

More News You Can Use

1/30/2024

A monthly CCP-curated roundup of funding opportunities, upcoming events and job postings shared for your conservation needs across the watershed. More News You Can Use is a new regular communication of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership. Any information provided does not necessarily reflect positions of the Partnership or member organizations.

Funding Opportunities

NOAA's Climate Ready Workforce for Coastal and Great Lakes States, Tribes, and Territories Initiative

Sea Grant and the NOAA Climate Program Office, with support from the NOAA Office for Coastal Management, seek to establish programs aimed at placing people across the country into good jobs that advance climate resilience and assisting employers in developing a 21st century workforce that is climate literate, informed by climate resilience, and skilled at addressing consequent challenges. NOAA will assist communities in coastal and Great Lakes states, territories and tribes so they may form partnerships that train workers and place them into jobs that enhance climate resilience.

- [More information](#)
- **Tuesday, February 13th, 2024:** Full proposal due date

Chesapeake Bay Trust Green Street, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program

This grant program supports design and implementation of green streets, community greening, and urban tree canopy projects that enhance livability in cities and communities, in addition to white papers that address these topics. The goal of this grant program is to help communities develop and implement plans that reduce stormwater runoff, increase the number and amount of green spaces in urban areas, improve the health of local waters and the Chesapeake Bay, and enhance quality of life and community livability.

- [More information](#)
- **Thursday, March 7th, 2024:** Grant deadline

Veterans and Nature Grant Program

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and the United States Forest Service aim to increase engagement of veterans' communities in understanding the physical and mental health benefits of time in nature and provide opportunities for physical and mental health-focused outdoor activities at US Forest Service sites and other public lands.

- [More information](#)
- **Friday, March 1st, 2024:** Grant deadline

NFWF Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership, is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. Proposals should be within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and promote voluntary, community-based efforts to

protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

- [More information](#)
- **Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024:** Full proposal due date

U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program and Inflation Reduction Act Forest Landowner Support

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) encourages the protection of privately owned forests through conservation easements or land purchases. The IRA project selection will run in conjunction with the Forest Legacy Program and support underserved landowners and small-acreage landowners in markets for climate mitigation and forest resilience.

- [More information on Forest Legacy Program](#)
- [More information on Forest Landowner Support](#)
- **Monday, May 20th, 2024:** Second round deadline

Upcoming Events

Conference - 2024 MAEOE Conference

February 8-11, 2024 | Towson, MD

This year's theme is *Healing Ourselves as We Heal the Earth* and can help us work on recovering and moving forward in a positive way for us and the Earth. By taking care of our mental, emotional, and physical health, we can become more aware of the impact our actions have on the Earth and make conscious choices to create a sustainable future.

- [More information](#)

Conference - Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference

April 3-5, 2024 | Bethlehem, PA

WeConservePA helps people care for, wisely use, and enjoy what nature offers. The Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference is Pennsylvania's premier networking, training, and inspirational event for staff and volunteers of conservation groups.

- [More information](#)

Conference - Virginia Land Conservation and Greenways Conference

May 14-16, 2024 | Fredericksburg, VA

Join Virginia's United Land Trusts (VaULT) annual Land Conservation and Greenways Conference to hear from conservation professionals as they present and share on their current research, projects and collaborations.

- [More information](#)

Conference - Choose Clean Water Conference

May 20-24, 2024 | Ellicott City, MD

This conference gathers individuals from local, state, and national nonprofits, elected officials, government agencies, and businesses to discuss ways these different sectors can work together toward a collective goal of clean water. If you're interested in presenting during this conference, submit any proposal by January 12, 2024

- [More information](#)

- [Submit proposals here](#)

Job Postings

Chesapeake Conservancy - Bilingual (Spanish) Interpretive Outreach Assistant

The Chesapeake Conservancy is hiring bilingual (Spanish) interpretive outreach assistants to develop and deliver culturally relevant and linguistically inclusive programming at selected parks within the Greater Baltimore-Washington region. Bilingual interpretive outreach assistants will work alongside park staff to develop and lead programs in English and Spanish, connect with visitors, educate and inspire stewardship through the *Es Mi Parque (It's My Park)* program.

