

BUILD AMERICA BUREAU



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program
Webinar
June 15, 2023**

Agenda

- Welcome and meeting logistics
- Remarks from speakers
- Background on Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program
- Notice of Funding Opportunity overview
- Application process and review
- Discussion / Question and Answers
- Closing/Wrap up*

*A link to the recorded meeting will be posted on the website



Meeting Logistics

Audio/Video

- To listen via computer: Select “Computer Audio”
- To listen via phone:
 - Call: US: +1 669 254 5252
 - Webinar code: 160 071 7712
 - Passcode: 238013
- All participants will automatically join on mute with cameras off
- This webinar is being recorded

Technical Support

- Email Webconference@dot.gov

Questions for Presenters

- Please type your questions in the Q&A box

More Information

- <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>



Speakers



Arlando Teller
[Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs](#)



Michael Close, Transportation Policy
Analyst Rural Opportunities to Use
Transportation for Economic
Success (ROUTES) Initiative



Susan Wilson, Program
Manager Build America
Bureau's Rural and Tribal
Assistance Pilot Program



Build America Bureau

Advancing investment in America's transportation infrastructure

- Lending Federal funds to qualified borrowers
- Clearing roadblocks
- Encouraging best practices in project planning, financing, and delivery
- Using available lending capacity while protecting taxpayer resources

U.S. Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

• Build America Bureau

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Outreach | • Risk Management |
| • Technical Assistance | • Underwriting |
| • Project Development | • Portfolio Management |

Operating Administrations

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Federal Highway Administration | • Federal Aviation Administration |
| • Federal Transit Administration | • Maritime Administration |
| • Federal Railroad Administration | |

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| • Regional staff | • Planning, environment, construction experts |
| • Grant money | |



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as IIJA)

Public Law 117-58 - Section 21205 of Division B

Rural and Tribal Infrastructure Advancement

- grants to fund financial, technical, and legal assistance to states and rural and tribal communities
- augment organizational capacity to evaluate and develop projects that qualify for federal funding and financing programs



DOT's Strategic Priorities



<https://www.transportation.gov/dot-strategic-plan>



Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program



\$10 million over 5 years

**\$3.4 million available first
two fiscal years – one application**

**Maximum award is \$320,000 from
FY 2022 funds and \$360,000 from
FY 2023 funds**

**\$800,000 of each year funding
specifically for tribal governments**

No local match!



Grants for technical, financial or legal support

Technical

- Feasibility studies
- Project planning
- Preliminary engineering/design
- Environmental review
- Property development and land use feasibility analysis
- Public outreach
- Cost estimation
- Public benefit studies

Financial

- Revenue forecasting
- Economic assessments and cost-benefit analyses
- Value for money analysis and procurement options
- Evaluating opportunities for private financing and project bundling
- Financial feasibility analysis; funding/financing options analysis
- Evaluation of costs to sustain project (such as operations and maintenance costs)

Legal

- Statutory and regulatory analysis
- Drafting and negotiation of concession agreements
- Drafting and negotiation of interagency agreements
- Procurement support



Eligibility

- Local governments or political subdivisions located outside of an urbanized area with a population >150,000 residents
- State governments applying on behalf of a project in an area outside an urbanized area >150,000 residents
- [Federally recognized Indian Tribes](#)
- Department of Hawaiian Home Lands



Sample Categories of Projects

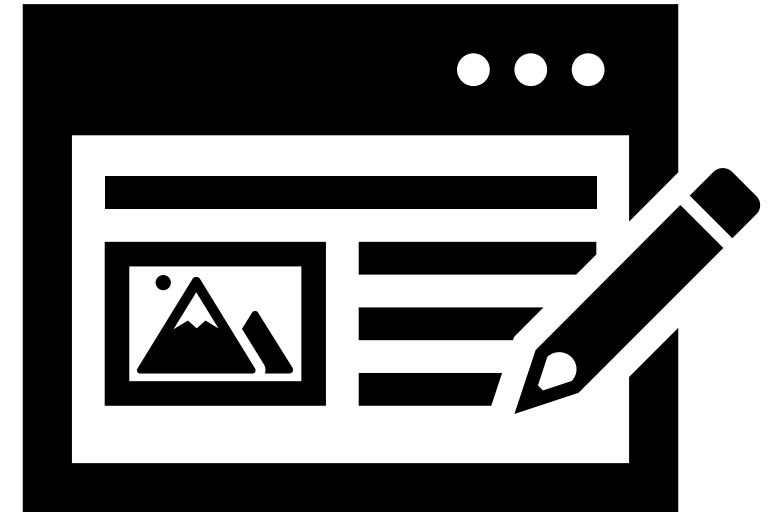
- Highway projects, bridges and tunnels
- Public transportation projects
- Freight rail projects
- Airport projects
- Wildlife crossing projects
- Highway-railway grade crossing or grade separation
- Surface transportation project within the boundaries/ functionally-connected to an international border crossing that improves a facility owned by Federal/State/local government



Application process


- **First come, first served** – we will have IT experts available to help
- Application submission will begin at 2 p.m. ET on **August 14th**
- Application will remain open for a period of 45 days- until **September 27th**
- Copy of application is viewable – suggest drafting answers in Word for insertion
- Funding may be fully committed before the open period concludes
-

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>



How to apply

Opportunity Number, DOT-RTAPP-FY22-01

- 
- 1) Register at sam.gov for a unique entity number well in advance
 - 2) View the application and draft your answers off-line
 - 3) Fill out application on Bureau website when submission date and time open
 - 4) The form is short!

