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## **Parks Maintenance: Policies and Funding *Session 2: Traditional Funding Models***

**December 13, 2023**

# Parks Maintenance Traditional Funding Models

## Agenda:

- Recap of Session 1
- Presentation: Public Funding for Parks Maintenance (10 min)
- Breakout Groups (35 min)
- Closing



# Session 1: Standards and Assessments

*How to equitably prioritize maintenance across parks given the variability of needs?*

## Challenges

- Balance creating **standardization vs. unique** and creative adjustments to maintain assets.
- Staff may **lack training, capacity**, and using technology or software to complete maintenance assessments and evaluations.
- Address **maintenance backlogs** for older parks while keeping up with new parks and facilities (especially in rapidly-growing cities).
- **Lack of available data**, like park visitation and/or asset conditions to demonstrate increased activity in parks.

## Approaches

- **Determine standards** for staffing and activities (i.e. anticipated time spent per specific task).
- Identify **preventative standards and proactive audits to** improve maintenance systems.
- **Encourage staff participation** in maintenance assessments or inventories.
- Account for **community stewardship resources** into maintenance approach, like prioritizing service between parks with friends of groups and stewardship and those with none.

# Session 1: Standards and Assessments

*How to approach climate mitigation in daily operations and maintenance?*

## Insights from the cohort

- **Adjust hours** for maintenance based on season.
- Seek **creative solutions and adapt approaches** to daily maintenance.
- Incorporate climate resilience into department's **long-range planning documents**.
- **Foster collaboration** with emergency response departments.
- Adjust **natural habitats** to support native species given changing climate conditions.





# Poll

Does your city use one (or more) of the following sources to fund parks operations and maintenance?

- Property Tax
- Income Tax
- Sales and Use Taxes
- Real Estate Transfer Tax
- Earned/Generated Revenue
- Special Districts



# Parks Maintenance Finance

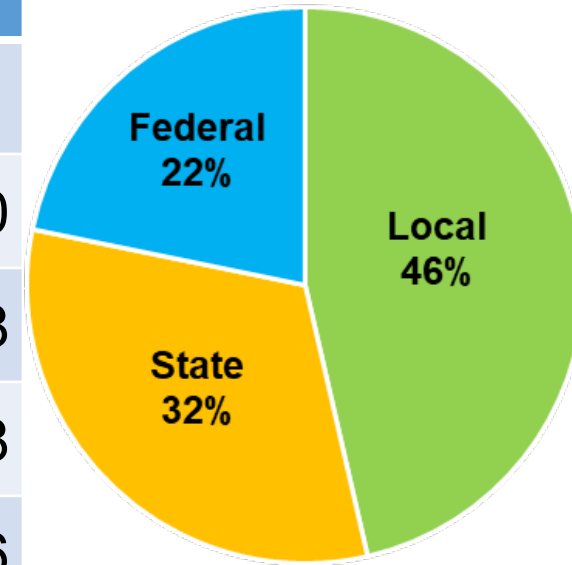
# Where Does Public Funding for Land Conservation Come From?



# Public Funding for Land Conservation

Public Funding for Land Conservation in the United States, 1998-2021

Level of Government	Amount	Annual Average
<b>Local</b>	<b>\$34,564,386,890</b>	<b>\$1,502,799,430</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>\$18,649,102,833</b>	<b>\$810,830,558</b>
<b>Federal</b>	<b>\$14,523,328,573</b>	<b>\$631,449,068</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$67,736,818,296</b>	<b>\$2,945,079,056</b>



Local: Spending authorizations via local ballot measures. Source: TPL's LandVote Database

State and Federal: Actual spending. Data not complete for all 50 states. Source: TPL's Conservation Almanac

