



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**



FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program Overview Webinar

September 15, 2023



**THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**
PROGRAM



Getting to Know Our Audience

Poll Question #1

What type of organization do you represent?

- Local government
- State government
- U.S. territory
- Regional or metropolitan planning organization
- Tribal government
- Non-profit organization
- For-profit organization
- Philanthropy
- Academic institution
- Other

Getting to Know Our Audience

Poll Question #2

Which Thriving Communities Program opportunity are you interested in?

- I'm interested in **providing** national level technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to **communities located across the country (TCP-N)**
- I'm interested in **providing** regional level technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to **communities that are located within my jurisdiction or service area (TCP-R)**
- I'm interested in **receiving** technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help my community advance transportation projects **(LOI)**
- I'm not sure yet



Getting to Know Our Audience

Poll Question #3

Which time zone are you joining from?

- Eastern time
- Central time
- Mountain time
- Pacific time
- Alaska time
- Hawaii time
- Other time

Today's Speakers



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



Monica Guerra
Community
Solutions
Technical
Assistance Lead,
USDOT

Today's Agenda

- Thriving Communities Program Overview
- Overview of TCP Opportunities for Capacity Builders
- Overview of TCP Opportunities for Communities
- Examples from FY 2022 TCP
- How to Apply
- Opportunities for More Information
 - Webinar for prospective Capacity Builder applicants: September 20 at 3:30-4:30 pm ET
 - Webinar for prospective community recipients: September 27 at 3:00-4:00 pm ET



What is the Thriving Communities Program (TCP)?

- TCP acknowledges that not all communities have the resources to access federal funding opportunities to advance transportation infrastructure, and often these are the communities who need it the most
- The Thriving Communities Program:
 - funds Capacity Builders to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building to individual communities based on their unique needs, goals, and challenges; and
 - directs Capacity Builder support to communities to build the tools, skills, and resources they need to identify and apply for federal funding opportunities and successfully implement transformative projects



Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (PL-117-103):

DOT = \$25 million | HUD = \$5 million

Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (PL-117-328):

DOT = \$25 million | HUD = \$2 million

Fiscal Year 2024 Administration Budget Request :

DOT = \$100 million (not currently funded)

*Program funded through the Office of the Secretary
and managed by the Build America Bureau*



Build America Bureau Technical Assistance Programs



Regional Infrastructure Accelerators

- \$10 M awarded to 10 RIAs in the first two rounds
- Recipients of FY22/23 \$24 M will be announced this fall

Thriving Communities

Now Open!

- \$50 M through end of 2024 to fund capacity builders to provide support
- In-kind assistance to build the capacity of disadvantaged communities
- Focuses on integrated planning, project and grant readiness

Rural and Tribal Technical Assistance Pilot Program

- 5-year grant program (\$10 M total) directly to communities for project readiness
- Recipients of FY22/23 \$3.4 million will be announced this fall
- Annual competitions going forward

Innovative Finance

Coming Soon!

- 5-year grant program (\$100 M total)
- \$40 M will be available in the first round - **NOFO coming soon!**

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

What is TCP?

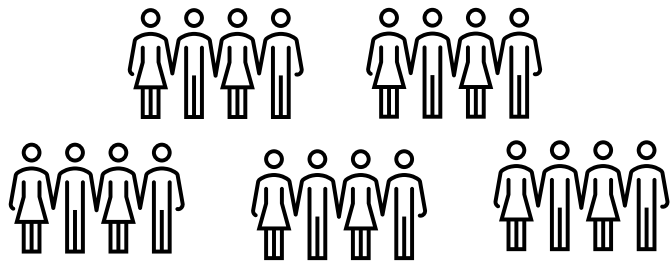


Funding through cooperative agreements

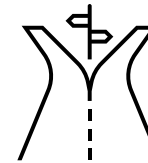
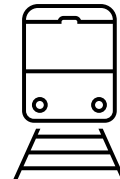
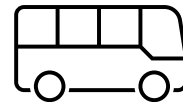
Capacity Builders



*Technical assistance, planning, and
capacity building services*



Communities



*Transformative
transportation projects that
increase mobility, reduce
pollution, create jobs, and
improve health outcomes.*

TCP Goals

Provide disadvantaged and under-resourced communities the tools and resources to successfully plan, fund, develop, and deliver a **pipeline of community-driven transportation and community revitalization activities**

Increase community **access to DOT funding opportunities** and help ensure successful implementation of funding

Facilitate community **partnership and relationship building**

Increase **mobility**, reduce **pollution** from transportation sources, and **expand affordable transportation options**

Facilitate **efficient land use**, preserve **or expand jobs**, and **improve housing conditions**

Enhance connections to health care, education, and food security, and improve health outcomes

How Does the Program Work?

