



Preparing for Upcoming DOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities

February 8, 2023

Welcome



- Goals for today's webinar
- To ask questions, use the Q&A function
- Webinar will be recorded and posted on DOT Navigator site
- Slides will also be translated into Spanish

First a few questions for all of you ...





Poll Question #1

Please indicate which type of organization you represent

- State government agency (or entity)
- Local government agency (or entity)
- Indian Tribe
- U.S. Territory
- Regional planning agency
- Transit agency
- Academic institution
- For-profit organization
- Non-profit organization
- Other (please specify in the chat)





Poll Question #2

Please indicate your organization's experience with DOT discretionary funding

- My organization has never applied for a DOT discretionary grant
- My organization has applied for one or more DOT discretionary grants but has not been funded
- My organization has applied and been selected for one or more DOT discretionary grants
- Not sure

U.S. Department of Transportation

Today's Speakers



Amit Bose, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, USDOT



Andrea Jacobson, RAISE Grants Program Manager, Office of the Secretary, USDOT



Veronica P. McBeth, Senior Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, USDOT



Lynda Tran, Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of Public Engagement, USDOT



Mariia
Zimmerman,
Strategic Advisor
for Technical
Assistance and
Community
Solutions, USDOT

Agenda



- Introduction to the DOT Navigator
- Spotlight on DOT Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO):
 - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant (RAISE)
 - Federal State Partnerships
 - Areas of Persistent Poverty
- Additional technical assistance resources
- Wrap up and Q&A

Scale of Opportunity



- BIL and IRA are a big deal a very big deal
 - \$32 billion available discretionary grants in FY2023 alone
- Additional resources through Formula Funds through state DOTs, MPOs, and transit agencies

• Factor in "meaningful public involvement" – early and often

Getting Familiar with the DOT Navigator



DOT Navigator



Coordinating and Improving Access to the range of DOT Technical Assistance Resources

https://transportation.gov/dot-navigator



Sample Grant Application Resources

- Overview of DOT Funding and Financing
- USDOT Discretionary Grant Process
- Understanding Federal Match Requirements
- Federal Tools to Determine Disadvantaged Community Status
- Maximizing Award Success
- Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization?



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?



Apply for DOT Grants
Resources to help understand the federal grant-making process and key federal requirements



Find Technical Assistance Resources

Resources available to public agencies and other transportation stakeholders



Learn About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Information to help access BIL funding programs

Stav Connected

Receive email updates about the latest information on DOT grant technical assistance resources

SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES



Find Technical Assistance Resources

Search for existing resources available across DOT

- A variety of resources available across a range of transportation issues
- Some provide direct or on-call support, but many are online resources like training or explanatory videos, reports, toolkits, and guidance documents
- Frequently updated we spotlight updates and upcoming trainings in the monthly DOT Navigator Bulletin Updates

Stay Connected Receive email updates about the latest information on DOT grant technical assistance resources. SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES

https://transportation.gov/dot-navigator

Technical Assistance Resources

At DOT, "technical assistance" includes programs, processes, and resources that provide targeted support to a community, region, organization, or other beneficiary to help them access and deploy federal funding and build local capacity to develop, design, and deliver transportation plans and projects.

View and search the table below to find existing technical assistance resources and programs funded or managed by DOT that can provide deeper levels of assistance, technical information, best practices, and training.

