



Grant Announcement

Date: April 24, 2023

Subject: USDOT FFYs 2022 & 2023 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Program

Summary

The vision of the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program is to fund projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail. The program prioritizes innovative and collaborative approaches to risk reduction, including approaches that improve resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts and protect against flood, erosion, wave damage, and heat impacts. The purpose of the PROTECT Formula and Discretionary Grant programs is to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through formula and competitive discretionary grants.

Grant Basics

- NOFO issued on April 21, 2023; application due on **August 18, 2023 10:59 pm CDT**
- \$848M available for the combined FFYs 2022 and 2023
 - Planning Grants – up to \$45M
 - Resilience Grants
 - Resilience Improvement Grants – up to \$638M
 - Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants – up to \$45M
 - At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants – up to \$120M
- Funding:
 - Planning Grants: \$100K minimum/No defined maximum
 - Resilience Grants: \$500K minimum/No defined maximum
 - Max Federal Share: Not to exceed 80 percent of eligible costs, 100 percent for tribal applicants as well as Planning Grants, additional variability detailed in the NOFO
 - Rural set-aside: at least 25 percent; Tribal set-aside: at least two percent
- Eligible Applicants: 1) State or political subdivision of a State; 2) metropolitan planning organization (MPO); 3) local governments; 4) special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function; 5) Indian Tribes; 6) Federal land management agency (must apply jointly with a State or group of States); and (7) A group of entities listed above
- Eligible Activities:
 - Planning Grants – develop Resilience Improvement Plans; resilience planning, predesign, design, or development of data tools; technical capacity building; or evacuation planning and preparation

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- Resilience Grants
 - Resilience Improvement Grants – improve the ability of an existing surface transportation asset to withstand natural disaster, or to increase the resilience from the impacts of changing conditions
 - Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants – strengthen and protect evacuation routes
 - At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants – to strengthen, stabilize, harden, elevate, relocate or otherwise enhance the resilience of highway and non-rail infrastructure face increased long-term future risks of, a weather event, a natural disaster, or changing conditions. Eligible applicants for At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants must be in a State bordering the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the Great Lakes as defined in the NOFO
- Merit Criteria
 - Planning Grants – #1 Program Alignment; #2 Schedule and Budget; #3 Public Engagement, Partnerships and Collaboration; and #4 Innovation
 - Resilience Grants – #1 Vulnerability and Risk; #2 Criticality to Community; #3 Design Elements; #4 Public Engagement, Partnerships and Collaboration; #5 Equity and Justice40; #6 Climate Change and Sustainability; #7 Schedule and Budget; and #8 Innovation
- FHWA Priority Considerations:
 - Planning Grants – #1 Exceptional benefits under Public Engagement, Partnerships and Collaboration; or #2 Strong need for funding. Future NOFOs under the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program may prioritize projects that are awarded planning grants funded under this NOFO for Resilience Grant awards.
 - Resilience Grants – #1 Exceptional benefits under Equity and Justice40; #2 Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation, #3 Construction Readiness (ready to proceed to construction within 10 months of selection); or #4 Strong need for funding

Other Considerations

- Applicants may use one application to submit the same project for multiple funding categories
- Application to include Standard Federal (SF) Forms and Project Narrative (Basic Project Information, Funding Details, Merit Criteria, Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)*, FHWA Priority Considerations) not to exceed 25 pages in length
- *BCA required except for Planning and At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Resilience Grants
- Tribes can submit raw data in lieu of BCA which the FHWA will determine themselves
- Obligation Deadlines:
 - FFY 2022 funds by September 30, 2025
 - FFY 2023 funds by September 30, 2026
- Anticipated number of awards: 30-40 Resilience Grants

- Webinars will be hosted via virtual meetings on May 8, 2023 and May 11, 2023 (register [here](#))
- Grant contact information:
 - Robert Miller, Agreement Officer, PROTECTdiscretionary@dot.gov (preferred) | (202) 366-9167
 - Robin Hobbs, Agreement Officer/Team Leader, PROTECTdiscretionary@dot.gov (preferred) | (202) 366-4004

Link to website: [PROTECT Discretionary Grants | US Department of Transportation](#)

Link to NOFO: [FFY 2022 & 2023 PROTECT NOFO](#)