

Travel Grants Available to Participate in Local Solutions: Eastern Regional Climate Preparedness Conference in Baltimore, April 4-6, 2016

Grants are open to leaders and residents from Maryland with preference to municipal employees, elected or appointed municipal decision-makers, county government employees, regional planning council personnel, and Maryland's Commission on Climate Change

Keene, New Hampshire and Baltimore, Maryland – A limited number of travel grants are available to offset the cost of attending the 2016 [Local Solutions: Eastern Regional Climate Preparedness Conference](#) to be held April 4-6, in Baltimore. \$25,000 worth of travel grants disbursed in awards of up to \$750 per person is available for local leaders and residents from Maryland. Additional travel grants are earmarked for attendees from other states. Organizers will award funds based on a first-come, first-served basis.

The conference is ideal for teams of municipal, county and regional planning officials and staff, community leaders and local business leaders directly responsible for preparedness at the local level to strengthen their capacity to develop and implement solutions to climate-related challenges within their communities.

“Major U.S. cities are pursuing adaptation planning and vulnerability assessments, but many smaller communities do not have the resources to send staff,” Abigail Abrash Walton, co-director of the Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience at AUNE and member of the conference’s steering committee. “These are the types of communities with the greatest need to develop partnerships and to tap into resources to help them plan, build capacity, and act, and we hope to support them with these travel grants.”

“State and local governments are the first line of defense in responding to climate change challenges because they determine how we use land, how we design and construct infrastructure, and how we maintain ecosystems for resilience,” said Michael Simpson, chair of the Environmental Studies Department at AUNE, co-director of the Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience, and member of the conference’s steering committee. “They are also the first responders to disasters that disrupt a community’s social and physical infrastructure, so for both public safety and fiscal reasons, local and regional governments must plan how to prepare for changing climate. The 2016 Local Solutions conference is designed to help them do just that.”

The upcoming conference is hosted in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions 1-4, which comprise about 40 percent of the U.S., throughout New England and the East Coast, as well as inland areas throughout the Midwest and Southeast. It is spearheaded by Antioch University New England’s Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience, which was established as a direct and initial commitment to the White House Climate Data Initiative in March 2014.

For more information and to apply for any of the available travel grants, please visit www.communityresilience-center.org/grants/ or contact Marilyn Castriotta at mcastriotta1@antioch.edu or 617-576-0810.

About Antioch University New England's Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience

The mission of AUNE's Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience is to prepare, respond and recover in the face of climate impacts and other disruptions through collaborative, innovative solutions. The center delivers applied research, consulting, and education and training. Through a solutions-oriented, pragmatic, participatory, and inclusive approach based on change leadership best practices and systems thinking, its focus is on stakeholder capacity building at the local scale (watershed, municipal, county, and region) of preparedness and resilience nationally and internationally, with an explicit awareness of social and climate justice.

About Antioch University New England (AUNE)

AUNE offers the first-in-the-U.S. master's program for climate adaptation professionals. In addition, AUNE delivers a PhD in Environmental Studies and Master's programs in Resource Management and Conservation and concentrations in advocacy, conservation biology, environmental education, science teacher certification, and Professional Science Master's Certificates.

Antioch University is an accredited, non-profit university and a bold and enduring source of innovation in higher education that serves adult students around the world, online and from its five campuses in four states in addition to its University-wide international and doctoral programs. The University lives by its mission every day by helping students realize their potential and achieve their educational goals through an innovative, rigorous and responsive learning environment. Antioch University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Antioch University New England is home to the first-in-the-country Environmental Studies and Educating for Sustainability graduate programs and Conservation Psychology Institute, and offers a top-ranked MBA in Sustainability as well as Clinical and Applied Psychology.

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