



## **INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT**

*(Revised: November 2023)*

# Competitive Grant Programs That Will Benefit Communities

## **Infrastructure Funding Opportunities for Local Governments**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 is a step forward towards helping our nation and communities remain competitive. The funds being allocated will provide our communities with the resources necessary to invest in the future, developing the critical infrastructure that will lay the foundation for economic growth.

In January 2022, the White House released the first edition of [Building A Better America](#), a bipartisan infrastructure law guidebook, to help state, local, and Tribal governments understand the resources that are available and programs included in the legislation. Please visit the [Investing in America](#) site to learn more about these funding opportunities. You will find the Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, maps of progress, Technical Assistance Guide, and many resources.

Please visit individual agency and grant specific websites to confirm details and current application deadlines.



## Transportation Grants

View all of [DOT's grant programs](#) for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant Program.

View [open and upcoming USDOT Notices](#) of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs).

### Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably and Equitably Grants (RAISE)

- » Department of Transportation (DOT) discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: \$7.5 billion for road, rail, transit, and other surface transportation of local and/or regional significance. FY2023 \$1.5 billion.
- » Projects will be evaluated for safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership, innovation, mobility, and community connectivity. The DOT will assess projects for universal design and accessibility and consider how proposals increase mobility for freight and supply chain efficiency.

**Applications are expected to open in January 2024.**

### Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants (PIDP)

- » DOT discretionary grant program administered by the U.S. Maritime Administration.
- » Funding: \$2 billion for projects that improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port to help alleviate supply chain bottlenecks, ensure long-term competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability while reducing impacts to the environment and neighboring communities. FY2023 \$662 million.
- » The program was expanded to include port electrification projects, idling reduction solutions, equipment charging infrastructure and worker training initiatives.

**Applications are expected to open Winter 2024.**

### Safe Streets and Roads for All

- » New DOT discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: \$5 billion for local governments to support their efforts to advance "vision zero" plans and other complete street improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians.

**The FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for SS4A is expected to open in Spring 2024.**

### Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG)

- » DOT discretionary grant program.
- » **Three major discretionary grant programs have been combined into one Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity.**
- » Funding: FY2022 \$2.9 billion for the [National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program \(Mega\)](#), the [Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program \(INFRA\)](#), and the [Rural Surface Transportation Grant program \(Rural\)](#). FY2022 \$1 billion Mega; \$1.64 billion INFRA; \$300 million Rural.
- » Mega, INFRA, and Rural funding opportunities will be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects, including highway and bridge, intercity passenger rail, railway-highway grade crossing or separation, wildlife crossing, public transportation, marine highway, freight projects, groups of projects with significant national or regional impact, or to improve and expand infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve safety, and generate regional economic growth.

### **FY2024 Funding Opportunity - Pending Announcement.**

### Low-No Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program

- » DOT discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: FY2023: \$1,221,350,117 in competitive grants under the Low or No Emission Grant Program (Low-No Program) and \$469,445,424 under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program (Buses and Bus Facilities Program).
- » The Low-No Program provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.
- » The Buses and Bus Facilities Program is to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing, or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing, or leasing bus-related facilities.

### **FY2024 Funding Opportunity - Pending Announcement.**

### Reconnecting Communities

- » New DOT discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: \$1 billion to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure, particularly historically disadvantaged communities that were nearly destroyed or cut in half by a highway. The funds can be used by state, local, metropolitan planning organizations, and tribal governments for planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure to address these legacy impacts.

### **FY2024 Funding Opportunity - Pending Announcement.**

### Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants

- » USDOT Discretionary Grant Program for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure.
- » Funding: \$2.5 billion in discretionary competitive funds distributed through Community and Corridor grants for the strategic deployment of publicly accessible EV charging and other alternative fueling infrastructure along FHWA-designated Alternative Fuel Corridors and within urban and rural communities.
- » Eligible recipients include state, local and tribal governments, transportation agencies, and other public entities.

**Funding opportunities to be announced through 2028 with rolling application deadlines.**

### Interstate Rail Compacts Grant Program

- » Provides financial assistance to entities implementing interstate rail compacts pursuant to section 410 of the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997.
- » The purpose of the program is to improve, promote, and develop intercity passenger rail service, including activities related to the financing of such service, and to encourage multi-state grant applications.
- » Funding Available for Award Under FY22-23 NOFO: \$5,815,800.

**Applications deadline: July 10, 2023.**

### Wildlife Crossings Program

- » This pilot program funds activities that make roads safer, prevent wildlife-vehicle collisions, and improve habitat connectivity.
- » Construction and non-construction projects.
- » Funding available FY22-23: Estimated \$111,850,000

**Application deadline: August 1, 2023.**

### Clean School Bus Program

- » New Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: \$5 billion to replace existing school buses with low- or zero-emission school buses.

**Application deadline: August 22, 2023.**

### Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program

- » Funds to make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.