- [More information and application](#)

Chesapeake Conservancy - Development and Annual Fund Coordinator

The annual fund coordinator is a highly flexible individual who works in close partnership with the director of individual and major gifts and development team to ensure that all aspects of the development office are run effectively, including gift processing and data management. The coordinator's primary responsibility is for development operations including oversight of direct mailings, electronic cultivation and solicitation vehicles. In addition, the coordinator will help administer the annual giving program under the direction of the director of individual gifts with an emphasis on increasing total annual giving and number of supporters.

- [More information and application](#)

Susquehanna National Heritage Area - Project Director

Under direction of the senior vice president and in close collaboration with the president, the project director is responsible for coordinating the planning, design, and development of the Susquehanna Discovery Center & Heritage Park (SDC).

- [More information and application](#)

Chesapeake Research Consortium - 2024 C-StREAM Fellowships

C-StREAM is focused on recruiting, advising, and mentoring college students from populations who have been historically excluded from the environmental field and are underrepresented in environmental research and management professions. These eight management-based experiences will provide C-StREAM Fellows with a unique opportunity to contribute to large-scale, long-term natural resource management and policy development.

- [More information and applications](#)

New Sun Rising & RiverWise Strategic Positions

New Sun Rising and RiverWise will be partnering to make three strategic hires in Q1 of 2024 to support the implementation of the Justice 40 Opportunity Navigator. These positions include an environmental justice coordinator, an environmental justice project manager and environmental justice grants manager(s). Employees serving in these three positions will work in coordinated ways on both existing and future environmental justice projects across New Sun Rising and RiverWise's multi-county network of partners. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply by February 16th, 2024.

- [More information and applications](#)

Center for American Progress - Associate Director / Director of Clean Energy and Conservation

American Progress has an immediate opening for an Associate Director or Director of Clean Energy and Conservation on the Conservation Policy team within the Energy and Environment department. This individual will be responsible for leading American Progress' work to develop and execute national and regional strategies and campaigns to support both conservation and clean energy goals.

- [More information and applications](#)

Other Announcements

Survey - Conservation Priorities: GIS Needs and Funding Needs & Technical Assistance

The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership is looking for new ways to support our partners! Two critical ways we can achieve this is by updating our GIS resources to better support evolving partner needs and providing support with locating and obtaining funding for our partners.

- Take the [GIS Needs Survey](#)
- Take the [Funding Needs & Technical Assistance Survey](#)

Announcement - CCP Success Stories

Over the next year, CCP will be creating a suite of success stories to celebrate partners' great projects and progress in conservation. The goal is to create a series of stories that deliver the overall message about the importance of conservation and partnership. Do you have a great project or conservation success story you want to be made into a video clip to highlight the importance of the work being done?

- [Apply here](#)

Announcement - Volunteer Maryland Program

Volunteer Maryland partners with nonprofits, schools, and government agencies to recruit, train, and supervise a Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps Member. Together, sites and Volunteer Maryland search for an individual to fill this unique role as AmeriCorps Member at your organization where they will serve as a Volunteer Coordinator utilizing their skills to build capacity and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the site's volunteer program.

- [Read more here](#)

Story - Local Forests Are Failing to Produce the Next Generation of Trees

"Even though much of the D.C. region's forests are in protected parklands, they are at risk of disappearing in the coming decades and being replaced by invasive shrublands. Forests are under attack by numerous threats, including climate change, invasive insects, and diseases. The biggest problem though, is that forests are failing to regenerate."

- [Read more here](#)

Webinar - REPI 2024 Webinar Series

Join the REPI Program for the 2024 webinar series to learn about program initiatives, projects, and partnerships that protect the environment, enhance military installation resilience, and ensure military readiness. All webinars begin at 1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time unless otherwise noted. For detailed webinar descriptions and connection instructions, please visit www.REPI.mil/Resources/Webinars/

- [Read more here](#)

Announcement - 2023 Chesapeake Gateways Training Recordings

For those who were unable to attend the 2023 Chesapeake Gateways Training at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia, the links to the opening and closing sessions and panels are posted on YouTube.

- [Watch here](#)

Announcement - Nominations for Children's Environmental Health Network's 2024 Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (NOW) Youth Leadership Awards

Do you know an outstanding youth who has displayed exceptional leadership on behalf of children's environmental health, equity, or climate justice? Nominate them for the Children's Environmental Health Network's 2024 Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (NOW) Youth Leadership Awards! Nominees must be between the ages of 10 and 21 (inclusive) and demonstrate exceptional environmental health leadership--protecting human health, especially of our most vulnerable populations.

