

Dear SMART Grantees,

Welcome to the final monthly SMART program update email of the year. It's been a landmark year for SMART – with three rounds of awards and two NOFOs all completed—and we are delighted to congratulate the successful Stage 2 recipients and new FY24 awardees [announced](#) this week. You will get a chance to know the new grantees in a few months when they are ready to start their projects.

As the year comes to a close, the SMART office wishes you well (and especially safe travels over the holiday season). We hope you enjoy a restful time and look forward to a productive next year with exciting accomplishments for many of your projects.

You can find all past update emails on the [SMART website](#).

#### DEADLINES

- **All Grantees:** Thank you to everyone who submitted their quarterly milestone and federal financial reports. All of you should have received your quarterly feedback and an update on reporting from me this week.
- **FY22 Grantees:** If you are starting to work on your [Implementation Reports](#), these are due at the end of your period of performance. Final Implementation Reports should be submitted as **.PDFs** to [smartreports@dot.gov](mailto:smartreports@dot.gov). Guidance for the Implementation Report is the same as that used for the Draft, and can be found on the [SMART website](#).
- **FY23 Grantees:** Thank you for submitting your Data Management Plan and Evaluation Plans. The SMEs are reviewing the EPs now, and the data librarians at the Bureau of Transportation Statistics are reviewing the DMPs. Please watch for emails from the **dmponline tool and from Jesse Long** indicating that you have feedback on your DMP that you should address. The recording for the informational webinar reviewing these plans is available on the SMART website.

#### RESOURCES

Cybersecurity is a critical aspect of all SMART projects, especially those advancing to or considering applying to Stage 2 and implementing on a wider scale. Aspects of security are raised in all reporting requirements (DMP, Evaluation Plan, and Implementation Report), and thinking about the how to secure and protect the infrastructure you are testing, implementing, or integrating with is essential at each stage of your project.

The [Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework Playbook](#) from the Cyber Infrastructure and Security Agency aims to help public and private sectors minimize the impact of cyberattacks on their communities, reduce the risk of disruption to critical services and keep system restoration costs low. It also outlines key actions for resilience planning, such as establishing incident-response groups, identifying critical infrastructure and those that dependent on it, creating mitigation strategies and integrating solutions into existing protocols.

This month, CISA also released The [Playbook for Strengthening Cybersecurity in Federal Grant Programs for Critical Infrastructure | CISA](#) to help operators of critical infrastructure build cyber

resilience into their grant programs. The guide provides templates, models and recommendations that better prioritize cybersecurity tools. While this is intended for grant programs that are specific to cybersecurity, it also includes **templates** for applicants to use when **creating their cyber risk assessments and project cybersecurity plans, and a list of cybersecurity resources available to state and local grant recipients**, and other resources you may find useful.

## EVENTS

If anyone from your project will be attending the TRB Annual meeting next month, please join us for **SMART Recipient Drop Ins on Tuesday Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30-1:30 in Conference Room 305 at the Convention Center.** Stop by to meet and chat with fellow recipients, ask questions, and generally catch up with the program. We look forward to seeing you there!

## STAGE 2 NOFO TIMING NOW ON WEBSITE

Finally, we recently updated the [website](#) with the timing for the FY25 and FY26 Stage 2 NOFOs. We anticipate the FY25 Stage 2 NOFO being opened in summer 2025, and the FY26 Stage 2 NOFO, which will be the final NOFO of the program, being opened in spring of 2026.

All the best,

Madeline

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