U.S. Department
of Transportation

Preparing for Upcoming DOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities

February 8, 2023

Welcome

U.S. Department of Transportation

- 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 ...

Getting to Know Our Audience

U.S. Department of Transportation

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)

Getting to Know Our Audience Continued

U.S. Department of Transportation

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

Today's Speakers

U.S. Department of Transportation

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

U.S. Department of Transportation

- 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

U.S. Department of Transportation

- 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

U.S. Department of Transportation

DOT Navigator

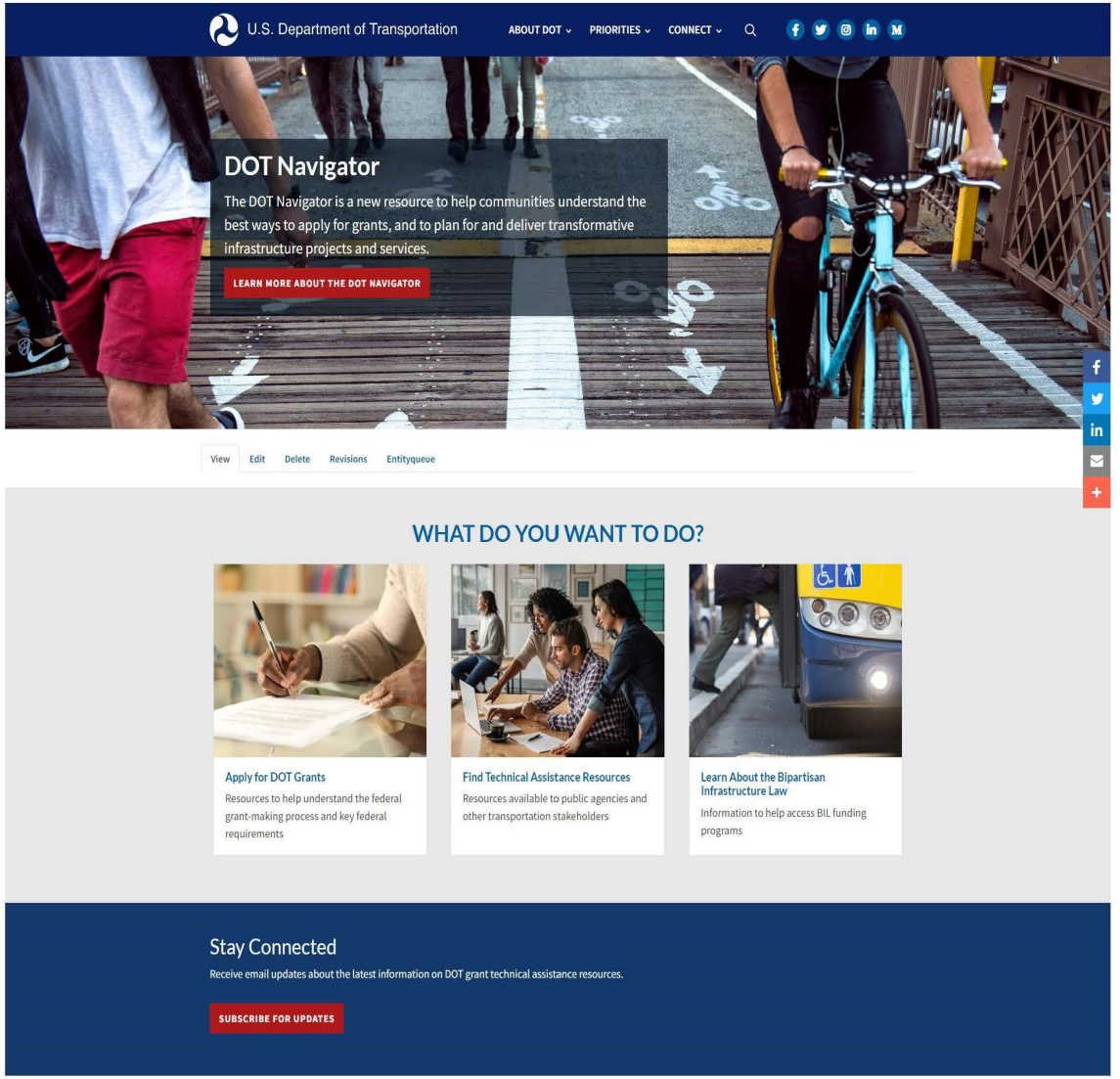
U.S. Department of Transportation

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
- Understanding Federal Match Requirements
- Federal Tools to Determine Disadvantaged Community Status
- Maximizing Award Success
- Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization?