- [Nominate here by February 29th](#)

Announcement - Chesapeake Bay Program notes increase in wetlands across the watershed

The Chesapeake Bay Program released [updated data](#) in support of the Wetlands Outcome on Wednesday, January 17. Experts from the Chesapeake Bay Program report that between 2014 and 2022, the Chesapeake Bay watershed gained 4,310 acres of newly created or restored wetlands. This is a slight increase (5.1%) of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement outcome to create or reestablish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, primarily on agricultural or natural landscapes.

- [Read more here](#)

Announcement - Beyond 2025 Listening Session - Climate and Clean Water

The Climate and Clean Water Small Groups of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee will host listening sessions to gather feedback and ideas from experts, stakeholders, committees and individuals to inform the groups' recommendations for moving beyond 2025.

- **Thursday, February 1st, 2024:** [Clean Water listening session](#)
- **Thursday, February 22nd, 2024:** [Climate listening session](#)

Webinar - Partners for Open Space Webinar: Protecting Program Open Space

This webinar covers the history of Program Open Space (POS) as well as the various programs it funds.

- View the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy webinar [here](#)
- View presentations [here](#)
- View the Maryland Recreation & Parks Association video [here](#)



DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGIC HIRES

a partnership of



BACKGROUND

In response to the opportunities and challenges introduced by the [Justice 40 Initiative](#), New Sun Rising and RiverWise will be partnering to make three strategic hires in Q1 of 2024 to support the implementation of the [Justice 40 Opportunity Navigator](#). These positions include an Environmental Justice Coordinator, an Environmental Justice Project Manager, and Environmental Justice Grants Manager(s).

Employees serving in these three positions will work in coordinated ways on both existing and future environmental justice projects across New Sun Rising and RiverWise's multi-county network of partners. Existing environmental justice projects include: [Franklin Avenue Park](#), [Millvale Clean Energy Initiative](#), [Hilltop Workforce Centers](#), [The RISE Project](#) (Rural Innovation through Solar Empowerment), the [Beaver County Food Hub](#), E3 ([Energy Efficiency Empowerment](#)), the [SWPA Environmental Justice Storytelling Project](#).

Community workshops and project development cohorts will identify future environmental justice projects. Community-led priorities aligned with Justice 40 will be considered, such as climate resilience through local emergency and disaster preparedness, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, pollution remediation and reduction, stormwater and clean water infrastructure, community engagement, training, and workforce development.

As part of our intentional approach to centering community voice and power in this initiative, New Sun Rising and RiverWise have engaged a team of EJ Genius Advisors. This team consists of representatives from frontline EJ communities who meet regularly to inform program design, participation criteria, and provide technical assistance to project leaders.

ABOUT NEW SUN RISING + RIVERWISE

New Sun Rising and RiverWise are nonprofit intermediary organizations with a 6+ year history of cross county collaboration and coordination. Their shared approach to implementing the Justice 40 Opportunity Navigator program represents a principled commitment to think regionally and systemically about the many challenges facing environmental justice communities throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania.

New Sun Rising envisions a vibrant and equitable future where communities are sustainable and have access to the resources necessary to thrive. They collaborate with communities to build capacity, access funding, and embrace data-informed approaches toward their own vibrant future.

RiverWise exists to organize community power and voice so that all people, organizations, and communities in Beaver County can thrive. RiverWise does this through: storytelling that dispels the myth that Beaver County's best days are behind it; projects and partnerships that grow coordination and community agency; and technical assistance that emboldens organizations to deepen their capacity to enact their mission.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Justice 40 Opportunity Navigator (J40N) initiative, led by New Sun Rising and RiverWise, collaborates with residents, organizations, and institutions in federally designated environmental justice communities, working to secure funding and implement projects that enhance health and climate resilience. Environmental Justice communities are those most impacted by climate change and economic disinvestment. The Justice 40 Opportunity Navigator (J40N) is part of a historic commitment by the Federal government to invest in disadvantaged communities located in Environmental Justice (EJ) census tracts through the Justice 40 initiative. The commitment pledges that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments will flow to disadvantaged EJ communities, providing an unprecedented opportunity for projects focusing on sustainability and equity. These projects include areas such as: climate resilience, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, pollution remediation and reduction, stormwater and clean water infrastructure, community engagement, training, and workforce development.

