

Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

July 24, 2023

<u>Agency:</u> Department of Transportation	<u>Bureau:</u> Office of the Secretary of Transportation
<u>Application Deadline:</u> August 21, 2023	<u>Max Award:</u> None specified

Description

Created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program provides \$5.575 billion for three grant programs: INFRA, Mega, and Rural. The INFRA program awards competitive grants to multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, accessibility, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas.

Eligible Recipients

- State;
- Metropolitan planning organization that serves an Urbanized Area with a population of more than 200,000 individuals;
- Unit of local government;
- Political subdivision of a State or local government;
- Special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority;
- Federal land management agency that applies jointly with a State;
- Tribal government or a consortium of tribal governments;
- Multistate corridor organization; or
- Multistate or multijurisdictional group of eligible entities listed above.

Eligible Projects

- A highway freight project on the National Highway Freight Network
- A highway or bridge project on the National Highway System
- A freight intermodal, freight rail, or freight project within the boundaries of a public or private freight rail, water (including ports), or intermodal facility and that is a surface transportation infrastructure project necessary to facilitate direct intermodal interchange, transfer, or access into or out of the facility
- A highway-railway grade crossing or grade separation project
- A wildlife crossing project
- A surface transportation project within the boundaries or functionally connected to an international border crossing that improves a facility owned by Fed/State/local government and increases throughput efficiency

- A project for a marine highway corridor that is functionally connected to the NHFN and is likely to reduce road mobile source emissions
- A highway, bridge, or freight project on the National Multimodal Freight Network

INFRA will award both large and small projects, defined below.

- Large projects: Projects greater than \$25 million
 - 25% of funds must be used for projects in rural areas
- Small projects: Projects between \$5 million - \$25 million
 - 30% of funds must be used for projects in rural areas

A rural area is defined as an area outside an Urbanized Area with a population of over 200,000, as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The INFRA Program is one of three programs available through the combined Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. Applicants may choose to apply to one, two, or all three of these grant programs.

Matching Grant Requirements

40% matching requirement

New or Existing Program

Existing program

Examples of Prior Award Recipients

In FY2022, the City of Cincinnati received a \$127 million INFRA grant for the Western Hills Viaduct Replacement project. This project will replace the structurally deficient Western Hills Viaduct over the Mill Creek Valley with a new structure south of the existing viaduct, which will connect to a redesigned interchange with I-75. This project replaces an 85-year-old viaduct that is in such a poor state of repair that it requires supplemental supports and frequent maintenance disruptions. The project will allow for reliable and efficient freight movement by road and rail, as the increased spacing of supports will allow for rail realignment and provide a new access point to the CSX intermodal facility. Innovative technology will be used on the project, including PV light fixtures, carbon-absorbing surface treatments, and eco friendly materials.

Tips for Being Competitive

The Department aims to fund projects that will improve safety, generate economic benefits, reduce congestion, enhance resiliency, and hold the greatest promise to eliminate supply chain bottlenecks and improve critical freight movements.

In addition, large projects must meet the following requirements:

- The project will generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits.

- The project will be cost-effective.
- The project will contribute to the accomplishment of one or more of the goals described in [23 U.S.C. § 150](#).
- The project is based on the results of preliminary engineering.
- With respect to related non-Federal financial commitments, one or more stable and dependable funding or financing sources are available to construct, maintain, and operate the project, and contingency amounts are available to cover unanticipated cost increases.
- The project cannot be easily and efficiently completed without other Federal funding or financial assistance available to the project sponsor.
- The project is reasonably expected to begin construction not later than 18 months after the date of obligation of funds for the project.

Labor Requirements The Department aims to award projects that support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union and the incorporation of strong labor standards and workforce programs, in particular registered apprenticeships, labor management partnerships and Local Hire agreements, in project planning stages and program delivery.

Partners Required None required; however, due to the extensive nature of the projects being funded, partners will likely be needed to demonstrate the lead applicant’s ability to complete the project scope.

Agency Contact mpdgrants@dot.gov

Upcoming Events DOT hosted a series of webinars (listed below) and the recordings are available on the [MPDG Program Page](#).

- How to Apply for the MPDG Opportunity
- How to Apply for the MPDG Opportunity - Rural and Tribal Applicants, Areas of Persistent Poverty, and Historically Disadvantaged Communities
- How to Prepare a Benefit-Cost Analysis for the MPDG Opportunity

Total Allocation \$3.1 billion

Anticipated Award Date Applicants are expected to be ready to obligate funding by September 30, 2026.

How To Apply

1. Applicants must be registered with [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#).
2. DOT will answer questions up until the application deadline and will publish common questions to the [FAQ](#).
3. Applications must be submitted to [Grants.gov](#) by August 21.

Resources

- [INFRA Program Page - DOT](#)
- [MPDG Combined NOFO - DOT](#)
- [Grant Opportunity - Grants.gov](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions - DOT](#)