Find Technical Assistance Resources

U.S. Department of Transportation

Search for existing resources available across DOT

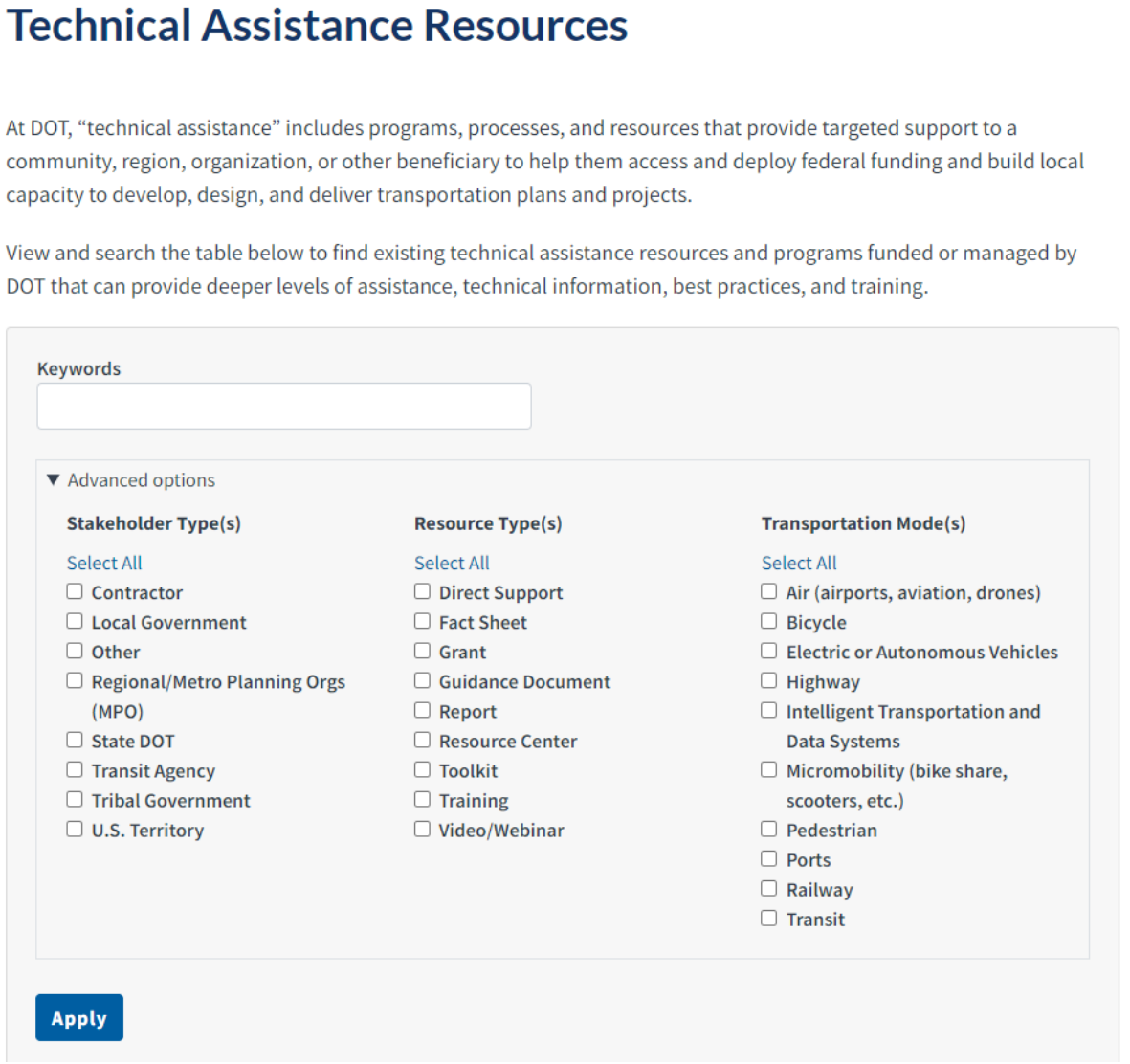
- A variety of resources available across a range of transportation issues
- Some provide direct or on-call support, but many are online resources like training or explanatory videos, reports, toolkits, and guidance documents
- Frequently updated – we spotlight updates and upcoming trainings in the monthly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