Advanced options			
Stakeholder Type(s)	Resource Type(s)	Transportation Mode(s)	
Select All	Select All	Select All	
☐ Contractor	☐ Direct Support	☐ Air (airports, aviation, drones)	
Local Government	☐ Fact Sheet	☐ Bicycle	
Other	☐ Grant	☐ Electric or Autonomous Vehicles	
Regional/Metro Planning Orgs	☐ Guidance Document	☐ Highway	
(MPO)	Report	☐ Intelligent Transportation and	
☐ State DOT	Resource Center	Data Systems	
☐ Transit Agency	☐ Toolkit	☐ Micromobility (bike share,	
☐ Tribal Government	☐ Training	scooters, etc.)	
U.S. Territory	☐ Video/Webinar	☐ Pedestrian	
•		□ Ports	
		☐ Railway	
		☐ Transit	

BIL Resources

For more information on specific grant funding opportunities, program details, federal job opportunities, contracting and workforce development opportunities supported by BIL, please visit the following pages:

DOT BIL Resources

- <u>Upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcements in 2023</u>
- DOT BIL website
- · Federal Aviation Administration BIL website
- Federal Highway Administration BIL website
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration BIL website
- Federal Railroad Administration BIL website
- Federal Transit Administration BIL website
- Maritime Administration BIL website
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration BIL website

White House BIL Resources

- · White House BIL Guidebook
- · White House Technical Assistance Guide
- White House BIL Rural Playbook
- White House BIL Tribal Playbook

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA BUILD SOY A GUIDEBOOK TO THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW FOR STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, AND OTHER PARTNERS

White House BIL Guidebook.

Transportation Contacts Near You

- Connect with <u>U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) contacts in your state or territory</u> (interactive map of all DOT administrative offices)
- Locate your State DOT
- Connect with your regional <u>metropolitan planning organization</u> (MPO)
- Connect with your local transit agency of







Learn About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Information to help access BIL funding programs

Explore the many federal resources available on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law





Apply for DOT Grants

Resources to help understand the federal grant-making process and key federal requirements

Grant Application Resources

The following resources provide general information on applying for federal grants and understanding some of the key requirements.

Overview of DOT Funding and Financing

What money is available? Learn about potential options in the <u>Overview of DOT Funding and Financing</u>.

USDOT Discretionary Grant Process

What's the process to apply for federal grants? Find out in this overview of the <u>USDOT Discretionary Grant Process</u>.

Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements

Are local funds required for projects that receive DOT funding? Find out in <u>Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements</u>

How to Navigate Grants.gov to Submit Applications

All Federal grant opportunities must be posted through Grants.gov. Get tips and guidance on <u>How to Navigate Grants.gov to Submit Applications</u>.

Federal Transportation Funding: Fiscal Year 2023 Discretionary Grant Preparation Checklist for Prospective Applicants

The <u>Fiscal Year 2023 Discretionary Grant Preparation</u>
<u>Checklist for Prospective Applicants</u> is intended to help



Spanish

- Solicitud de subvenciones del USDOT
- <u>Visión general de fondos del DOT y</u> financiamiento
- <u>Comprendiendo los requisitos no</u> <u>federales de pareo</u>
- Herramientas federales para identificar comunidades desfavorecidas
- ¿Es el financiamiento federal el adecuado para mi organización?

local governments prepare for the year ahead and chart a strategic pathway to take advantage of historic infrastructure investments of over \$32 billion available in new fiscal year 2023 Budget Authority.



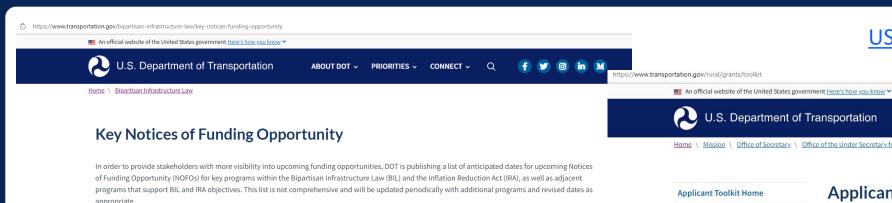
FY23 Discretionary Grant Preparation Checklist

