



USDOT's Thriving Communities Program Fact Sheet For Communities Interested in Receiving Support

What is the Thriving Communities Program and What Does it Provide?

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Thriving Communities Program (TCP) will provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to communities that may lack the staffing or technical expertise to scope, fund, and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. TCP is designed to ensure that communities have the tools needed to access the historic funding provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The TCP will provide two years of deep-dive assistance to help selected communities guide transportation projects from concept to completion. There is no cost to receive this support, but interested communities **must submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) by December 6, 2022, to be considered for selection**. More information about submitting an LOI can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/information-for-technical-assistance-seekers>.

Who Should Consider Applying to Receive Support?

DOT will prioritize communities and organizations that have had limited past success in applying for and/or receiving Federal transportation funding, or in successfully delivering integrated infrastructure and community development projects. TCP is targeting support to assist disadvantaged communities. See the LOI for more details.

Join a TCP Community of Practice

The TCP recognizes that not all communities have the same needs and that communities of practice work best when there are shared challenges and goals that members are trying to advance. TCP is organized into three Communities of Practice to support learning within and across communities:

1. **Main Streets** – Focused on Tribal and rural communities and the interconnected transportation, housing, community, and economic development issues they face.
2. **Complete Neighborhoods** – Focused on urban and suburban communities located within metropolitan areas working to better coordinate transportation with land use, housing, and economic development.
3. **Networked Communities** – Focused on those communities located near ports, airports, freight, and rail facilities to address mobility, access, environmental justice, and economic issues, including leveraging their proximity to these facilities for wealth-building and economic development opportunities.

What Might TCP Technical Assistance Look Like?

Each selected community will be assigned a Capacity Builder funded by DOT to co-design their TCP support. While this will vary based on each community's key challenges and goals, support may include the following activities:

- Identifying and responding to Federal funding opportunities
- Conducting project scoping, planning, and pre-engineering studies and market and other technical analysis
- Supplementing local staffing and workforce development capacity including to establish leadership, pre-apprenticeship, and apprenticeship programs
- Developing systems or structures that improve compliance with Federal regulations and grant management or procurement requirements

- Supporting comprehensive community planning to better coordinates transportation with land use, housing, and infrastructure development
- Implementing innovative public engagement strategies, particularly to involve traditionally underrepresented voices including persons with disabilities and Limited English Proficiency
- Sub-granting to local technical assistance and capacity building partners who bring local expertise and capacity
- Evaluating and deploying emerging transportation data and climate technology systems and software

How Do I Prepare a Letter of Interest?

Interested applicants can prepare for online submission by following the steps described below.

1. **Form a Thriving Communities Team**, including a lead applicant and at least two community partners
2. **Identify your community**, including its geographic area and disadvantaged status
3. **Identify your Community of Practice** (Main Streets, Complete Neighborhoods, or Networked Communities)
4. **Prepare a Needs and Vision Statement** to make a case for seeking TCP technical assistance
5. **Complete the LOI worksheet** to ensure you have all the information you need to submit an LOI
6. **Submit your LOI by December 6, 2022** using the online webform on DOT’s Thriving Communities website: <https://www.transportation.gov/thriving-communities-program-letter-of-interest>

Who Can Be a Lead Applicant? Who Can Be a Community Partner?

LOIs must include an eligible lead applicant and at least two community partners committed to advancing a community-driven vision for comprehensive and transformative transportation projects. Community Partners are **not required** to make any financial commitments to participate in the TCP.

Lead Applicant Role and Responsibility	Who Can be a Community Partner Organization?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lead applicant must be a state, local, or Tribal government; a United States territory; a metropolitan or rural transportation planning organization; a transit agency; or other political subdivision of a state or local government. • The lead applicant must have an implementation role for current or future transportation projects in the identified area that will be supported through the TCP. • The lead applicant must identify a staff person to serve as the primary point of contact to coordinate with community partners, the assigned TCP Capacity Builder, and DOT throughout the entire two-year period of support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any organization eligible to be a lead applicant. • Eligible non-governmental partners include community-based organizations, business employers or labor organizations, private sector firms or developers, educational or anchor institutions, workforce development boards, faith-based organizations, community development financial institutions, philanthropic and civic organizations, nonprofits, and community advocacy groups with ties to the focus area. • Any of the above entities who will specifically provide local or regional technical assistance, planning and capacity building support.

If you have questions about applying or would like to request a paper copy of the LOI, email ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov or call (202) 366-2414.

Building Community Capacity to Take Transformative Projects from Concept to Completion