BIL Resources

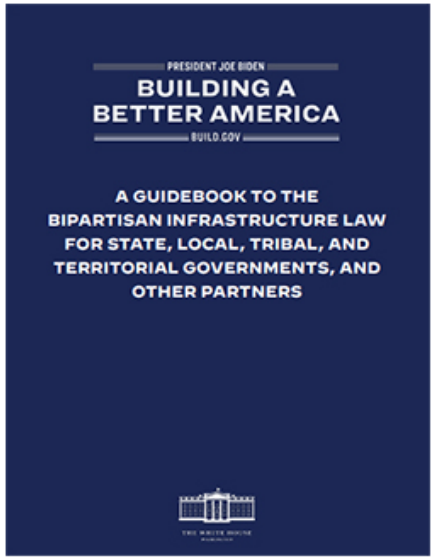
For more information on specific grant funding opportunities, program details, federal job opportunities, contracting and workforce development opportunities supported by BIL, please visit the following pages:

DOT BIL Resources

- Upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcements in 2023
- 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

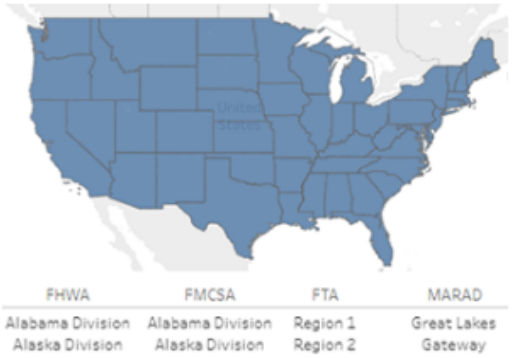
- White House BIL Guidebook
- White House Technical Assistance Guide
- White House BIL Rural Playbook
- White House BIL Tribal Playbook



White House BIL Guidebook.

Transportation Contacts Near You

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



DOT State contacts.

U.S. Department of Transportation

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 Overview of DOT Funding and Financing.

USDOT Discretionary Grant Process

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

Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements

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

How to Navigate Grants.gov to Submit Applications

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

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

The Fiscal Year 2023 Discretionary Grant Preparation Checklist for Prospective Applicants is intended to help 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.

Spanish

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

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 Justice40 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

Scan QR code with your phone to access full checklist

www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/fy-2023-discretionary-grant-preparation-checklist

Finding Out About Grant Opportunities

https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

U.S. Department of Transportation ABOUT DOT PRIORITIES CONNECT

Home \ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Key Notices of Funding Opportunity

In order to provide stakeholders with more visibility into upcoming funding opportunities, DOT is publishing a list of anticipated dates for upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for key programs within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as adjacent programs that support BIL and IRA objectives. This list is not comprehensive and will be updated periodically with additional programs and revised dates as appropriate.

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](#)

https://www.transportation.gov/rural/grants/toolkit

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

U.S. Department of Transportation ABOUT DOT PRIORITIES CONNECT

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

- Applicant Toolkit Home
- USDOT Overview
- The Critical Role of Rural Communities
- USDOT's Role in Rural Transportation
- Overview of Funding and Financing at USDOT
- USDOT Discretionary Grant Process
- Discretionary Grant Funding Matrix
- USDOT Mode and Resource Descriptions
- USDOT Financing Resources
- Project Spotlights
- Maximizing Award Success
- Glossary of Acronyms
- Toolkit Videos
- Applicant Toolkit (PDF)

Applicant Toolkit for Competitive Funding Programs at USDOT

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has developed this Applicant Toolkit to provide guidance 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

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 non-Federal match. 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 understand non-Federal match requirements and those programs that provide match flexibility:

- Justice40 non-Federal match flexibility
- Tribal government cost share flexibility
- Rural cost share analysis

Federal Funds Come with Federal Requirements

Get Ready to Apply for and Administer Federal Funding

Get ready to apply for and administer Federal funding.

Ensure that your organization is registered with Grants.gov 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 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements 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 small and disadvantaged business enterprises 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 state's DBE resources? 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 Justice40 Designated Census Tracts

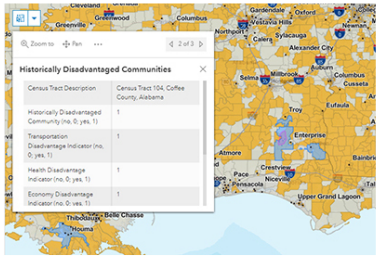
Know your Justice40 designated Census Tracts, as many discretionary grant programs give additional consideration to projects that benefit J40 census tracts.

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

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

Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts (arcgis.com)

Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts is the most 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.



Sample data from Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts, the most commonly used tool in USDOT discretionary grant programs to determine disadvantaged community status.