There are two separate opportunities in the NOFO for capacity builders and one LOI for communities to participate in the TCP

Apply to be a “Capacity Builder” through Grants.Gov

- Submit application package electronically through Grants.gov by 4:59 pm ET, November 28, 2023
- Apply in response to the NOFO to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to communities that may be:
 - Located across the country (TCP - National) within a specific Community of Practice
 - Located within the applicant’s service area or jurisdiction (TCP - Regional)
- Receive funding to provide this support over three years (total of up to \$22 million available)

Submit a Letter of Interest to request TCP support through TCP website

- Submit a simple Letter of Interest via webform to request technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support by 4:59 pm ET, November 15, 2023
- Receive in-kind services and support; not funding directly from DOT (this is **not** a planning or capital construction grant program)
- Paired with a National Capacity Builder team who will provide tailored support to your community based on a co-designed scope of work
- Engage with Community of Practice for peer learning and networking opportunities

What does this year's TCP offer?

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE + CAPACITY BUILDING

Two years of tailored, deep-dive support based on community needs, which could include activities such as:

- Identifying and responding to funding opportunities
- Grant writing
- Project planning, scoping, and pre-engineering
- Innovative public involvement
- Comprehensive community planning
- Evaluating and establishing emerging transportation and planning technologies, data systems, and software
- Building organizational capacity to strengthen relationships between key stakeholders
- Development and maintenance of grant management systems
- Supplementing local workforce
- *Sub-granting to local community organizations*

PEER LEARNING

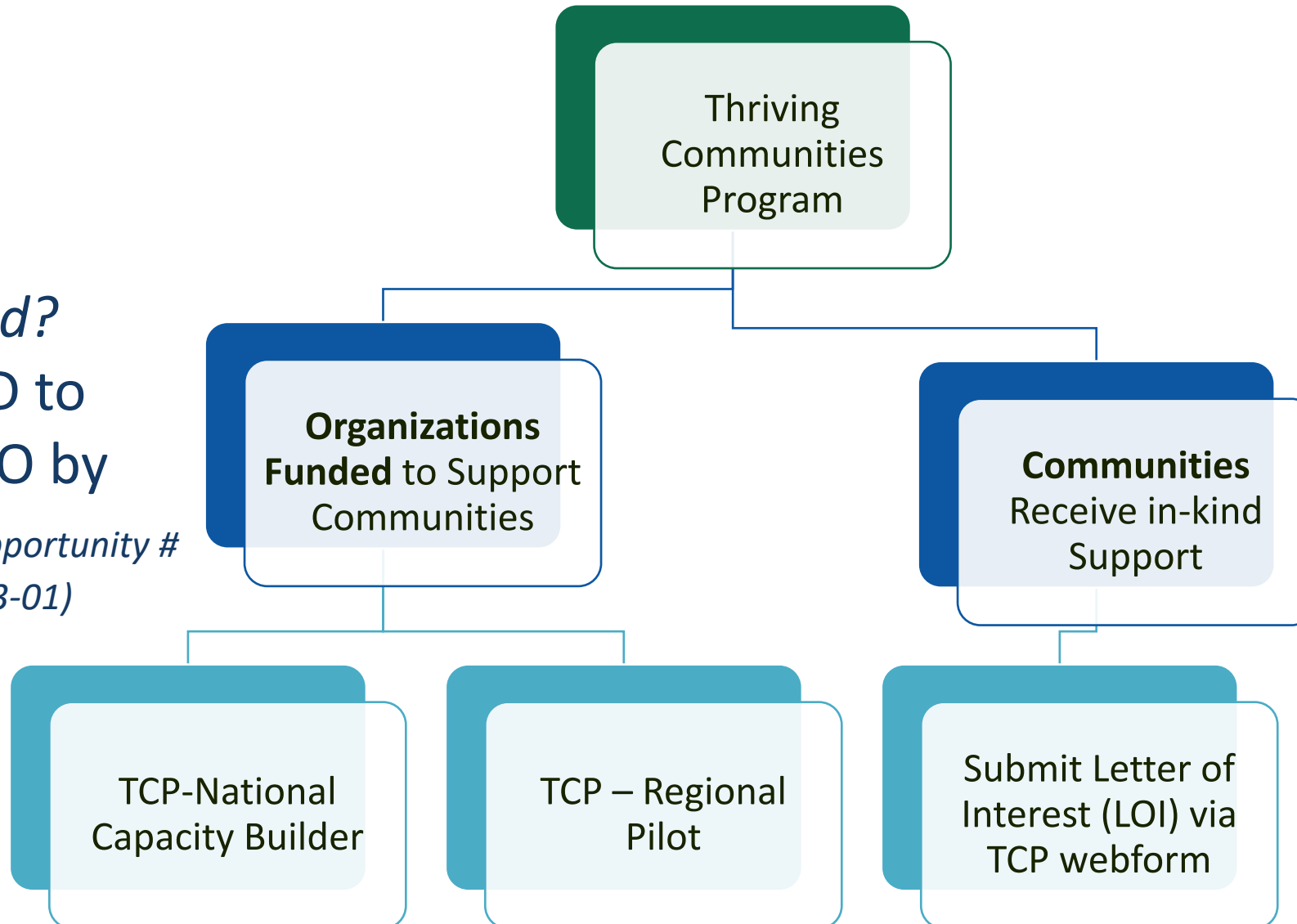
Three years* of facilitated peer learning and networking activities designed to build relationships across communities and enable them to learn from each other and promote best practices across communities facing similar challenges.