POSITION 1: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator will work in close partnership with the EJ Project Manager and Grants Managers. This newly established team establishes critical collaborative capacity to support communities at this pivotal moment in our history. These three newly created positions will collaborate with each other, and the broader RiverWise and New Sun Rising teams, in service to collaboration and movement building. We strongly encourage applicants to read the entire [Description of Strategic Hires](#) which includes more information about this new initiative, including the responsibilities of all three positions and how they will work together.

Though a direct employee of RiverWise, the EJ Coordinator will split their time roughly 50/50 between projects throughout RiverWise and New Sun Rising's networks, and will report jointly to the Executive Directors of both organizations.

Location: Primarily Beaver and Allegheny Counties; some work in surrounding Counties may be done remotely

Job Type: Full-time, evening and weekend availability

Responsibilities: The primary responsibility of the EJ Coordinator is to engage, educate, and organize community stakeholders while preparing their projects for successful funding and implementation.

Community Collaboration:

- Actively collaborate with residents, local organizations, and institutions to understand community needs and priorities.
- Devise and implement community engagement activities to ensure inclusive project planning and implementation for identified EJ projects.
- Prioritize inclusive practices to ensure diverse voices are heard and represented in decision-making processes.
- Facilitate coordination and communication between stakeholders within and across county boundaries.
- Coordinate the creation and negotiation of Community Benefits Agreements.

Project Development + Implementation:

- Work closely with community stakeholders in the early stage development of projects aligned with Justice 40 priorities.
- Design and deliver educational project development workshops.
- Coordinate and support the Environmental Justice Project Manager, Environmental Justice Grants Manager, and community to:
 - develop comprehensive project plans, including timelines, milestones, and resource allocation, ensuring alignment with community needs and Justice 40 Initiative goals.

- facilitate collaboration between communities to increase the scale and impact of proposed projects.
- prepare detailed reports and presentations for internal stakeholders, partners, and funders to communicate project progress, outcomes, and lessons learned.
- implement existing and future EJ projects.

Funding Access:

- Support the Environmental Justice Grants Manager to guide communities in consideration of grants suitable for their project.
- Assist communities in accessing funds under the Justice 40 Initiative and other relevant programs.
- Provide guidance on grant applications, compliance, and reporting.

Environmental Justice Advocacy:

- Educate community stakeholders on environmental justice and Justice 40.
- Advocate for the interests of environmental justice communities at local, regional, and national levels.
- Promote the principles of equity and sustainability in all project initiatives.
- Coordinate with the storytelling team to produce content in support of the above.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in environmental studies, community development, or a minimum of 4 years experience in a related field. We are less concerned with a specific educational pedigree and more interested in the skills and disposition that a potential candidate will bring to this position.
- Experience in community engagement, project implementation, and grant management with an emphasis on federal grant experience.
- Strong understanding of environmental justice issues and the Justice 40 Initiative.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively with diverse communities, particularly community leaders and their organizations.
- Reliable transportation within the program service territory as the majority of work will be in person.

The Ideal Candidate's Disposition:

We are seeking candidates with an unusually curious and adaptive mindset, someone who is relentlessly driven to understand the multifaceted nature of environmental justice, equity, and human flourishing. Ideal candidates possess a deep and thoughtful understanding of various domains of knowledge, demonstrating an ability to think deeply about the unseen connections between them. With a disposition that privileges wisdom over mere skill or technique, the ideal

candidate will build trust and motivate action through excellent communication and active listening, demonstrating adeptness at articulating complex ideas and tuning into the nuanced needs of diverse communities across urban and rural contexts. They are a careful planner and a capable, quick learner, comfortable navigating the ambiguity and shifting dynamics inherent in this work.

Exemplary applicants will intuitively adapt past experiences to present contexts, embracing failure as a necessary stepping stone to success and demonstrating a high level of emotional intelligence. They will find deep meaning in life beyond work, which fuels their passionate and entrepreneurial approach to leadership. With a commitment to dreaming about what's possible, rather than a singular focus on what's not working, the candidate will have a robust and ever-growing understanding of community dynamics and a natural inclination towards innovation and creative problem-solving. The ideal candidate will look beyond the immediate to the potential, being eager to lead and inspire change for the betterment of communities and the environment.