- » The [PROTECT Formula Program](#), which provides \$7.3 billion over five years (FY22 – FY26) in formula funding distributed directly to State departments of transportation (DOTs).
- » The [PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program](#), which provides \$1.4 billion in contract authority over five years (FY22 – FY26) through competitive grants to State DOTs, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, Indian tribes, Territories (At-Risk Coastal activities) and other eligible entities.

### **National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program**

- » Funding: \$5 billion in federal funding to states over five years to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability of EV charging infrastructure through strategically deployed electric vehicle charging stations and creation of interconnected EV networks along designated FHWA Alternative Fuel Corridors
- » Funding covers up to 80% of eligible project costs

**Funding opportunities to be announced through 2026 with rolling application deadlines**



## **Climate | Energy | Environment Grants**

### **Brownfields Remediation Program**

- » Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant program.
- » Provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, environmental job training, technical assistance, training, and research.

**Various programs and funding opportunities with rolling deadlines.**

### **Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs**

- » New DOE program.
- » Funding: \$8 billion to support the development of at least four regional clean hydrogen hubs to improve clean hydrogen production, processing, delivery, storage, and end use.

**Funding announcement expected Fall 2023.**

### **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program**

- » Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant program.
- » Funding: \$1 billion to support communities undertaking hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks they face from disasters and other natural hazards.

**Application deadline: Feb 29, 2024**

### Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant

- » FEMA grant program.
- » Funding: \$3.5 billion for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the [National Flood Insurance Program](#).

**Application deadline: Feb 29, 2024.**

### Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) Program

- » New Department of Energy (DOE) block grant program.
- » Funding: \$550 million to states, local governments, and tribes for projects that reduce energy use, increase energy efficiency, and cut pollution.

**Application deadline (local government and tribal): April 30, 2024.**

### Grants for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements in Schools

- » New DOE grant program.
- » Funding: \$500 million in funds for local government education agencies and nonprofit partners to make energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean vehicle upgrades and improvements at public schools.

**Next round of funding expected in Spring 2024.**

### Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas

- » New DOE grant program.
- » Funding: \$1 billion to entities in rural or remote areas (defined as cities, towns, or unincorporated areas with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants) to increase environmental protection from the impacts of energy use and improve resilience, reliability, safety, and availability of energy.

**Next round of funding expected in Spring 2024.**

### Grants for Energy Efficiency and Resilience Code Adoption

- » DOE grant program.
- » Funding: \$225 million to state energy agencies, in partnership with local building code agencies, codes and standards developers, utilities, and other entities, to enable sustained, cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes to save customers money on their energy bills.

**Funding opportunities available until expended.**

### Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program

- » New U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program.
- » Funding: \$1 billion in grants to communities at risk from wildfire to develop or revise their community wildfire protection plans and carry out projects described within those plans. It will include a mix of formula and competitive funds.

**Applications are expected to open in the winter 2024.**



## Broadband, Cyber, and Other Programs

### Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- » USDA program.
- » Funding: \$300 million in technical and financial assistance to project sponsors for the design and construction of measures to help repair damages from a recent disaster. The program helps local communities relieve threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters that impair a watershed.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**

### **Water & Groundwater Storage and Conveyance**

- » Department of Interior program.
- » Funding: \$1 million for water storage projects with capacity between 2,000 and 30,000 acre-feet as well as projects to transport water to or from surface water or groundwater storage.

**Applications are expected to open in the spring 2024.**

### Middle Mile Grants Program

- » New program at the Department of Commerce.
- » Funding: \$1 billion in grants for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile broadband infrastructure.

**Next funding opportunity - pending notice.**

### ReConnect Program

- » USDA program.
- » Funding: \$2 billion in loans and grants for projects that provide broadband in rural areas.

**Next funding opportunity - pending notice.**

### State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

- » New program at the Department of Homeland Security.
- » Funding: \$1 billion to state, local, and tribal governments to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems that they own or operate.

**Applications deadline: October 6, 2023.**

### Smart Grid Investment Grant Program & Energy Sector Operational Support for Cyber Resilience Program

- » DOE programs.
- » Funding: \$3 billion Smart Grid Grant Program and \$50 million Energy Sector Operational Support for Cyber Resilience Program for electric utilities, including municipal and co-operative utilities, to modernize the electricity grid and increase resilience to cybersecurity threats.

**Various funding opportunities and programs with rolling deadlines.**

## How VHB can Help

VHB has a strong understanding of the federal grant processes related to funding the planning, design, construction and operations of transportation services and infrastructure. We have worked with clients to prepare applications and secure competitive grants that have translated into substantial benefits for communities.

VHB is here to help you understand and navigate potential funding opportunities for your next project. Contact [Steve McElligott, PE](#), Transportation Agencies Market Leader, to learn more about our future-focused infrastructure solutions to provide for a sustainable, resilient, equitable future.

Learn more about the [IIJA Grant Funding Process](#) and [VHB's Grant experience](#).