- 1. Coordinate Between Agencies and Engage Stakeholders
- 2. Get Familiar with the DOT Calendar of Funding Opportunities
- 3. Budget for and Secure Your Non-Federal Match
- 4. Ensure Your Project Is on the TIP/STIP
- 5. Get Ready to Apply for and Administer Federal Funding
- 6. Know Your Justice 40 Designated Census Tracts
- 7. Prepare Your Capital Project's Benefit-Cost Analysis
- 8. Budget for Meaningful Public Involvement
- 9. Build a Strong Workforce Development and Labor Plan
- 10. Understand NEPA and Other Federal Requirements as You Consider Whether to Seek Funding





Finding Out About Grant Opportunities



Opening Date	NOFO	Operating Administration/Office	Closing Date (to be added for each program after the NOFO is issued)
1/27/2023	Buses and Bus Facilities	Federal Transit Administration	4/13/2023
1/27/2023	Low or No Emission Vehicle	Federal Transit Administration	4/13/2023
Winter 2023	Charging and Fueling Infrastructure	Federal Highway Administration	
Winter/Spring 2023	Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation (PROTECT) — Discretionary	Federal Highway Administration	
February 2023	Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	
February 2023	Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	

Key Notices of Funding Opportunity | US Department of Transportation

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - Competitive Grant Programs Federal Highway Administration (dot.gov) – highway specific

US DOT Rural Funding Opportunities



U.S. Department of Transportation

Office of Secretary \ Office of the Under Secretary for Policy \ ROUTES

Applicant Toolkit for Competitive Funding Programs at USDOT



as part of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (R.O.U.T.E.S.) Initiative to support potential applicants in identifying and navigating USDOT discretionary grant funding opportunities for rural transportation projects. In support of the initiative's goals, this toolkit provides user-friendly information and resources to support rural applicants' understanding of USDOT discretionary grant programs and the funding process.

The Applicant Toolkit is designed for all levels of grant applicant experience, aiming to enhance access to USDOT resources for rural transportation projects. Specifically, this toolkit illustrates key applicant activities when participating in the USDOT discretionary grants process, catalogues USDOT discretionary grant programs by applicant type and eligible project activities in a USDOT Discretionary Grant Funding Matrix, and provides resources for applicants to maximize the potential for award success.



Most DOT Grant Programs Require Non-Federal Match

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Budget for and Secure Your Non-Federal Match

In preparing and finalizing city or agency budgets, think about the needs that may arise during the coming year. Sponsors should develop a budget that demonstrates how the budget will be funded in full.

As a condition for receiving funding, most DOT programs require a 10 percent or 20 percent <u>non-Federal match</u>. Where may this match funding come from? What processes and timing are needed to confirm financial commitments as part of grant applications or if selected for a grant award? What steps can be taken in advance to ensure this process goes smoothly and your community doesn't miss out on the chance to apply or find itself unable to finalize a grant award? These are questions that cities or agencies should consider when trying to secure a non-Federal match.

The DOT Navigator provides additional information to help <u>understand non-Federal match requirements</u> and those programs that provide match flexibility:

- Justice40 non-Federal match flexibility
- <u>Tribal government cost share flexibility</u>
- Rural cost share analysis



Federal Funds Come with Federal Requirements

\checkmark

Get Ready to Apply for and Administer Federal Funding

Get ready to apply for and administer Federal funding.

Ensure that your organization is <u>registered with Grants.gov</u> and the System for Award Management (SAM) and has an active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number. Is the information provided to Sam.gov current? If there have been personnel changes in your agency, be sure that the staff contact, phone number, and email are up to date. Start the registration process early, as the SAM.gov process can take many weeks.

If you receive funding, be familiar with the Federal <u>2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements</u>, <u>Cost Principles</u>, <u>and Audit Requirements</u> that govern all DOT awards. This includes specifics for reporting, tracking, and monitoring financial systems and grant activities that differ from state or local requirements.

Be prepared for additional requirements. DOT grants are generally reimbursable funding, so plan and budget accordingly. Each program may have additional restrictions on eligible and allowable costs and activities. Lobbying is not an allowable cost, nor can DOT funds typically be used as a non-Federal match for other programs.

