IRA: ACCESSING FEDERAL FUNDS AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

IN MN
Local Climate Education Org: Discussing Yearly Budget Breakdown

So, as you can see, we have gone over budget and do not have the necessary funding for our climate resilience workshops.

Educate Residents

Welcome to our climate resilience workshop! I'm so excited for you all to be here.

Today is an introduction to the Inflation Reduction Act for community members.
PARTNER WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
ADVOCATE FOR COMMUNITY

WE COULD LOOK AT OUR OTHER PROGRAMS AND MAKE CUTS.

BUT ALL OUR CLIMATE RELATED PROGRAMMING IS ESSENTIAL AND MUCH NEEDED FOR THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE.

HOLD ON, LET'S NOT PANIC. I HEARD THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT PROVIDES FUNDING SPECIFICALLY FOR CLIMATE-RELATED PROGRAMS, LIKE OURS.

WHAT'S THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT?
Essentially, it's a law that distributes resources to support non-profit organizations in developing a sustainable community.

I can't believe I haven't heard of this...

How do we access these IRA resources? Is it in the form of a grant we apply for?

Right and where does the funding come from? How do we know it's legit?

Uplift the Justice 40 initiatives

Climate justice 4 all!

We demand climate justice

The success of Justice 40 relies on state elected officials, state agencies and local elected officials working in coordination with community members to maximize Justice 40 investment benefits. Advocacy efforts are needed at every level of government to make progress in ensuring that at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy go to disadvantaged communities.
A non-profit entity can access tax credits and direct pay for clean energy projects. The IRA also offers bonus credits to projects that are located in low-income communities or energy communities, pay prevailing wages and use registered apprentices, or meet certain domestic content requirements. A non-profit entity can also apply for a host of federal grants and loan programs.

Well, there are two ways...

TAX CREDITS AND DIRECT PAY:
The IRA offers up to two dozen clean energy tax credits. The tax credits support subsidizing a range of projects from solar generation to installing EV charging infrastructure. A highlight of the IRA is its landmark provision that enables non-tax-paying entities to access the financial benefit of many of the clean energy tax credits through an "elective payment of applicable credits" aka direct pay. This provision is available to all tax-exempt organizations as they will be able to receive payment equal to the full value of tax credits for clean energy related projects for their neighborhoods and communities.

GRANTS AND LOANS:
The IRA includes funding for targeted grants and loans offered through different federal agencies for clean energy projects. Some of the IRA funded grant and loan programs that nonprofits and local governments are eligible for (but not limited to):
- Climate pollution
- Emissions reduction grants
- Environmental and climate justice community change grants (like ours!)
- Renew America's schools
I see... for our regular programming, we can keep our budget. For the new workshops, we should start by applying for grants so that we can secure funding for next year.

It also helps to let community members know about this resource. I’ll draft up an email and make posters to put up.

It sounds like other than funding to support programming, we can also get funding to do on site upgrades of solar panels and make energy efficiency improvements to our community space. We should also plan for accessing federal resources for these onsite upgrades.

These are all great ideas!

Let’s start setting deadlines and goals for the coming months.

Sounds good!