Compensation:

This is a full time, salaried position with RiverWise paying \$66,000 per year. An additional monthly allowance for healthcare and/or retirement will be provided at the rate of \$8,640 per year, paid monthly at a rate of \$720 per month.

This position includes 10 days of PTO annually for vacation, sick days, and personal time. An additional 12 days off are observed by RiverWise for the following: MLK Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Juneteenth Freedom Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas to New Year's Day .

The total compensation package for this position, including salary and benefits, is \$74,640.

Application Process:

Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and a list of three professional references to daniel@getriverwise.com. The application deadline is February 16, 2024.

If you are passionate about advancing environmental justice, growing community agency, and contributing to the Justice 40 Initiative throughout southwest Pennsylvania, we invite you to consider joining our team as an Environmental Justice Coordinator.

RiverWise is an equal-opportunity employer. We are committed to practicing and promoting inclusion, diversity, and equity. We value applicants with a wide range of experience and vision, who have demonstrated commitment and responsibility in related projects and duties.

POSITION 2: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROJECT MANAGER

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Project Manager will work in close partnership with the EJ Coordinator and Grants Managers. This newly established team establishes critical collaborative capacity to support communities at this pivotal moment in our history. These three newly created positions will collaborate with each other, and the broader RiverWise and New Sun Rising teams, in service to collaboration and movement building. We strongly encourage applicants to read the entire [Description of Strategic Hires](#) which includes more information about this new initiative, including the responsibilities of all three positions and how they will work together.

Location: Primarily Allegheny and Beaver Counties; some work in surrounding Counties may be done remotely

Job Type: Full-time

Responsibilities: The primary responsibility of the EJ Project Manager is to ensure the successful implementation of community projects through planning, monitoring, and reporting.

Project Planning and Strategy:

- Lead the planning and execution of environmental justice projects from inception to completion, ensuring they align with the goals of the Justice 40 initiative and the priorities of stakeholders.
- Develop comprehensive project plans that outline timelines, milestones, resource allocation, and potential risks, ensuring a strategic and systematic approach to project management.

Contractor and Personnel Oversight:

- Assume responsibility for selecting, managing, and evaluating contractors, consultants, and other external personnel who are engaged in implementing project activities.
- Establish clear expectations, deliverables, and timelines for all contracted parties, ensuring they align with the project's goals and standards.
- Foster effective communication between contractors, team members, and stakeholders to ensure a cohesive approach to project implementation.
- Monitor the performance of contractors and provide guidance, feedback, and support as necessary to ensure high-quality outcomes, making adjustments as needed to address challenges and ensure success.
- Act as the primary point of contact for any issues or disputes that arise with contractors, resolving them in a manner that maintains positive relationships and project momentum.
- Implement robust quality control measures to ensure that all work by contractors is completed to the agreed-upon standards, on time, and within budget.

- Coordinate with the Grants Manager to ensure that contract terms, payments, and compliance requirements are managed effectively and in line with funding stipulations.
- Ensure project outcomes meet or exceed expectations and comply with all relevant regulations and standards.

Team Coordination and Integration:

- Coordinate closely with the Environmental Justice Coordinator and Grants Manager to ensure a seamless, integrated approach to project management, grant acquisition, and community engagement.
- Facilitate regular team meetings and communication channels to ensure all team members are informed, aligned, and collaboratively working toward common objectives.

Resource Management:

- Oversee the allocation and utilization of resources, ensuring projects are delivered on time and within budget while maximizing impact.
- Work with the Grants Manager to ensure that financial resources from grants are distributed efficiently and in accordance with funding requirements.

Transparency and Reporting:

- Maintain a high level of transparency in all project activities, ensuring that public stakeholders are kept informed of progress, decisions, and outcomes.
- Prepare detailed reports and presentations for internal stakeholders, partners, and funders, highlighting project progress, challenges, outcomes, and lessons learned.

Capacity Assessment and Development:

- Continuously assess the capacity of project stakeholders and develop strategies to enhance their skills and capabilities in project management and environmental justice advocacy.
- Organize and facilitate training sessions, workshops, cohorts, and other educational opportunities to foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Community-Centered Approach:

- Ensure that all projects are designed and implemented with a focus on community needs, priorities, and voices, promoting equity and inclusion throughout the process.
- Actively seek and incorporate community feedback to ensure projects are responsive and beneficial to those they are intended to serve.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in environmental studies, community development, or a minimum of 4 years experience in a related field. We are less concerned with a specific educational pedigree and more interested in the skills and disposition that a potential candidate will bring to this position.
- Certification in project management is a plus, though not required for applicants who can demonstrate a track record of project management excellence.
- Grants management with an emphasis on Federal funding compliance and reporting.
- Strong understanding of environmental justice issues and the Justice 40 initiative.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively with diverse communities, particularly community leaders and their organizations.
- Reliable transportation within the program service territory.