Involve <u>small and disadvantaged business enterprises</u> in projects and applications. Are there opportunities to strengthen the participation of these types of firms in your grant application to help build community wealth? Are you familiar with your <u>state's DBE resources</u>? Do these types of businesses need additional support within your community to have the capacity necessary to administer or receive Federal funding, i.e., they are also subject to 2 CFR 200?



Tools to identify Justice 40 Areas in your community



Know Your Justice 40 Designated Census Tracts

Know your <u>Justice40 designated Census Tracts</u>, as many discretionary grant programs give additional consideration to projects that benefit J40 census tracts.

Find out <u>which areas in your community qualify as J40 census tracts</u> according to Federal disadvantaged community tools, and which of the <u>39 DOT J40-covered programs</u> may be especially beneficial to your community.

Federal Tools to Determine Disadvantaged Community Status | US Department of Transportation

Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts (arcgis.com)

 $\frac{Transportation\ Disadvantaged\ Census\ Tracts\ \sigma}{commonly\ used\ tool\ in\ USDOT\ discretionary\ grant\ programs}\ to\ determine\ disadvantaged\ community\ status.\ The\ tool\ allows\ the\ mapping\ of\ project\ areas\ to\ determine\ level\ of\ disadvantage\ according\ to\ DOT's\ Justice40\ definition.$

Areas of Persistent Poverty & Historically Disadvantaged Communities

Areas of Persistent Poverty & Historically Disadvantaged



Sample data from <u>Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts</u>

g , the most commonly used tool in USDOT discretionary grant
programs to determine disadvantaged community status.

<u>Communities</u> lists Census Tracts that qualify as Areas of Persistent Poverty & Disadvantaged Communities according to DOT's Justice40 definition.

EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EPA)

<u>EJScreen</u> is an environmental justice mapping and screening tool that provides demographic and environmental information for a project area.

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEQ)

Currently in BETA form, the <u>Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool</u> identifies disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

While in BETA form, CEQ asks that transportation projects use DOT's <u>Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts</u> at tool to identify disadvantaged communities.

Social Vulnerability Index (CDC)

The <u>Social Vulnerability Index</u> provides databases to help emergency response planners and public health officials identify and map communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a hazardous event.

About ~

Technical Assistance >

Data & Tools

Contact

Technical Assistance

The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (Joint Office) provides technical assistance on planning and implementation of a national network of electric vehicle chargers and zero-emission fueling infrastructure as well as zero-emission transit and school buses.

States and Communities

The Joint Office provides technical assistance for states and communities creating and executing state plans under the National Electric Vehicle
Infrastructure Formula Program and the Community and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program.

Tribal Nations

The Joint Office provides technical assistance to <u>tribal</u> <u>nations</u> electrifying their transportation systems.

Learn more about zero-emission transportation <u>funding opportunities for tribal nations</u>.

School Districts

The Joint Office provides technical assistance to school districts applying for or receiving funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program.

Transit Agencies

The Joint Office provides technical assistance to <u>transit agencies</u> applying for or receiving funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle Program.

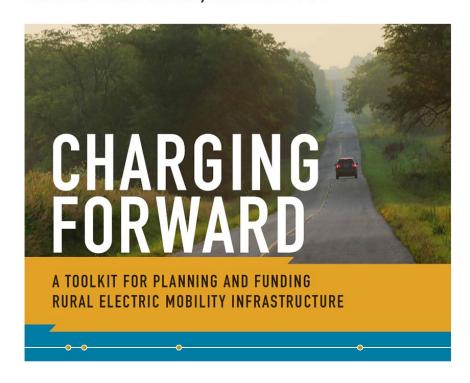
Find Data and Tools

Explore foundational <u>data sets, tools, and resources</u> to deploy zero-emission, convenient, accessible, and equitable transportation infrastructure.

Ask Questions

Not sure where to start? Submit a question to get directed to the right resources.