Areas of Persistent Poverty & Historically Disadvantaged Communities

Areas of Persistent Poverty & Historically Disadvantaged Communities 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)

EJScreen 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 Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool identifies disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

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

Social Vulnerability Index (CDC)

The Social Vulnerability Index 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.

https://driveelectric.gov/technical-assistance/

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

Joint Office of Energy and Transportation

energy.gov | transportation.gov

About | Technical Assistance | Data & Tools | Contact

U.S. Department of Transportation

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 tribal nations electrifying their transportation systems. Learn more about zero-emission transportation funding opportunities for tribal nations.

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 transit agencies applying for or receiving funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle Program.

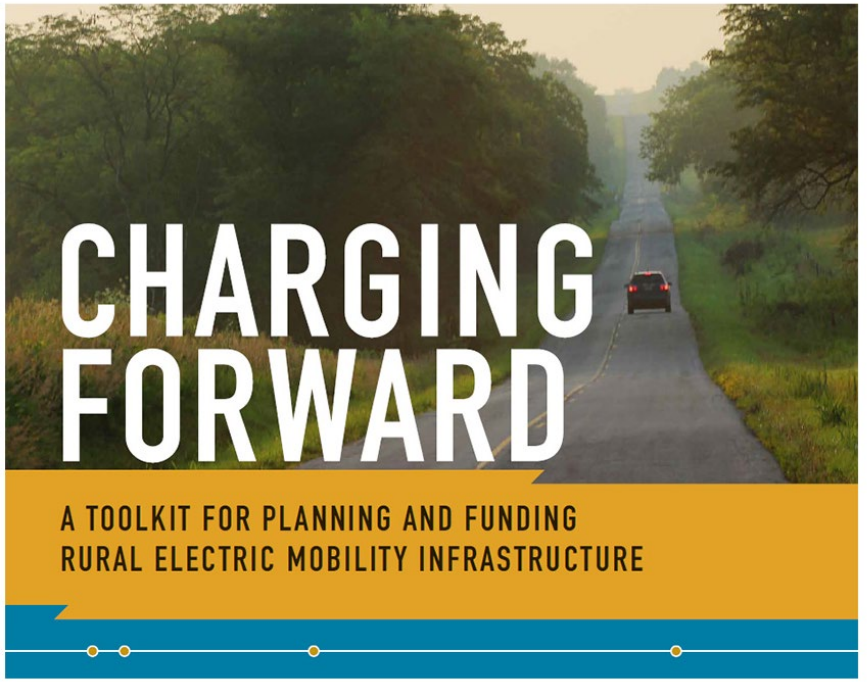
Find Data and Tools

Explore foundational data sets, tools, and resources 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

U.S. Department
of Transportation

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Rail Funding Overview

U.S. Department of Transportation

[ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS]

From FY22-FY26

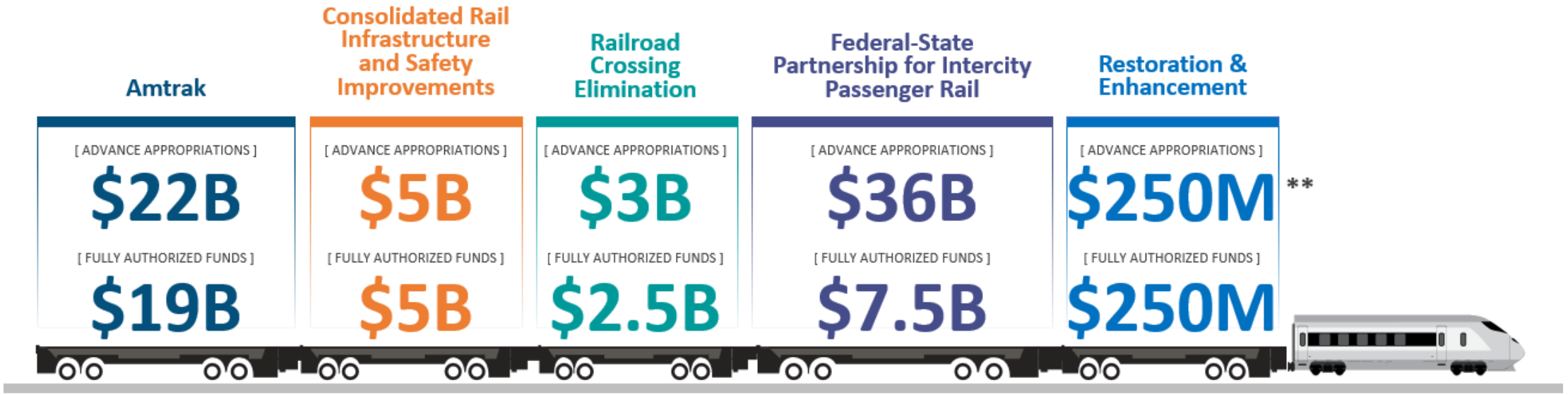
$66B in total funding

+

[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

U.S. Department of Transportation

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 not 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:

