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For US Cities in Infrastructure Need, Grant Writers Wanted.

With billions in federal funds at stake, smaller cities are racing to compete for new clean energy and climate projects. That means filling out a lot of forms.

It’s a big windfall of federal investment. Together, bills like the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the CHIPS Act present a substantial shift in how the US government funds local economic development, clean energy and environmental justice efforts, potentially giving cities and towns a huge boost.

That is, if the nation’s 90,000-plus municipalities and tribal governments can finish filling out all the paperwork.

The trillion-dollar trifecta of Biden administration legislation from 2022 underscores just how important grant writing has become. In many ways, the ability of cities to enact new policies and tap federal resources rests on the desks of the staffers or contract workers who research, write and submit applications for funding. Uncle Sam will cheerfully write a check for cities to install solar panels via Clean Electricity Investment and Production Tax Credits, for example, or provide tax credits for buying electric vehicles. But first, you have to ask.

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By Patrick Sisson

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