Charging Forward: A Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural Electric Mobility Infrastructure



https://www.transportation.gov/rural/ev/toolkit -

Federal Railroad Administration



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Rail Funding Overview



[ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS]

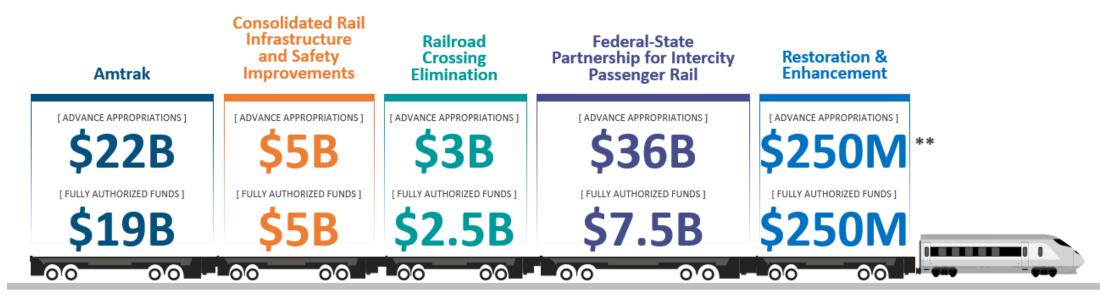
From FY22-FY26

\$66B in total funding

[FULLY AUTHORIZED FUNDS]

From FY22-FY26

\$36B* in total funding



^{*} Authorized funds represent an up to amount that require annual appropriations to set funding levels for each fiscal year.

^{** \$34.5} billion for grant programs; additional \$1.5 billion is authorized for FRA operations and R&D – not included in this graphic. Grants for Restoration & Enhancement (advance appropriations portion) are funded through "takedowns" from Amtrak NN account; not included in totals to avoid double-counting.

Open FRA Discretionary Grant Opportunities



Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FY22/FY23)

Purpose:

- Replace, repair, rehabilitate infrastructure, equipment, or a facility used for providing intercity passenger rail service
- Expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service

\$4.5B For projects <u>not</u> located on the Northeast Corridor

Applications due by 5 PM (ET) on April 21, 2023

Eligible Applicants:

 States, Interstate Compacts, Public Agencies, Political Subdivisions of a State, Amtrak, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes \$8.9B For projects located on the Northeast Corridor

Applications due by 5 PM (ET) on March 27, 2023

Eligible Applicants:

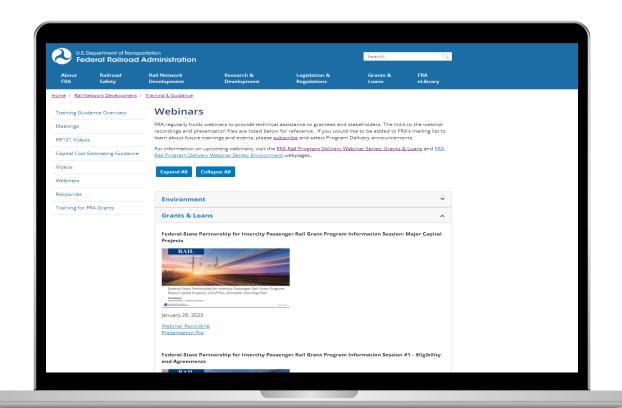
- Projects must be identified on the NEC Project Inventory
- States, Interstate Compacts, Public Agencies, Political Subdivisions of a State, Amtrak, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

Stakeholder Resources – Webinars & Training



- In 2022, FRA conducted 21 recorded webinar-based outreach sessions which reached over 3,500 individuals.
- Sessions focused on:
 - Discretionary Grant Programs
 - Best Practices
 - Guidance Documents
 - Programmatic Listening Sessions
 - Benefit Cost Analysis 101
- FRA also provided over 40 individual debriefs for projects not selected under the FY21 CRISI grant program.
- For grant related questions please reach out to:

FRA-NOFO-Support@dot.gov



https://railroads.dot.gov/rail-network-development/training-guidance/webinars-0

FRA Discretionary Grant Tool

- Designed to help grantees learn about FRA discretionary grant programs and eligibilities, by project sponsor and project type
- Since its July 2022 launch:
 - Approx. **1,250 users**
 - Spending 2:30 minutes (average)per visit

Note: the tool does not determine eligibility for grant programs and is meant for informational purposes only.

