **Related Technical Assistance:** metrics identification, benefit-cost analysis

## Get to know your community(ies)

- Engage early and proactively
- Leverage insights from previous outreach
- Ensure that the goals of your agency are aligned with community interests
- **Related Technical Assistance:** stakeholder mapping, workforce development analysis



# Resources

## Community Engagement

[Creating a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#)

Department of Energy

[Justice40+ Community Benefit Playbook](#)

Emerald Cities Collaborative

[Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making](#)

Department of Transportation

## Equitable Solutions

[Just Solutions Collective](#)

[Justice40 Accelerator Resource Hub](#)

[Making Justice40 a Reality for Frontline Communities](#)

UCLA Luskin Innovation Center

## Metrics

[Energy Equity Project Framework Report](#)

Energy Equity Project

[Leading with Equity Initiative](#)

American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy





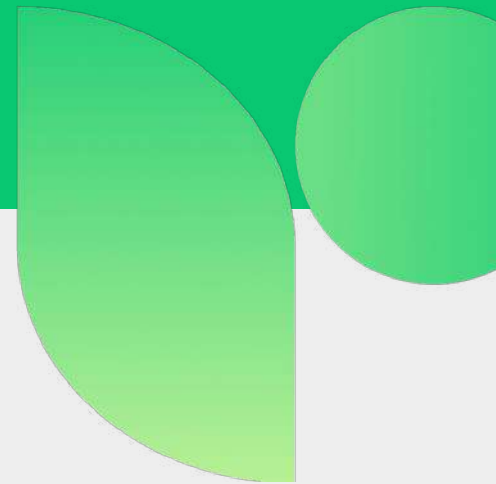
# SFRP From a State Perspective

**Cory Connolly**

Climate and Energy Advisor

Office of Climate & Energy

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)



# Q&A

**Thank you for joining!**

**Reach out to  
kristen@climate-xchange.org with any  
additional questions!**