**During the third year of the period of performance, Capacity Builders will continue peer learning activities, but will shift from deep-dive technical assistance to focus on program evaluation, reporting, and transition activities.*

Three-year period of performance for the FY2023 TCP

To Recap

Interested?
RESPOND to
TCP NOFO by
11/28 (Opportunity #
DOT-TCP-FY23-01)



Interested?
RESPOND to
Call for Letters
of Interest by
11/15

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Fund Capacity Builders that provide support to communities



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

Opportunities for Capacity Builders

Two opportunities to become a Capacity Builder

- The **Thriving Communities National Program (TCP-N)**, funds “National Capacity Builders” to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to **15-20 communities selected by DOT and located across the U.S.**
 - \$4-5 million cooperative agreements available for each National Capacity Builder (*anticipate 3-5 awarded*)
 - Capacity Builders are assigned to a Community of Practice – Main Streets, Complete Neighborhoods, or Networked Communities
- The **Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program (TCP-R)** funds “Regional Capacity Builders” to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support, in addition to peer learning opportunities, to **communities within their own jurisdictions or service areas identified in their application.**
 - \$1-2 million cooperative agreements available for each Regional Capacity Builder (*anticipate 4 awarded*)



TCP Communities of Practice

An organizational framework for TCP-N Capacity Builders and communities



Who is eligible to be a Capacity Builder?

TCP-N Program Eligible Applicants

- Non-profit organizations
- Philanthropic entities
- Other technical assistance providers including academic institutions and private sector organizations with a demonstrated capacity to develop and provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building to a range of communities located across multiple states and regions

DOT will prioritize teams with one or more organizations that identify as: disadvantaged businesses, small businesses, Historically Black Colleges or Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, HUBZones, or women-owned or service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses

TCP-R Program Eligible Applicants

- State governments and their agencies
- Indian Tribes
- Local governments and their agencies
- Governmental planning or transportation organizations working at the regional or metropolitan level
- Regional planning non-profit organizations

Applicants for both programs may apply individually, but are strongly encouraged to apply as part of a team to deepen and broaden technical assistance and capacity building expertise available to communities

Who are ideal candidates to be a Capacity Builder?

TCP-N Program

- Organizations with demonstrated capacity to provide technical assistance and address community needs
- Organizations with experience working with disadvantaged communities and the types of communities aligned with the relevant Community of Practice (e.g., urban, rural, Tribal)
- Organizations committed to advancing community-driven priorities, developing community relationships, and building innovative partnerships
- Organizations that can begin work quickly while meaningfully engaging and working in partnership with communities
- Organizations with the capacity to assist communities located in different geographies across the U.S.