The Ideal Candidate's Disposition:

We are seeking an Environmental Justice Project Manager with a dynamic and adaptive mindset, someone driven by the complexities and rewards of meaningful project management. The ideal candidate possesses a deep-rooted understanding of environmental justice, combined with the practical know-how of orchestrating multifaceted initiatives. They are a strategic thinker, adept at long-range planning and meticulous in execution, demonstrating an exceptional ability to foresee project trajectories and navigate through potential challenges. They are an exemplary communicator, capable of articulating complex project plans and sensitive to the nuanced needs of varied stakeholders across urban and rural contexts. Their communication style fosters clarity, trust, and team cohesion, ensuring all members are aligned and motivated.

The ideal project manager is a master of organization and time management, handling multiple threads of a project with clarity and efficiency. They intuitively prioritize tasks and resources, adapting swiftly to changing circumstances without losing sight of the overarching goals. With an eye for detail and a commitment to excellence, they ensure every aspect of the project is executed to the highest standard.

Emotionally intelligent and resilient, the ideal candidate thrives in the face of adversity, viewing obstacles as opportunities for growth and innovation. They lead by example, inspiring their team with a vision of what's possible and fostering a culture of accountability and continuous improvement. Their approach is both inclusive and decisive, ensuring that every voice is heard while steering the project confidently towards its objectives.

Compensation:

This is a full time, salaried position with New Sun Rising paying \$66,000 per year including the following benefits:

- 10 days PTO annually (includes vacation, sick, and personal time)
- 12 days off for observed holidays (Easter, Memorial Day, Juneteenth Freedom Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas to New Year's Day); and an optional flex day for service on MLK Day
- Employee sponsored health (UPMC Health Plan), dental, vision, and long term disability coverage (with employer contribution)
- Professional Development Fund (\$1000 annually)
- Technology Stipend (\$300 once per employee)

Application Process:

Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and a list of three professional references through the New Sun Rising Job Board at <https://newsunrising.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers>. The application deadline is February 16, 2024. We are committed to practicing and promoting inclusion, diversity, and equity. We value applicants with a wide range of experience and vision, who have demonstrated commitment and responsibility in related projects and duties.

If you are passionate about advancing environmental justice, empowering communities, and contributing to the Justice 40 Initiative throughout southwest Pennsylvania, we invite you to consider joining our team as an Environmental Justice Project Manager.

POSITION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS MANAGER

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Grants Manager will work in close partnership with the EJ Project Manager and EJ Coordinator. This newly established team establishes critical collaborative capacity to support communities at this pivotal moment in our history. These three newly created positions will work in close partnership with each other in service to collaboration and movement building. We strongly encourage applicants to read the entire [Description of Strategic Hires](#) which includes more information about this new initiative, including the responsibilities of all three positions and how they will work together.

Though a direct contractor of New Sun Rising or RiverWise depending on the project, the EJ Grants Manager will provide support throughout New Sun Rising and RiverWise's networks, and will report jointly to the Executive Directors of both organizations.

Location: Primarily Allegheny and Beaver Counties; some work in surrounding Counties may be done remotely

Job Type: Independent Contractor

Responsibilities: The primary responsibility of the EJ Grants Manager is to successfully obtain and manage grant funding through community education, opportunity identification, proposal submission, budget monitoring, and reporting.

Comprehensive Grant Strategy Development:

- Develop and implement sophisticated strategies to navigate complex federal, state, and private grant programs, ensuring alignment with environmental justice goals and the Justice 40 initiative.
- Continuously research and stay updated on new funding opportunities, policy changes, and trends in environmental justice financing.

Relationship Building and Representation:

- Build and maintain strong relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders, including nonprofits, municipalities, and community collaborations.
- Act as a primary liaison between these parties and funding agencies, facilitating clear and effective communication.
- Forge and nurture ongoing relationships with grant-making organizations, government agencies, and other potential funders.
- Represent the organization and its partners in grant-related meetings, negotiations, and public events, advocating for support and understanding of environmental justice projects.