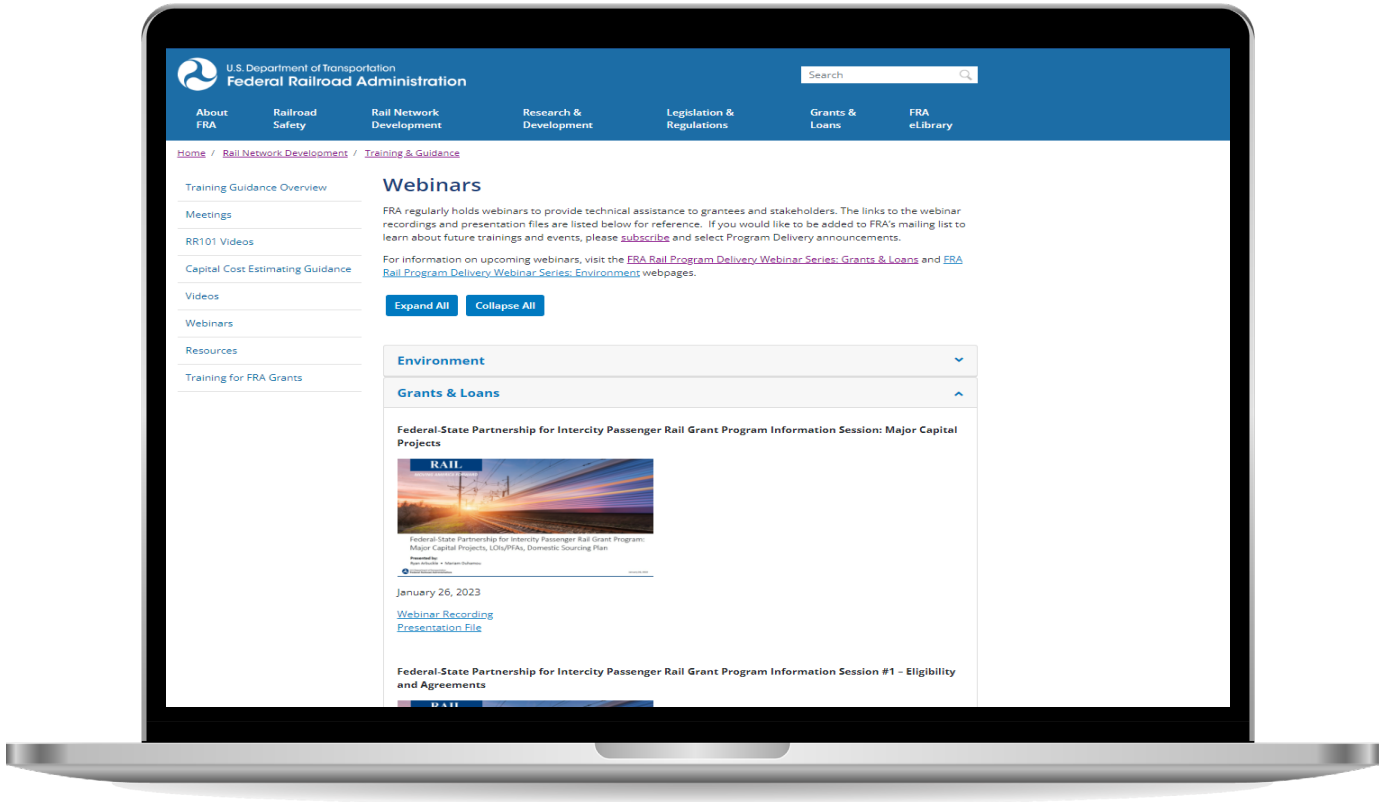
- Projects must be identified on the NEC Project Inventory
- States, Interstate Compacts, Public Agencies, Political Subdivisions of a State, Amtrak, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

Stakeholder Resources – Webinars & Training

U.S. Department of Transportation

- 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

U.S. Department of Transportation

- 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

U.S. Department
of Transportation

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: OST Discretionary Grant Overview