TCP-R Program

- Governments or organizations with demonstrated relationships with the disadvantaged or under-resourced communities selected for support
- Governments or organizations with an established regional planning presence
- Governments or organizations with demonstrated capacity to take on additional support for communities
- Organizations that can begin work quickly while meaningfully engaging and working in partnership with communities

Application Submission Content

Program Design and Substance

- Executive Summary
- Narrative Responses to Individual Merit Criteria
- Letters of Commitment (TCP-R only)
- Staffing Plan
- Budget Proposal

Required Forms & Supporting Documentation

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
- Organizational Documentation (if applicable, depending on your organization type)
- Organization Descriptions
- Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) Documentation (if applicable)

See Section D of the NOFO for more detailed information on content and form for each element. Appendix A provides an application checklist.

Narrative Elements (Merit Criteria)

Rating Factor	Sub-Factors (Narrative Components)
Approach to Technical Assistance and Capacity Building	Technical Assistance Approach
	Capacity Building Approach
	Community of Practice Management Approach
Teaming Arrangement	Role of Partner Organizations
	Demonstrated Staff Expertise
Proven Success	Experience Supportive of Technical Assistance Approach
	Experience Supportive of Capacity Building Approach
	Experience Supportive of COP Management Approach
Program Management and Evaluation	Schedule of Milestones and Deliverables
	Program Evaluation and Assessment

Read the TCP NOFO for details on each factor and subfactor; and for additional considerations and priorities affecting selection



For Capacity Builder Applicants



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Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available on DOT website (available on Grants.gov and Federal Register Notice by September 14, 2023)

- www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/notice-funding-opportunity-fy-2023-thriving-communities-program

Before you submit, you must be registered in Grants.gov **(this can take weeks)**:

- Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number by registering with the System for Award Management (SAM) at www.SAM.gov;
- Create a Grants.gov username and password; and
- The E-Business Point of Contact (POC) at your organization must respond to the registration email from Grants.gov and login at Grants.gov to authorize you as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Please note that there can be more than one AOR for an organization.

Proposals are due on **November 28, 2023** (4:59 PM EST)

Letter of Interest (LOI) to request support from TCP



Opportunity for communities to receive support

- TCP is intended to support disadvantaged and under-resourced communities who need additional tools, skills, and resources to successfully access federal funding and plan, develop, and deliver transportation projects that support and align with broader community goals
 - *84% of FY22 selected communities were majority disadvantaged*
 - *Refer to Call for LOI and DOT's Tools for Identifying Disadvantaged Communities to determine status of your community or selected geography to be supported*
- The program is ideally suited for communities that have a specific plan or project they are seeking to move forward with TCP support, or clearly defined challenges they'd like to overcome with TCP support
- Partnership is a requirement
 - Eligible Lead Applicant must identify at least 2 community partners
 - Letters of Commitment required by lead applicant and partners if selected as a finalist
 - No federal match requirement to participate in TCP

Who is eligible to receive support through TCP?

Eligible lead applicants include...

- States
- Local governments
- Indian Tribes
- United States territories
- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs)
- Transit agencies
- Other political subdivisions of state or local governments

And must partner with at least two key community partners, who may be...

- Any entity eligible to be a lead applicant
- Non-governmental partners like community-based organizations, private firms or developers, educational institutions, workforce development boards, faith-based organizations, non-profits, and others

What do communities receive through TCP?

Types of Support

- Targeted, individualized deep-dive technical assistance and planning support, including assistance with grant applications, project scoping, planning and pre-development activities, pre-engineering studies, and other activities as determined by selected communities (years one and two).
- Capacity Building support, including financial, staffing, or resource support – including through subgrants – to lead applicants and their identified community partners to grow local capacity and build local technical expertise (years one and two).
- A Community of Practice comprised of local and national partners to advance policies, practices, and projects informed by meaningful public involvement and partnership (years one, two, and three).



Submit LOIs through a simple webform

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities-program-LOI-webform>

- Applicants must reply to all webform questions, including:
 - Information on the lead applicant and community partners
 - Selection of Community of Practice
 - Information on the community seeking support, including its experience with disadvantage
 - Information on the plan(s)/project(s) for which the applicant is seeking support
 - Short answer responses on community partnerships, community needs and challenges, and community vision and goals

Thriving Communities Program

Letter of Interest Web-based Form

The Thriving Communities Program (TCP) is designed to 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. For the FY2023 program, TCP will provide two years of deep-dive assistance to selected communities to help them plan and develop a pipeline of comprehensive transportation, housing, and community revitalization activities, as well as three years of peer-learning facilitated through the Community of Practice.