Capacity Building and Education:

- Provide training and resources to stakeholders to enhance their understanding of grant processes and increase their capacity for successful grant acquisition and management.
- Organize workshops and seminars to educate partners on best practices in navigating grant landscapes, proposal writing, and compliance.

Customized Proposal Development:

- Lead the conceptualization and crafting of compelling, customized grant proposals tailored to the specific needs and strengths of each project and partner.
- Work closely with project teams and partners to gather necessary information, ensuring proposals are comprehensive, persuasive, and meet all funding program requirements.

Grant Compliance and Reporting:

- Support the EJ Project Manager ensuring strict adherence to all grant requirements, monitoring compliance throughout each project's lifecycle.
- Develop and implement efficient systems for tracking and reporting, providing stakeholders with clear guidance on documentation and financial accountability.

Budget Management and Financial Oversight:

- Collaborate with project managers and partners to develop detailed project budgets, ensuring they reflect the scope and needs of each initiative.
- Provide oversight and support in financial management, helping partners understand and manage the complexities of funded projects, including expense tracking and resource allocation.

Continuous Learning and Adaptation:

- Commit to ongoing professional development to stay at the forefront of grant management, environmental justice issues, and community development strategies.
- Adapt strategies and approaches based on lessons learned from project outcomes, stakeholder feedback, and changes in the funding landscape.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in nonprofit management, writing, community development, or a minimum of 4 years experience in a related field. We are less concerned with a specific educational pedigree and more interested in the skills and disposition that a potential candidate will bring to this position.
- Demonstrated experience in grant research, writing, and reporting for private philanthropy, state agencies, and especially federal funders. Adept at writing grants for collaborative projects involving multiple stakeholders.

- Strong understanding of environmental justice issues and the Justice 40 initiative.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively with diverse communities, particularly community leaders and their organizations.

The Ideal Candidate's Disposition:

We are in search of an Environmental Justice Grants Manager who embodies a strategic and analytical mindset, essential for navigating the intricate landscape of grant funding. The ideal candidate brings a seasoned understanding of grant processes coupled with a passionate commitment to environmental justice. They are able to identify funding opportunities that align with community needs and organizational goals, turning possibilities into actionable strategies. Possessing a disposition that marries meticulous attention to detail with broad strategic thinking, this individual excels in planning, organizing, and executing comprehensive grant programs. They are an adept researcher, constantly seeking new opportunities and staying abreast of trends in environmental funding. Their approach is methodical and thorough, ensuring that every grant application and report is crafted with precision and clarity.

The ideal Grants Manager is a master communicator, capable of articulating complex funding requirements to diverse teams and partners across urban and rural contexts. They are equally comfortable discussing detailed financial matters as they are in conveying the broader impact of funding on environmental justice initiatives. Organizational skills are second nature to this candidate, adept at juggling multiple grants, deadlines, and compliance requirements without losing sight of the bigger picture. They are proactive in managing timelines and resources, ensuring every project is on track and well-supported. With an eye for detail, they meticulously track expenditures and outcomes, ensuring accountability and transparency in every financial aspect.

Emotionally intelligent and collaborative, the ideal candidate thrives in team environments, valuing the input, expertise, and voice of others including community members. They are a natural bridge-builder, cultivating relationships with funders, team members, and community partners alike. This individual is deeply driven by a desire to make a meaningful difference, channeling their grants expertise into impactful environmental justice work.

Compensation:

This is a contracted position with New Sun Rising or RiverWise. Contractors will be matched with EJ projects based on the nature of the funding source, and their experience with project characteristics such as geography, strategy, partners, and activities. Compensation will be determined on a project specific basis.

Application Process:

As part of growing a comprehensive ecosystem, we are soliciting candidates interested in contracted work aimed at securing and managing grants of various sizes and types. Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter including fee structure, and a list of three professional references through the New Sun Rising Job Board at <https://newsunrising.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers>. The application deadline is February 16, 2024.

We are committed to practicing and promoting inclusion, diversity, and equity. We value applicants with a wide range of experience and vision, who have demonstrated commitment and responsibility in related projects and duties.

If you are passionate about advancing environmental justice, empowering communities, and contributing to the Justice 40 Initiative throughout southwest Pennsylvania, we invite you to consider joining our team as an Environmental Justice Grants Manager.