U.S. Department of Transportation

- 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 DOT BIL website is a great way to identify current and future NOFOs

RAISE Grants Program – Project Types

U.S. Department of Transportation

Surface Transportation Infrastructure Projects with Regional and National Significance

- Highway, Bridge, or Road
- Public Transportation
- Passenger and Freight Rail
- Intermodal Projects
- Transportation Projects on Tribal Lands
- 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

U.S. Department of Transportation

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

RAISE 23 Notice of Funding Opportunity

U.S. Department of Transportation

- 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

RAISE 22 Grants

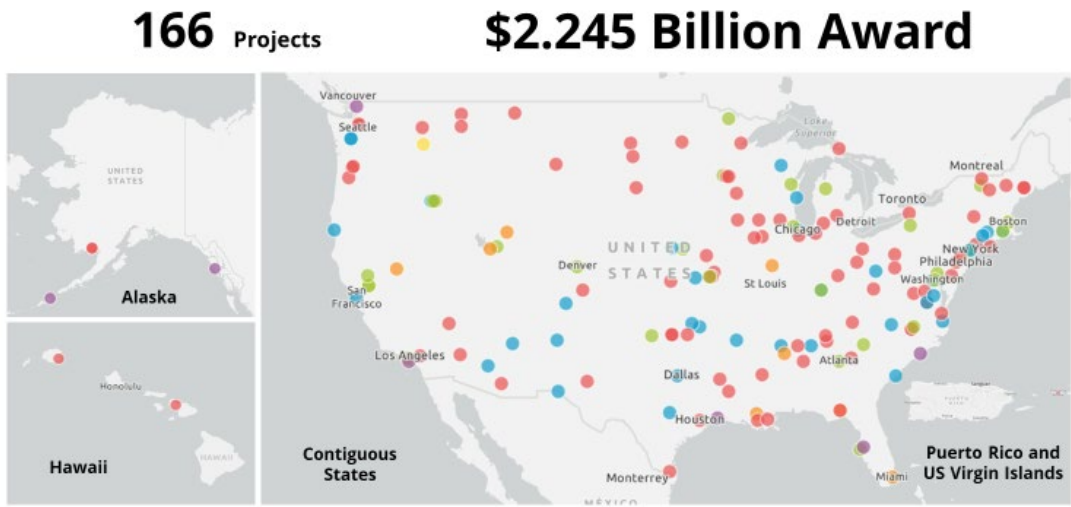
U.S. Department of Transportation

- 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



Stakeholder Resources – FAQ, Email, Webinars

U.S. Department of Transportation

- **RAISE FAQ**
  - Check out the FAQ on the RAISE website
- **RAISE Inbox**
  - Email us with questions at raisegrants@dot.gov
- **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