Complete all required fields below to submit your Letter of Interest (LOI) for the TCP no later than 4:59 p.m. (EST) on [deadline]. Please do not submit the form more than once.

Please note that you will not receive an automated confirmation email upon submission of your LOI. If you'd like to confirm your LOI was successfully submitted, please reach out to ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov.

Submission of this form does not commit DOT to providing technical assistance, but to reviewing the applicant's information for eligibility and potential participation in the TCP.

Lead applicant organization name *

Lead applicant organization type *

- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Tribal government
- ☐ Metropolitan Planning Organization
- ☐ Regional Planning Agency (Rural Planning Organization, Council of Governments, etc.)
- ☐ Economic Development Authority (EDA)*

* Only EDAs that are state or local agencies, or political subdivisions of a state or local government are eligible. The EDA must be created under the authority of state law.

- ☐ Transit agency
- ☒ Other political subdivision of state or local governments (please describe)

Lead applicant state or territory *

Lead applicant city *

FY 2022 TCP Capacity Builder and Recipient Snapshot



U.S. Department
of Transportation



Overview of FY 2022 TCP

- DOT awarded **\$21.15 million to four Capacity Builders** to provide support to **64 communities** located across **42 states**, including **6 Tribal Nations**, and **Puerto Rico**.

22%

of selected lead
applicants have
never applied for a
USDOT grant

39%

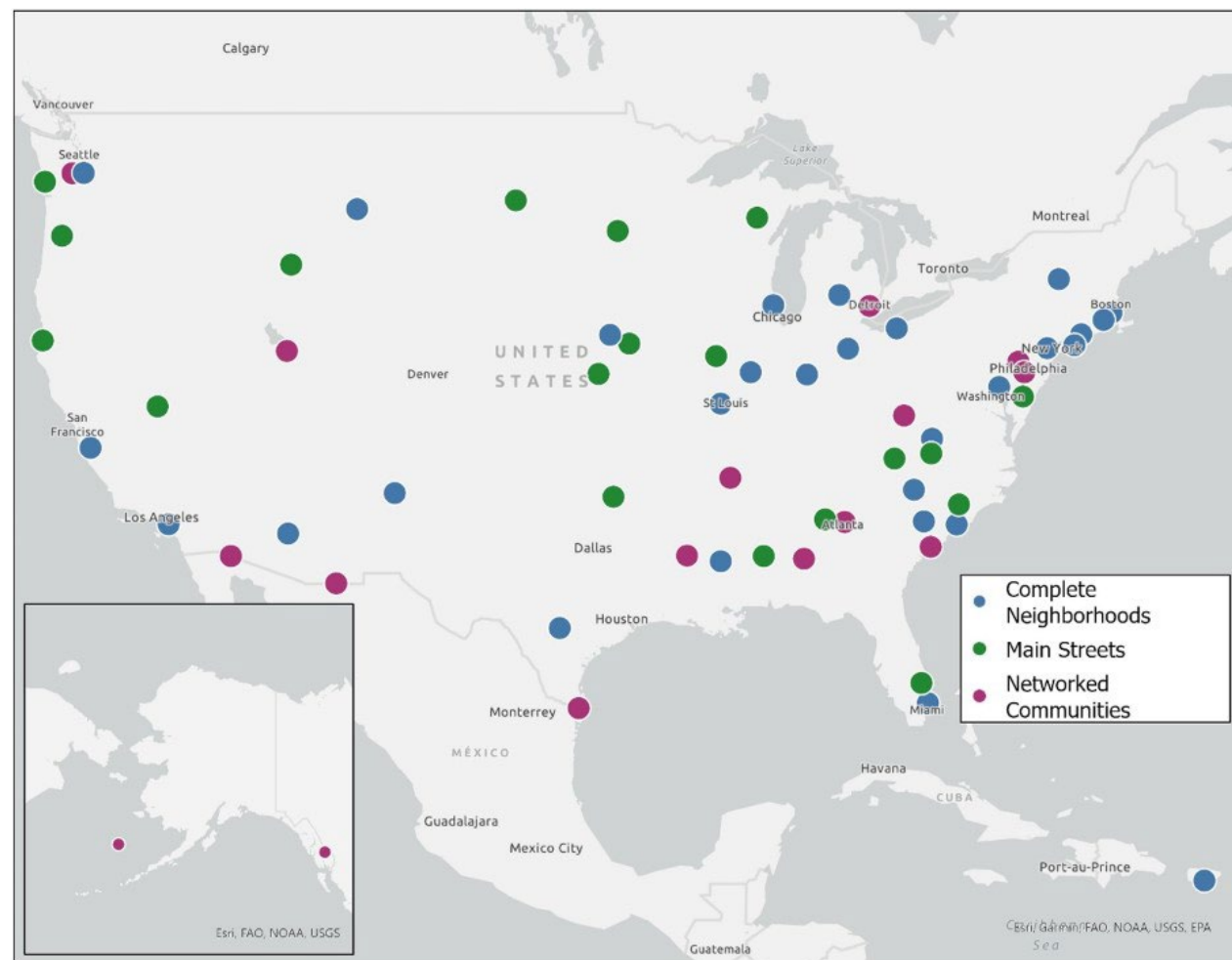
of selected lead
applicants have
been unsuccessful
in obtaining a
USDOT grant

