



POSITION AVAILABLE

Funding Specialist

ABOUT US: At New Jersey Future (NJF), we believe that great places help build great lives. To help create and preserve our great places, we promote sensible and equitable planning, redevelopment, and infrastructure investments that foster vibrant cities and towns; protect natural lands and waterways; enhance transportation choices; support a strong economy; and provide access to safe, affordable, and aging-friendly neighborhoods for everyone. We do this through original research, innovative policy development, coalition-building, advocacy, and hands-on strategic assistance. Embracing differences and advancing fairness is central to our mission and operations, and we are firmly committed to pursuing greater justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in our work and culture. NJF offers a fast-paced and supportive work environment. NJF is located in downtown Trenton, NJ. For more information, visit www.njfuture.org.

BACKGROUND: Old and crumbling water infrastructure is a social, economic, and health crisis in New Jersey that will require billions of dollars to fix. Overburdened communities often do not receive their fair share of federal and state funds for water infrastructure projects. For example, research indicates that only 10% of New Jersey's drinking water systems received State Revolving Fund (SRF) assistance from the Water Bank between 2011 and 2020, and small communities are less likely to obtain the funding they need.

There are many barriers to accessing state and federal water infrastructure funds, including the challenge of assessing local needs and designing an acceptable solution. Applications are often complicated and costly to complete, requiring many technical components such as engineering designs, environmental impact assessments, and financial studies. Overwhelmed, resource-constrained, and unfamiliar with the SRF process, hundreds of localities never take the first steps to seek state and federal resources.

POSITION SUMMARY: New Jersey Future seeks to hire a Funding Specialist as part of a statewide effort to provide technical assistance to under-resourced water utilities in New Jersey. The Funding Specialist will report directly to the Funding Navigator Program Manager to roll out and implement the program.

Specifically, the goal is to proactively engage utilities serving overburdened communities that have not received federal funds in the past and aid them in accessing federal and state infrastructure funding. This will include working with the Funding Navigator Program Manager and partners to assess water utility needs, identify policy and implementation obstacles, design solutions that are "right-sized" for the community, and match projects with possible state and/or federal funding sources while identifying longer-term policy solutions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Funding Specialist's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Develop relationships with technical assistance and professional service providers, rural water associations, community-based, and other nonprofits organizations dedicated to enhancing water quality.
- Conduct water system site visits with Funding Navigator Program Manager for needs assessment review.
- Working with NJF's national and regional partners to:
 - Assess water utility technical, financial, and environmental capacity.
 - Develop a technical assistance work plan and help water utilities to understand options.
 - Support localities in exploring options to address up front costs needed in advance of submitting a funding application.
- Prepare scopes of work, requests for proposals, and memos of understanding.
- Shape funding applications, including financing options, prior to submission.

REQUIREMENTS

- At least seven years of experience in one or more of the following areas: water infrastructure design or finance, water utility operations, or finance. We will consider time pursuing a graduate degree and other relevant experience toward the seven plus years of experience.
- Understanding of or willingness to learn about federal and state funding programs for water infrastructure.
- Commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion by employing these values in all aspects of their work.
- Ability to accomplish multiple goals with a focus on outcomes.
- Passion for pursuing equitable outcomes.
- Excellent communication skills.

COMPENSATION: The salary for this full-time position is in the range of \$60,000 to \$70,000 and depends on the candidate's experience and skills. Part-time requests will also be considered. Salary is negotiable.

BENEFITS: New Jersey Future values hard work and a healthy work-life balance by offering flexible, family-friendly employment policies. Our competitive benefits package for full-time employees includes 100% employer-sponsored medical, dental, vision, life insurance, short- and long-term disability insurance coverage for staff and partial sponsorship of dependents. In addition, we offer a generous health reimbursement account and options for pre-tax flexible spending accounts for medical and dependent care costs. New Jersey Future employees enjoy a defined contribution 401(k) retirement plan with a variable employer match, flexible work schedules including the opportunity to work partially remotely, generous paid time off policies, and paid holidays. To encourage use of public and active transportation, we offer commuter transit subsidies and access to a company car for work meetings. New Jersey Future is committed to the growth and development of staff and fostering a creative, inclusive workplace culture.

New Jersey Future employees are working on a hybrid work-from-home and in-office schedule.

APPLICATION: Interested and qualified candidates should submit a cover letter and a resume to HR@njfuture.org. If selected to advance, a brief writing sample that is original content (not edited or contributed to by someone other than the applicant) will be required and a brief assignment may be given. Relevant references will also be required. NJF currently is unable to sponsor or take over sponsorship of an employment visa at this time. If hired, employment eligibility verification will be carried out upon selection.



At New Jersey Future, we embrace differences and advance fairness as a means to nurturing powerful ideas and realizing meaningful social change. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply and will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.