U.S. Department of Transportation

Areas of Persistent Poverty Program – Discretionary Grant

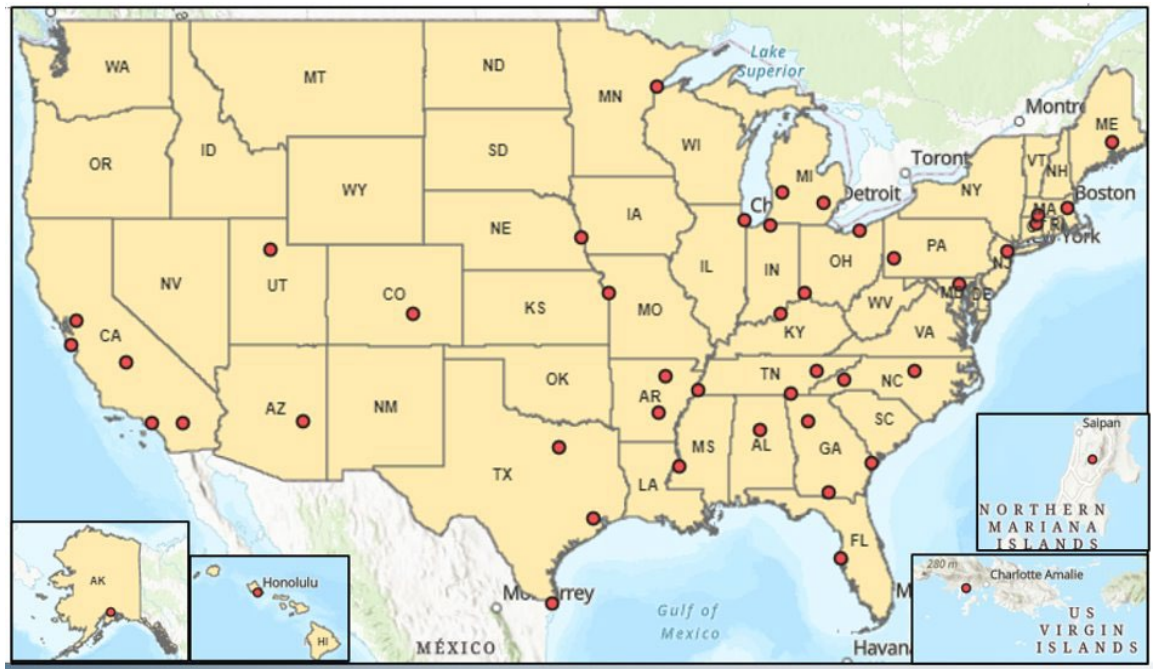
U.S. Department of Transportation

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 *Executive Order On Advancing Equity Through the Federal Government.*

- Funded projects include large and small urban areas as well as projects in rural and tribal areas.