50%

of eligible Tribal
applicants selected
for participation

42%

of selected
communities are in
a rural area



Map of FY 2022 Thriving Communities Program selected communities

Capacity Builder Teams Selected in FY 2022

Capacity Builder Team	Community of Practice
MZC Foundation, Inc. (Lead), and Arcadis, InfraStrategies, and Beverly Scott Associates	Networked Communities
National Main Street Center, Inc. (Lead), and E.L. Robinson, Equiticity, National Association of Development Organizations, Project for Public Spaces, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and Rural Community Assistance Partnership	Main Streets
Rocky Mountain Institute (Lead), and American Council for Energy-Efficient Economy, CivicWell, Equitable Cities, ioby, Nelson/Nygaard, and Shared-Use Mobility Center	Complete Neighborhoods
WSP USA, Inc. (Lead), and Accelerator for America, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners	Complete Transit-Oriented Neighborhoods

Example communities selected in FY 2022

- **City of Saint Paul, Alaska** will use TCP technical assistance to implement the Saint Paul Island Harbor Improvement and Feasibility Study, completed in 2021, with upgrades to increase community resiliency and diversify the island's economy (*Networked Communities COP*)
- **Bois Forte Band of Chippewa** has identified several projects including a one-mile walking path from the Nett Lake community to nearby ball fields and food shelf and another walking path and a road expansion in the Indian Point community that would enhance safety by providing a second existing route in the event of a major disaster in Nett Lake. TCP support will help to advance these projects and build local capacity to also coordinate these transportation projects with parallel housing production efforts (*Main Streets COP*)
- With support from TCP, the **City of Providence, Rhode Island** will help the neighborhood implement its Smith Street Revitalization Plan for safer streets, affordable housing, and greater economic activity along its commercial corridors with community involvement and resilience at the center of these infrastructure improvements (*Complete Neighborhoods COP*)



Thriving Communities Network (TCN)

Whole of Government Approach to Federal Coordination of Place-Based Technical Assistance

- Partnership across participating federal agencies to collaborate across initiatives and target deployment of a full range of federal place-based technical assistance and capacity-building resources to urban, rural, and Tribal communities experiencing a history of economic distress and systemic disinvestment
- TCN agencies are committed to coordinating and collaborating between their technical assistance programs – i.e., DOT's Thriving Communities Program, Rural Partner Network (USDA), Land Port of Entry (GSA), Interagency Energy Communities (DOE)





How do I find out more information?

- Visit the [Thriving Communities Program website](https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities)
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities>
- View the [program fact sheets](#) and [FAQs](#) available on the TCP website
- Attend an upcoming webinar:
 - Webinar for prospective Capacity Builder applicants: September 20 at 3:30-4:30 pm ET. [Register here.](#)
 - Webinar for prospective community recipients: September 27 at 3:00-4:00 pm ET. [Register here.](#)
- Contact us:

 ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov

 202-366-7738



**THRIVING
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How do I apply?

- If your **organization** is interested in **applying to be a TCP-N or TCP-R funded Capacity Builder**, apply via grants.gov by **November 28, 2023**
 - Find the NOFO on the [TCP website](#), or search Opportunity Number DOT-TCP-FY23-01 in grants.gov
- If your **community** is interested in **applying to receive in-kind technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support** from selected Capacity Builders, [submit a Letter of Interest](#) through the TCP online webform by **November 15, 2023**



U.S. Department of Transportation



Thank you!



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