Interested parties should refer to the specific program legislation to determine eligibility.



RAISE 23



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: OST Discretionary Grant Overview



- Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG)
 - INFRA \$1.6 Billion Capital Projects Only
 - Mega \$1 Billion Capital Projects
 - Rural \$350 Million Capital Projects
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
 - \$2.3 Billion Capital and Planning Projects
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP)
 - \$198 Million Capital and Planning Projects
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)
 - \$1 Billion Capital and Planning Projects

The <u>DOT BIL website</u> is a great way to identify current and future NOFOs





Surface Transportation Infrastructure Projects with Regional and National Significance





Surface Transportation

Components of an Airport

Eligible under part B of subtitle VII of title 49 USC



Port Infrastructure

Including Inland Ports and Land Points of Entry



Culvert Replacement and Rehabilitation

to Prevent Stormwater Runoff to Improve the Habitat for Aquatic Species



Planning and Pre-Construction Activities

RAISE Grants Program – Eligible Applicants



Public Entities

States DC Territories or Possession of the United States

Unit of Local Government

Public agency or publicly chartered authority established by 1+ states

Federally recognized
Tribe or consortium
of Tribes

Special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, such as a port authority

Transit Agency

A multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities that are separately eligible





- Funding
 - •\$2.3 billion
 - •50% awarded to urban projects and 50% awarded to rural projects
 - At least \$115 million to planning grants
 - •At least \$35 million to projects located in Areas of Persistent Poverty (APP) and Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC)
- Minimum Award Size
 - Capital Projects \$1 million Rural / \$5 million Urban
 - Planning Projects No Minimum Award Size
- Maximum Award Size
 - •\$25 million BIL / \$45 million FY 2023 Appropriation Act
- Application Submission
 - Submit applications on grants.gov
 - Deadline **February 28, 2023** 11:59 PM eastern

U.S. Department of Transportation

RAISE 22 Grants

- Applications
 - •936 eligible applications
 - Over \$13 billion in funding requested
- Awards
 - •166 projects awarded
 - •\$2.245 billion (\$1.12 billion urban projects / \$1.12 rural projects)
 - •At least 1 project awarded a RAISE grant in each State, DC, and three territories
 - •12 Tribal projects
 - Approximately 58% of overall projects are in APP and 50% in HDCs (Exceeds J40 requirement)
- Debriefs
 - •RAISE program provides debriefs to all unsuccessful applicants who request them
 - •566 RAISE 22 debrief requests

Map of RAISE FY2022

166 Projects

\$2.245 Billion Award



Stakeholder Resources – FAQ, Email, Webinars



RAISE FAQ

Check out the FAQ on the RAISE website

RAISE Inbox

Email us with questions at <u>raisegrants@dot.gov</u>

RAISE Webinars

 Watch webinars for first-time, rural, or tribal applicants or how to use the new RAISE project mapping tool at https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach

Federal Transit Administration



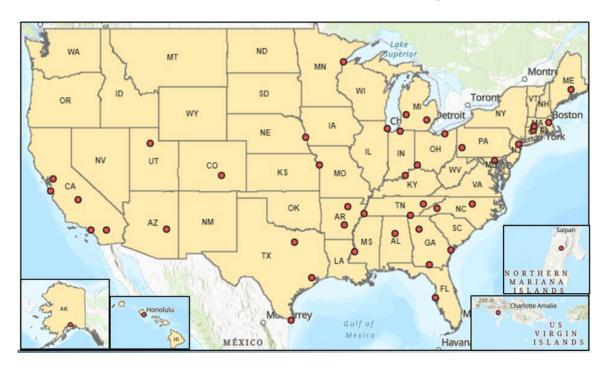
Areas of Persistent Poverty Program – Discretionary Grant