Fiscal Year 2021 Funded Projects

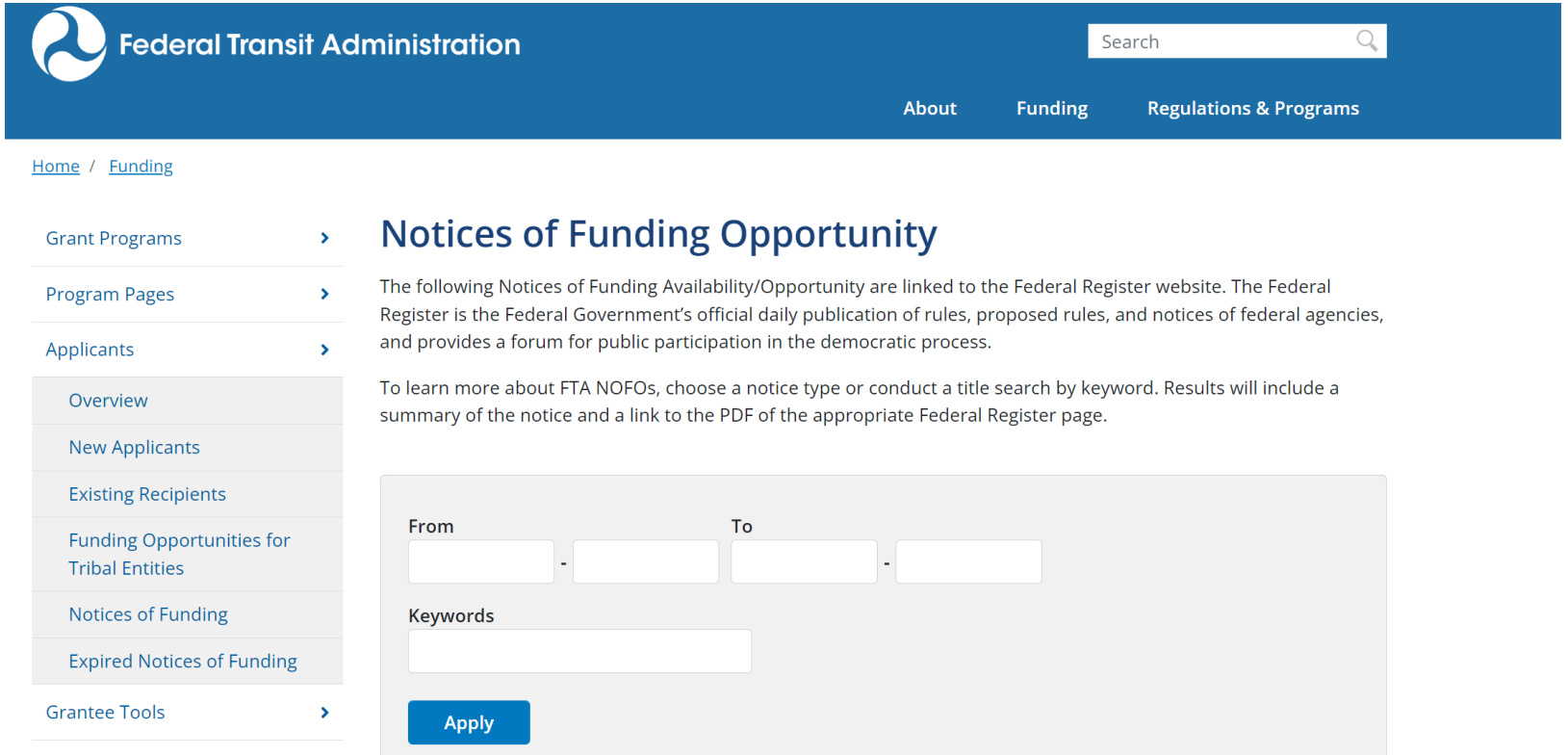


Areas of Persistent Poverty Program – Discretionary Grant Continued

U.S. Department of Transportation

$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%



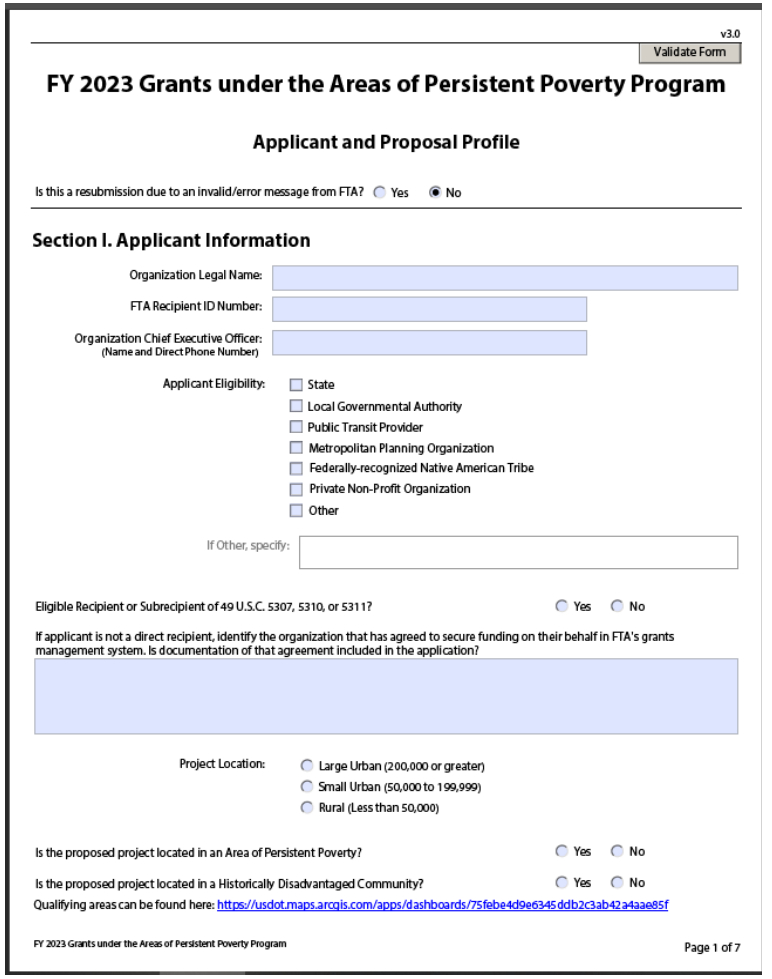
Areas of Persistent Poverty Program – Discretionary Grant Continued

U.S. Department of Transportation

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/areas-persistent-poverty-program



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Validate Form

FY 2023 Grants under the Areas of Persistent Poverty Program

Applicant and Proposal Profile

Is this a resubmission due to an invalid/error message from FTA? ○ Yes ◉ No

Section I. Applicant Information

Organization Legal Name:

FTA Recipient ID Number:

Organization Chief Executive Officer: (Name and Direct Phone Number)

Applicant Eligibility:
- ☐ State
- ☐ Local Governmental Authority
- ☐ Public Transit Provider
- ☐ Metropolitan Planning Organization
- ☐ Federally-recognized Native American Tribe
- ☐ Private Non-Profit Organization
- ☐ Other

If Other, specify:

Eligible Recipient or Subrecipient of 49 U.S.C. 5307, 5310, or 5311? ○ Yes ○ No

If applicant is not a direct recipient, identify the organization that has agreed to secure funding on their behalf in FTA's grants management system. Is documentation of that agreement included in the application?

Project Location:
- ○ Large Urban (200,000 or greater)
- ○ Small Urban (50,000 to 199,999)
- ○ Rural (Less than 50,000)

Is the proposed project located in an Area of Persistent Poverty? ○ Yes ○ No

Is the proposed project located in a Historically Disadvantaged Community? ○ Yes ○ No

Qualifying areas can be found here: https://usdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/75febe4d9e6345ddb2c3ab42a4aae85f

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Questions?

Questions Beyond Today ….

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