



State Funding Readiness Project

Hua Nani Partners and the U.S. Climate Alliance

2024 Innovative Partnership Awardee

Launched in early 2022, the [State Funding Readiness Project \(SFRP\)](#) provides free, fast, and flexible technical assistance to subnational jurisdictions preparing and applying for funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in ways that advance climate equity priorities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. SFRP works closely with subnational jurisdictions—primarily states, but also cities, counties, territories, and tribal governments—to help unlock the full potential of federal climate investments.

SFRP is a collaborative partnership led by [Hua Nani Partners \(HNP\)](#), with support from the [U.S. Climate Alliance \(the Alliance\)](#). Through this unique partnership model—funded by philanthropy, managed by a woman-owned small business, and in partnership with a non-profit organization—SFRP empowers subnational climate leadership to channel federal funding to ambitious, equitable climate projects.

Following IIJA's passage, a comprehensive assessment was conducted of states' needs, which found that they would benefit from additional capacity to navigate, apply for, and successfully deploy funding for climate and equity. To address these needs, HNP established the State Funding Readiness Project, in partnership with the Alliance, as one of the first movers on IIJA and IRA, with the aim of helping develop climate- and equity-focused project proposals, meet tight program deadlines, boost staff capacity, and optimize federal funding flows.

SFRP is unique in its ability to deliver and streamline surge capacity and individualized services at no cost to jurisdictions increasingly faced with capacity and resource constraints. Additionally, SFRP's open, rolling intake process can deploy assistance on demand in the matter of weeks. The program's flexible model, consisting of Strike Teams of technical experts, is highly responsive to the diverse range of jurisdictional needs and the ebb and flow of federal application timelines.

As of May 2024, SFRP has completed 35 projects with 23 states, territories, and local governments across the United States. Assistance is delivered through two primary pillars: Foundational Readiness and Grant Application Support. Foundational Readiness is rooted in preparatory activities, including capacity-building efforts, whereas Grant Application Support helps jurisdictions apply for specific federal grants, including grant writing assistance, budget analysis, and merit criteria evaluation.

- Foundational Readiness activities for specific use cases have resulted in:
 - Identifying over 100 complementary federal funding opportunities;
 - Identifying over 80 technical assistance resources and providers;
 - Mapping over 420 stakeholders; and
 - Assessing 80 workforce initiatives.

- Grant Application Support has directly contributed to jurisdictions' efforts with:
 - Crafting strong grant applications collectively requesting \$2.3 billion in federal funding;
 - Successfully securing over \$800 million in federal dollars for climate and equity projects;
 - Understanding requirements for 9 federal programs.

SFRP strives to maximize its *pro bono* support to underserved jurisdictions that need it most. To date, 100% of SFRP-supported grant applications have been for Justice40-eligible programs. This federal directive requires at least 40% of overall benefits from designated programs to flow to disadvantaged communities most vulnerable to climate impacts and burdened by environmental harms. It is also through this same lens that the program prioritizes assistance to under-resourced jurisdictions, such as those with high climate ambition but low capacity and limited or no access to outside technical assistance (e.g., inability to hire consultants). In this way, SFRP embeds climate equity into its core framework in order to benefit under-resourced communities who stand to gain the most from federal climate investments.