The Areas of Persistent Poverty Program has awarded 70 projects across the U.S. and has distributed over \$24.6M since Fiscal Year 2020

- The Areas of Persistent Poverty Program support President Biden's <u>Executive Order On Advancing</u> <u>Equity Through the Federal Government.</u>
- Funded projects include large and small urban areas as well as projects in rural and tribal areas.

Fiscal Year 2021 Funded Projects

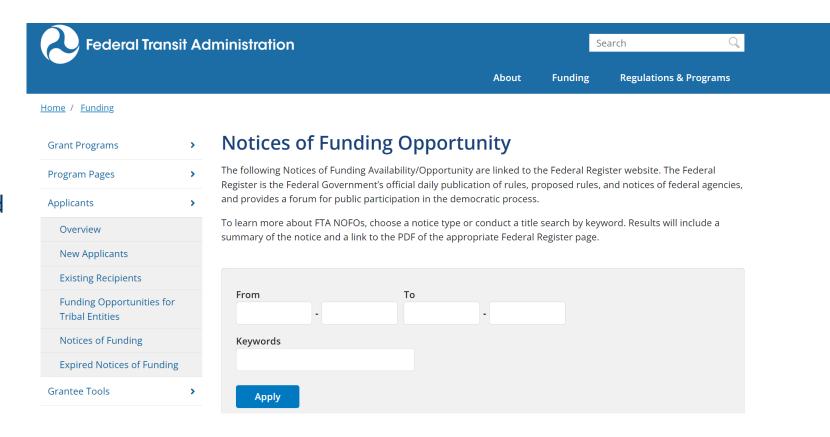


Areas of Persistent Poverty Program – Discretionary Grant Continued



\$20M available to underserved and disadvantaged communities seeking to expand or improve transit

- Available to Recipients or Sub-Recipients of 49 U.S.C. 5307, 5310 and 5311 funds
- Eligible project areas include Areas of Persistent Poverty and/or Historically Disadvantaged Communities
- Funding to support Planning, Engineering, or Development of Technical or Financing Plans
- Minimum federal share is 90%



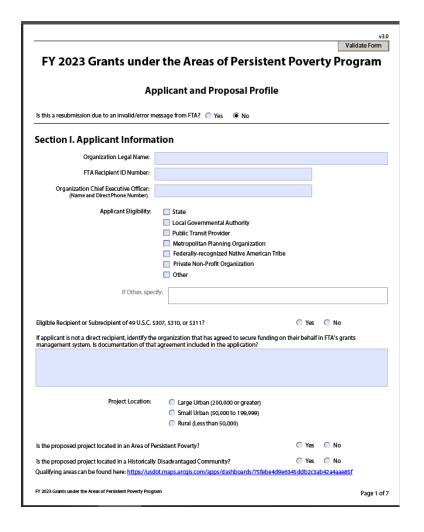
Areas of Persistent Poverty Program – Discretionary Grant Continued



FTA Opportunity Number FTA-2023-006-TPE

- Project area eligibility determination made easy with FTA's Mapping Tool
- FTA will host 3 webinars on the 7th, 9th and 15th of February
- Applications Due: March 10, 2023, by 11:59 pm EDT
- Visit the Areas of Persistent Poverty webpage:

https://www.transit.dot.gov/grant-programs/areaspersistent-poverty-program



Questions Beyond Today

Email us at <u>USDOTassist@dot.gov</u>

<u>Sign up</u> to receive email updates with the latest information on the Thriving Communities Program and other DOT grant technical assistance resources at the DOT Navigator.

Questions?

Stay Connected

Receive email updates about the latest information on DOT grant technical assistance resources.

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