Transportation.gov/BuildAmerica/RuralandTribalGrants



Important! Register Now – SAM.gov

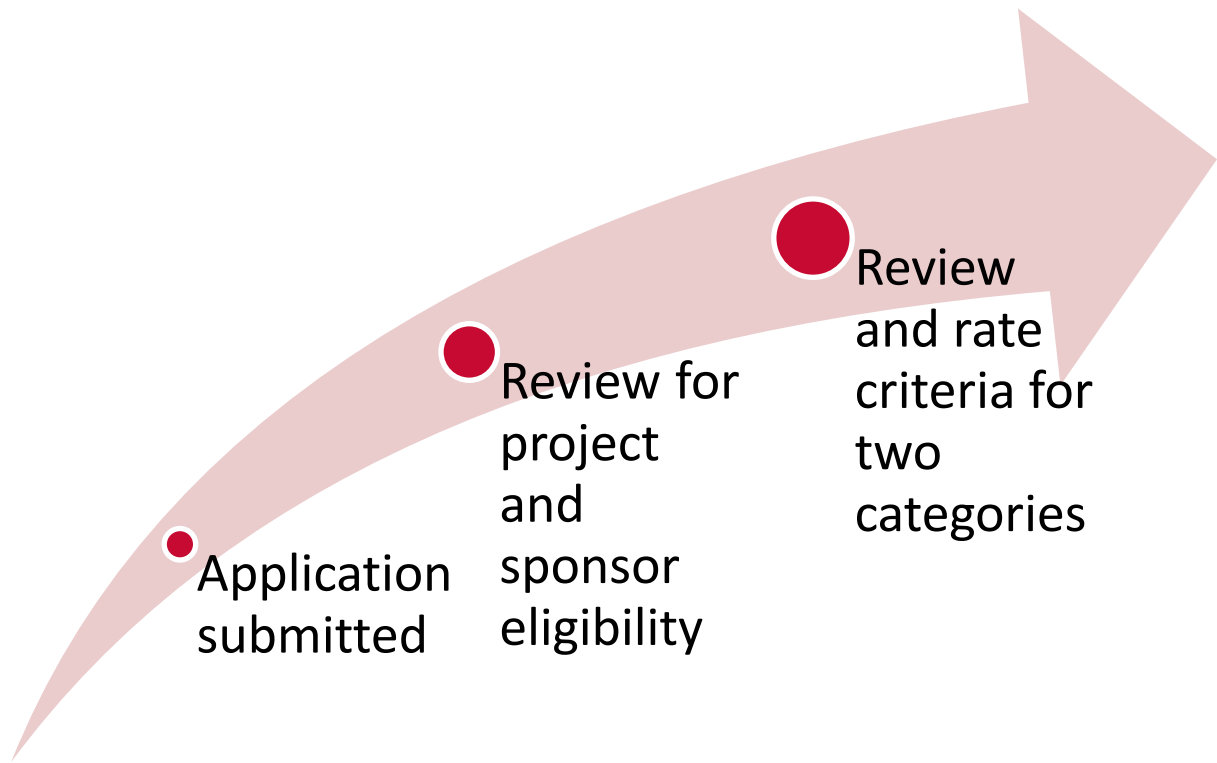
SAM.gov

1. Applicants must register in advance
2. UEI (Unique Entity Identifier): will be issued by SAM.gov after registering – can take a month
3. (SAM.gov registration must be completed prior to submitting application.)
4. Maintain active SAM registration at all times

Already registered? Good to go!



Proposed Selection Process and Criteria



Appropriateness of services requested

Viability of grant funds requested

Confidential and pre-decisional



Application

- 13 questions
- Fillable on-line form
- First page is basic information about organization
- Required information is noted with a *

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Review copy of Online Application questions

**All fields must be complete.*

1. Name and contact information of person for matters involving this application:

First and last name*:

Title*:

Phone*:

Email*:

2. Entity name, address, and website:

Organization/Entity Name*:

Address (#, street- no post office box numbers)*:

City*:

State*:

Zip Code*:

Website address, if applicable:

3. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN)*:

4. Organization/entity Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) assigned by SAM.gov*:

5. Entity/Organization headquarters is in this congressional district(s)*:

Program/project is in this congressional district(s)*:



6. Below is a list of eligible entities for this program. Please select the one option that describes your eligibility*: (See Section C.1: Eligible Applicants of the Notice)

- ☐ A unit of local government or political subdivision seeking to advance a project that is located outside of an urbanized area with a population of more than 150,000 residents (*Urbanized area listing should be drawn from the 2020 Census results. For 2020 Census results, visit: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>*)
- ☐ A State seeking to advance a project located outside of an urbanized area with a population of more than 150,000 residents
- ☐ A federally recognized Indian Tribe
- ☐ The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

7. Project title*: (Descriptive title of project for which you seek funding)

8. Project location (no more than 100 words)*: Include city and state if providing street name(s). Latitude/longitude is also acceptable. (See Section C.1.i Eligible Applicants of the Notice. Note: For Indian Tribes and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the project location does not have to meet the non-urban area requirement.)