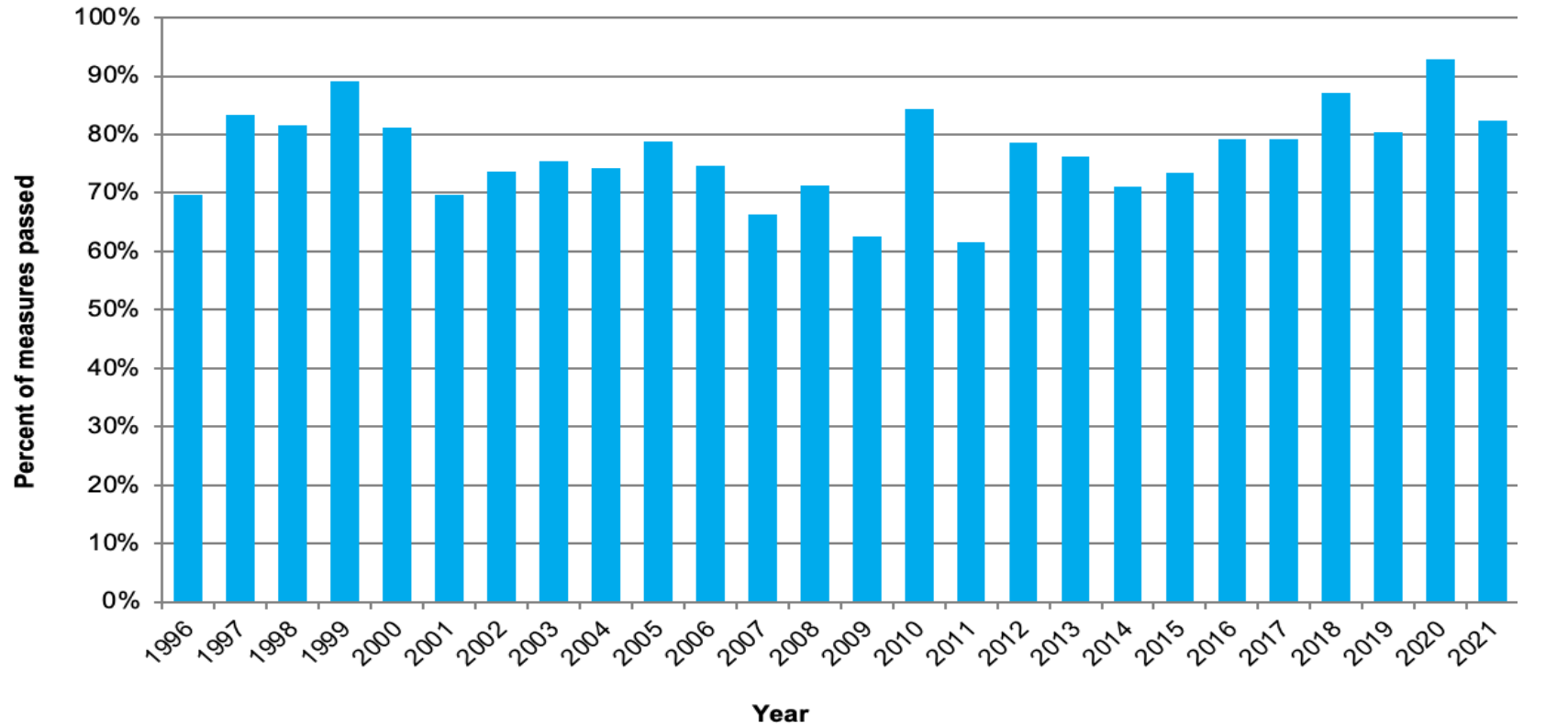


# What is the “Big Idea”?

## Engaging Voters to Approve Funding for Conservation

