



Grant Announcement

Date: January 06, 2023

Subject: FFY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program – amended NOFO Fact Sheet

Summary

The purpose of this amend notice is to solicit applications for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. A total of \$2.3 billion is available for the FY 2023 RAISE grant program. These funds will be awarded on a competitive basis, per statute, for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation. The initial NOFO was issued on November 30, 2022. The amended NOFOs were issued on December 14, 2022 and January 05, 2023.

Changes to FFY 2023 NOFO from FFY 2022 NOFO:

- Refines the merit criteria rating rubric. For example, this NOFO continues to clarify the difference between the quality of life merit criterion (which focuses on increased affordable transportation choices and access to housing, jobs, opportunities and recreation) and the mobility and community connectivity merit criterion (which focuses on physical connections, bridging gaps, and universal design/ADA improvements)
- Partnership and Collaboration now includes meaningful engagement with residents to ensure equity considerations for underserved communities throughout the lifecycle of the project
- Minor updates regarding process improvements and increased evaluation transparency. For example, in prior years, the Project Readiness area of Technical Capacity Assessment was evaluated for all eligible applications, but in FFY 2023 it will only be evaluated for the subset of applications advancing for additional analysis after merit reviews, similar to the other Project Readiness areas (Environmental Risk Assessment and Financial Capacity Assessment)
- FFY 2023 NOFO also incorporates a new Reconnecting Communities Extra element. Applications for the FFY 2023 RAISE grant program that have identical project scope to applications that were submitted and evaluated under the FFY 2022 Reconnecting Communities Program and received the designation of Reconnecting Extra, will automatically advance for second-tier analysis if they receive an overall merit rating of “Recommended” and have at least one “High” rating in a priority criterion

Grant Basics

FFY 2023 funding available: \$2.3 billion.

- Rural Area set-aside (50%) – \$1.15 billion
- Urban Area set-aside (50%) – \$1.15 billion

The Department also seeks to fund projects that, to the extent possible, target at least 40 percent of resources and benefits towards low-income communities, disadvantaged communities, communities underserved by affordable transportation, or overburdened communities.

Award amount minimum and maximums (capital/planning):

- Urban Area minimum – \$5 million
- Rural Area minimum – \$1 million
- Maximum request – \$25 million (BIL funds) or \$45 million (2023 Appropriations Act funds)
- Planning grants – No minimum

Funding restrictions: No more than 15 percent of the funds (\$345 million) may be awarded in a single state.

Funding deadlines: Funds are available for obligation through September 30, 2027. Must be expended by September 30, 2032.

Applicant number of candidate project limits: Each lead applicant may submit no more than three applications.

Federal match:

- Urban Area: Eighty percent (80%) maximum Federal share of total project cost.
- Rural, Historically Disadvantaged Community (HDC) or Area of Persistent Poverty (APP): up to 100% Federal share.
- Note: USDOT does not use an applicant's cost share when evaluating applications on merit.

Eligible applicants: States and the District of Columbia; any territory or possession of the United States; a unit of local government; a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States; a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority; a federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes; a transit agency; and a multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities.

Eligible projects (capital):

- Eligible projects for RAISE grants are surface transportation capital projects within the United States or any territory or possession of the United States that are: (1) highway, bridge, or other road projects eligible under title 23, United States Code; (2) public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code; (3) passenger and freight rail transportation projects; (4) port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry); (5) the surface transportation components of an airport project eligible for assistance under part B of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code; (6) intermodal projects; (7) projects to

replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the RAISE program; (8) projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government; and (9) any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program.

- The Secretary considers the following projects necessary to advance the goals of the program, and therefore eligible: public road and non-motorized projects that are not otherwise eligible under title 23, United States Code; transit-oriented development projects; mobility on-demand projects that expand access and reduce transportation cost burden; and intermodal projects.

Eligible projects (planning):

- Activities eligible for funding under RAISE planning grants are related to the planning, preparation, or design— for example environmental analysis, equity analysis, community engagement, feasibility studies, benefit-cost analysis, and other pre-construction activities—of eligible surface transportation capital projects described in Section C.3.i.(a) and may not result in construction with RAISE FFY 2023 funding.

Merit criteria: The BIL requires the Department to evaluate projects based on:

- Safety,
- Environmental sustainability,
- Quality of life,
- Mobility and community connectivity,
- Economic competitiveness, and opportunity to include tourism opportunity,
- State of good repair,
- Partnership and collaboration, and
- Innovation

Application length: 30 pages

Project Budget: table templates provided (page 25 of 70)

Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA): Added a table summarizing impacts to include (page 35 of 70)

Webinar: January 05, 2023, January 12, 2023, January 24, 2023

Application deadline: February 28, 2023, by 11:59 p.m. CDT through www.grants.gov

Link to NOFO: [FFY 2023 RAISE NOFO](#)