Welcome to the April issue of Building for Sustainability! Each month, Chicago Community Loan Fund (CCLF) brings you resources for community development, good design, and sustainability. Click here to find: Grants & RFPs, Events, Resources, Training & Workshops, and Conferences.

Grants & RFPs

Farm Aid Grants for Projects Supporting Family Farmers
Letters of Inquiry due May 1, 2016

Farm Aid works to build a system of agriculture that values family farmers, good food, soil and water and strong communities. The organization is seeking Letters of Inquiry for grants of up to $10,000 to organizations supporting family farms and growing the good food movement. Learn more about eligibility and application process here.

Grants to Support Veteran Housing Needs
Proposal due date: Jun 23, 2016

The Home Depot Foundation’s Veteran Housing Grants Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations for the development and repair of veteran housing. Eligible projects include new construction, rehab or repair, single family or multifamily, permanent supportive housing or transitional housing. Click here for details.

Events

Growing Home's Annual Benefit
May 12 - 5:30 - 9:30 pm, Salvage One

Join Growing Home in celebrating a decade of innovative programming promoting healthy living, community empowerment and economic development in Englewood. Reserve your seats before March 21 to receive an early bird discount.
Resources

Energy Savings Plus Health: Indoor Air Quality Guidelines for Multifamily Building Upgrades
Open resource

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the guidelines for multifamily residential buildings upgrade, retrofit and renovation activities to ensure healthy indoor environments and improved energy efficiency. Learn more and access it here.

Little Village Vacant Property and Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy
Online report

After two years of research and community engagement, Delta Institute and Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) announced this new comprehensive strategy to guide the redevelopment of brownfield and vacant properties in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. Read more and access the document here.

Energy Efficiency Tax Credits
Blog post

Check out Eco Achievers’ blog post on the eligibility and processes of Section 45L tax credits where developers of energy efficient apartment buildings and homes may qualify for a $2,000 tax incentive per qualifying unit. Eligible projects include new construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation. Read more here to see how your projects may benefit.

Training & Workshops

Biophilic Design and the Stories of our Place
April 5, 4:00 pm- 6:00 pm, 203 N. LaSalle St., Chicago

In this 2-hour course with Prairie Lab, you will learn about biophilic design, an innovative way of designing that aims to adapt nature’s strategies to create healthy built environments that benefit both humans and the ecosystems we inhabit. Learn more and register here.

Mindful Materials: Education & Advocacy
April 6, 11:45 am- 1:15 pm, AIA Chicago

Mindful MATERIALS is a voluntary product labeling initiative endorsed by the Chicago design community to facilitate the transition to transparency, sustainable and healthy product selections. Join AIA Chicago and USGBC-Illinois for lunch and explore how to distinguish greener and healthier materials faster to serve your projects. Learn more and register here.
For professionals with at least three years of experience in the residential construction industry who are interested in filling the need for LEED Green Raters, this 2-day course with GreenHome Institute will get you prepared to become a LEED for Homes Green Rater. The training will prepare you to provide inspections, testing and verification services from single-family through high rise mixed-use multifamily housing projects. Learn more here.

Resilience for Free: How Solar+Storage Could Protect Multifamily Affordable Housing from Power Outages
April 27, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EDT, Webinar
Join GreenHome Institute’s free webinar to learn about how solar PV and battery storage technology applied in multifamily affordable housing could enhance resident safety while providing economic returns. Register here.

Conferences

Solutions for Housing Communications 2016 Convening
- April 28 - 29, Baruch College, New York City
National Housing Conference’s Solutions for Housing Communications 2016 Convening will connect affordable housing developers, advocates, funders and government officials for discussions on challenges and opportunities in gaining community acceptance for affordable housing, which is often a sticking point in developing successful communities. Learn more here.

2016 Better Buildings Summit
- May 9 - 11, Washington D.C.
The national meeting gathers Better Buildings partners and key stakeholders to exchange best practices and discuss opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of the nation’s buildings, manufacturing plants and homes. Learn more and register here.

Housing Opportunity 2016
- May 15 - 17, Boston Marriott Copley Place, MA
Join the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and Enterprise Community Partners at this national conference on residential development and housing affordability to gain the tools, knowledge and connections for developing exceptional affordable homes that support broader opportunities for low-income families. Learn more and register here before April 15 to receive discounts.
The mission of the Chicago Community Loan Fund is to provide flexible, affordable and responsible financing and technical assistance for community stabilization and development efforts and initiatives that benefit low- to moderate-income neighborhoods, families and individuals throughout metropolitan Chicago.