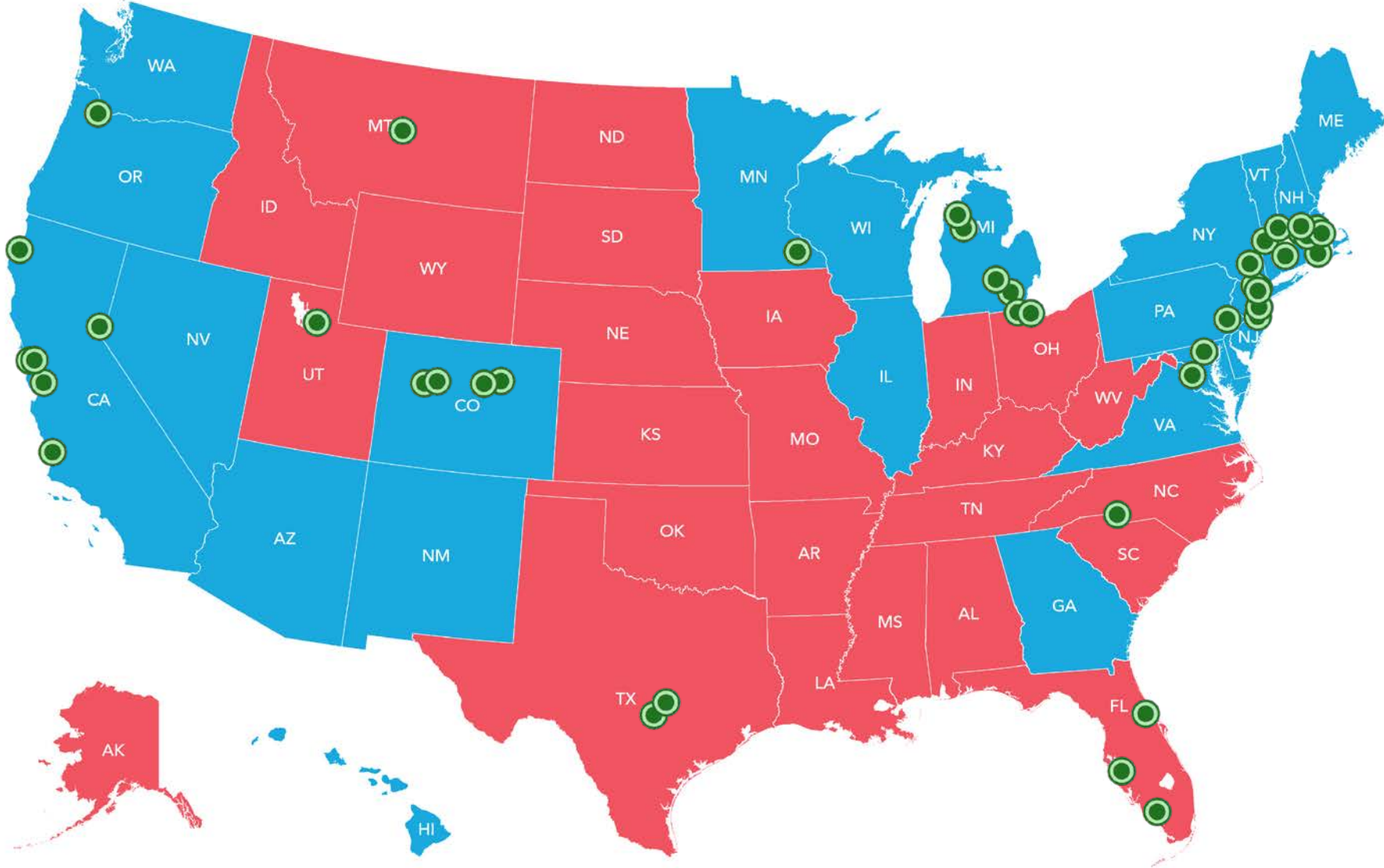
Is it really possible to get voters to raise their TAXES to invest in parks and conservation?