9. Briefly describe the overall project (no more than 500 words)*: Include project type (i.e., bridge, new roadway, transit service), features to be constructed, project schedule, and estimated total project cost. Describe the anticipated project benefits, such as increasing affordable transportation options, improving safety, connecting Americans to good-paying jobs, fighting climate change, or improving access to resources and quality of life. State which funding program(s) you expect your project would qualify for. (See Section C.3: Eligible Projects of the Notice)

Estimated total project cost*:

Application highlights

- Only 4 entities eligible for this grant –only select one
- Important section – your project description
- Estimated cost – we understand this is very much an estimate

10. Is the applicant delinquent on any federal debt*?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes, explain:

11. Appropriateness of services requested*: (See the table in Section A of the Notice for examples of advisory services anticipated, and Section E.2.a: Criterion(1) of the Notice)

a. Please describe the task(s)/advisory services for which you are seeking program funds and how these services will materially advance your overall project. (no more than 400 words)*

b. Requested funds from this program*:

c. Estimated cost of task proposed*:

d. Describe what project-related development activities are completed - if any. List N/A if none. Also, list any data or information that has been collected or activities conducted that are necessary to complete the task(s)/advisory services. (no more than 250 words) *

Application highlights

- Criteria #1:
 - Describe the task
 - Funding requested
 - Estimated cost of task
 - What has already been done?

12. Viability of grant services requested (See Section E.2.b: Criterion (2) of the Notice)

- a. Please describe the following: Either 1) your organization's experience procuring advisory services or 2) your organization's process for timely hiring of staff (i.e. defined job description, recruitment process). State if you have additional funds available to commit to this effort should grant funding provided prove insufficient to complete the proposed task(s). If additional funds will be provided, include the amount and source of the local funding commitment. (no more than 400 words)*

- b. Applicants are encouraged to seek bids or quotes, or estimate the amount of dedicated staff time for the services being requested to demonstrate the reasonableness of the requested funding in this application. **Have you obtained a bid, quote, or estimate for the services requested in this application?***

☐ Yes (to be submitted later if awarded grant)

☐ No (provide statement of how you determined estimated cost of proposed task)

13. ☐ By checking this box and submitting this application, I certify that the statements contained herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)*

Signature (e-signature is sufficient)*

Date*

Application highlights

- Criteria #2:
 - Describe your experience procuring consultants or process for hiring staff
 - Do you have a bid, quote, or estimate?

Next Steps

- Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in spring 2023 for Fiscal years 2022 and 2023 of funding
- <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>
- Application portal will open on August 14th
- FAQ's and more information will be on the website



Questions and Answers



- Please submit through the Q&A tab
- Recording of this webinar will be included on the website
- Answers to frequently asked questions will be posted on www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalgrants



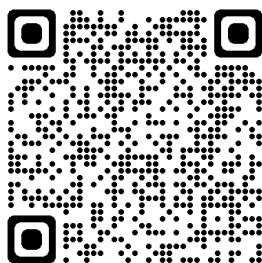
DOT Navigator



U.S. Department
of Transportation

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
- Maximizing Award Success
- Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization?

The screenshot shows the DOT Navigator website. The header includes the U.S. Department of Transportation logo and navigation links: ABOUT DOT, PRIORITIES, and CONNECT. A search bar and social media icons are also present. The main banner features a photo of people walking and a cyclist, with the text 'DOT Navigator' and a description: 'The DOT Navigator is a new resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.' A red button says 'LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DOT NAVIGATOR'. Below the banner is a search bar with options: View, Edit, Delete, Revisions, and Entityqueue. The main content area is titled 'WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?' and features three cards: '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), and 'Learn About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law' (Information to help access BIL funding programs). The footer has a 'Stay Connected' section with a red button 'SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES'.



U.S. Department of Transportation

Build America Bureau



Rural Resources and Technical Assistance

DOT's **ROUTES Initiative** addresses disparities in rural transportation infrastructure to improve safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness nationwide.

Tools and Toolkits

- [Rural Eligibility Map](#)
- [Point of Contact Map](#)
- [DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard](#)
- [Grant Applicant Toolkit](#)
- [Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit](#)

Webinars

- [BCA for Rural Projects](#)
- [TIFIA Rural Projects Initiative](#)
- [NRSS for Rural Communities](#)

Funding Opportunities

- [Active & Upcoming NOFOs](#)

Modal Landing Pages

Monthly Newsletters

Contact ROUTES!

www.transportation.gov/rural
rural@dot.gov

Subscribe [Here](#) for Updates



CONTACT US!

Build America Bureau

202-366-0765

RuralandTribalTA@dot.gov

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>