# Proof of Concept: 77% long-term approval rate, good times and bad



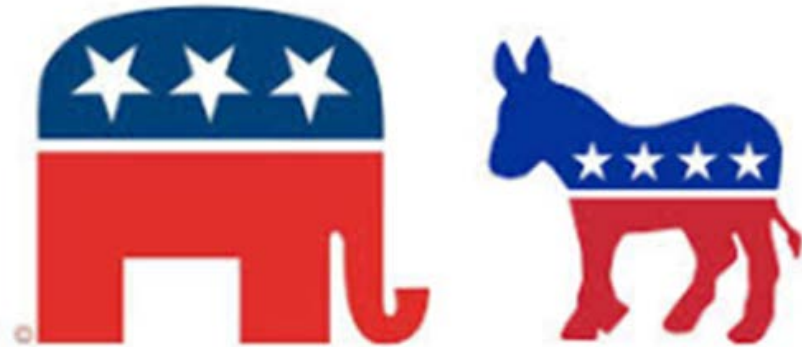
War in Afghanistan  
 Katrina  
 2008 Election  
 2016 Election  
 Covid-19  
 Dot-Com Crash 9/11  
 Iraq War  
 Great Recession

# Not Red or Blue, But Green - November 3, 2020

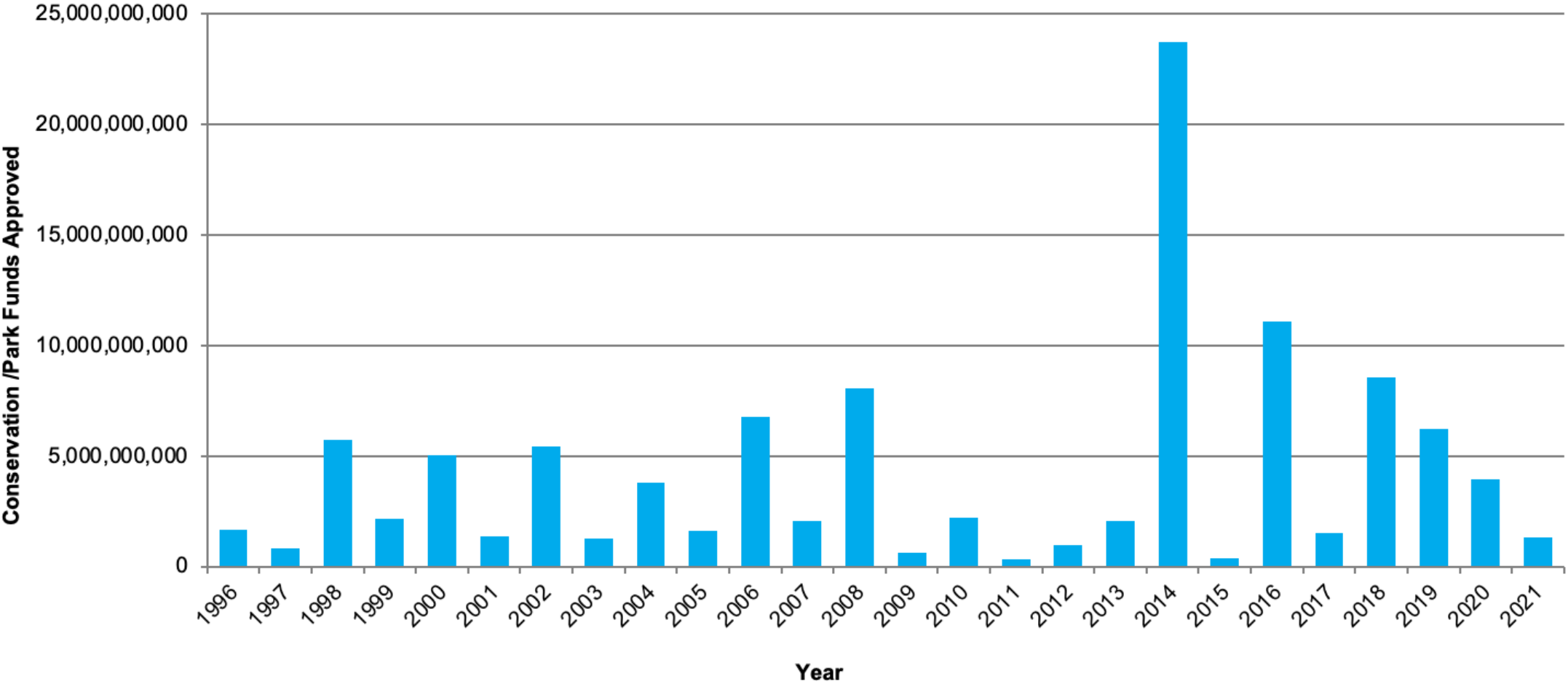


# Not Red or Blue, But Green - November 3, 2020

- 15 county measures – 14 passed (93%)
- Biden counties: 9 of 9 (100%)
- Trump counties: 5 of 6 (83%)



# Track Record of the Concept: Tens of Billions of \$ for Land Conservation



# Common Revenue Streams

<b>Common Land Conservation Revenue Streams: Local Programs</b>	
<b>Revenue Stream</b>	<b>Selected examples</b>
Property tax	Washington, New Jersey, Massachusetts
Sales tax	Arizona, Colorado, Florida, New Mexico
General Obligation bonds	Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah
Income tax	Pennsylvania
Real estate excise tax/fees	Washington, Maryland, New York

# Finance Mechanism, Passage Rates, Funds Approved

Local Conservation Finance Ballot Measures Nationwide (1996-2023)					
Finance Mechanism	Number/ Measures	Pass	% Pass	Total Funds Approved	Parks and Open Space Funds Approved
Bond	975	817	84%	\$28,092,940,348	\$12,162,468,736
Income tax	101	73	72%	\$732,491,012	\$533,591,012
Property tax	1211	880	73%	\$21,805,284,836	\$11,193,244,727
Real estate trans. tax	38	32	84%	\$3,153,759,354	\$2,744,107,886
Sales tax	223	169	76%	\$63,117,425,375	\$10,646,526,309
Other	115	87	76%	\$17,029,764,148	\$1,952,108,887
<b>Total</b>	2663	2058	77%	\$133,931,665,073	\$39,232,047,557

*Source: Trust for Public Land, LandVote database November 2023*

# What is the Trust for Public Land's Conservation Finance Program?

We create and protect new public funding for land conservation, parks, and restoration through the research, design, and passage of ballot measures and legislation and serve as thought leaders in the field.



# Our Record of Success

- ✓ 649 wins
- ✓ 83% passage rate
- ✓ \$93 billion created
- ✓ Over 175 million “Yes” Votes





Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create parks and protect public land where they are needed most.

Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 3 million acres of public land, created more than 5,000 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places, raised \$84 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected more than 9 million people to the outdoors.

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

## For More Information:

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# Thank You!

# Discussion questions

30 minutes

1. What are the current sources of your operations and maintenance budgets?
2. What are your main challenges in funding operations and maintenance?
3. Who are your coalition supporters (including elected officials, staff, NGOs, stakeholders)? Who are your opponents?
4. What are the largest climate and/or equity related challenges and opportunities in your community?



# Welcome back!

Fill out the exit ticket before you leave.



# Contact Us



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# NEW! ORLP Grant Assistance

**Submissions due January 10**

- Confirm project eligibility by using the ORLP Toolkit.
- Submit project to ORLP Technical Assistance Form.



# Thank you!

## **Next session**

Wednesday, February 7 – Non-traditional Funding Models

## **Questions? Comments?**

Reach out to Christina Jang

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