

Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) Program

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

April 6, 2022

<u>Agency:</u> Department of Transportation	<u>Bureau:</u> Office of the Secretary of Transportation
<u>Application Deadline:</u> May 23, 2022	<u>Max Award:</u> 10% allocated to projects under \$100M; 90% allocated to projects over \$25M

Description

The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL) was created in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will support projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life.

USDOT has combined the Rural Program with 2 other discretionary programs (Mega and INFRA) under a single Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) opportunity. Each eligible applicant may submit three unique applications per grant program (Mega, INFRA, and Rural), for a total application limit of nine. Unless specified by the lead applicant, each application will be considered for all discretionary programs where project eligibility criteria are met.

Eligible Recipients

1. a State;
2. a regional transportation planning organization;
3. a unit of local government;
4. a tribal government or a consortium of tribal governments; or
5. a multijurisdictional group of entities above.

Matching Grant Requirements

Rural grants can be used for up to 80% of project costs. The federal share may be up to 100% for projects serving the Appalachian Development Highway System or Denali Access System.

Eligible Projects

- A highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under National Highway Performance Program
- A highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under Surface Transportation Block Grant
- A highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under Tribal Transportation Program
- A highway freight project eligible under National Highway Freight Program
- A highway safety improvement project, including a project to improve a high risk rural road as defined by the Highway Safety Improvement Program

- A project on a publicly-owned highway or bridge that provides or increases access to an agricultural, commercial, energy, or intermodal facility that supports the economy of a rural area
- A project to develop, establish, or maintain an integrated mobility management system, a transportation demand management system, or on-demand mobility services

Projects must be located in rural communities. USDOT has developed a [tool](#) to display defined rural areas.

New or Existing Program

New program established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Tips for Being Competitive

The Department seeks to fund projects under the MPDG common application that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address climate change impacts through specific design elements, address environmental justice, and address equity and barriers to opportunity. Competitive applicants will also successfully demonstrate positive impacts in the six project outcome criteria: 1) safety; 2) state of good repair; 3) economic impacts, freight movement, and job creation; 4) climate change, resiliency, and the environment; 5) equity, multimodal options, and quality of life; and 6) innovation.

Labor Requirements

Each applicant selected for MPDG grant funding must demonstrate an effort to create good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union and incorporation of high labor standards. To the extent that applicants have not sufficiently considered job quality and labor rights in their planning, as determined by the Department of Labor, the applicants will be required to do so before receiving funds for construction, consistent with Executive Orders 14025 and 14052.

Examples of Prior Award Recipients

N/A

Agency Contact

Paul Baumer, Grantor, MPDGGrants@dot.gov

Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions

- [April 7, 1-3pm EDT](#): How to Apply for the MPDG Opportunity
- [April 12, 1-3pm EDT](#): How to Apply for the MPDG Opportunity - Rural and Tribal Applicants, Areas of Persistent Poverty, and Historically Disadvantaged Communities

Webinar recordings and presentation slides for previous events can be found at the [MPDG Webinar Page](#).

Types of 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.

Total Allocation

\$300 million for FY2022

Links to Grant Opportunity

- [Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant \(MPDG\) Opportunity on Grants.Gov](#)
- [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant - Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
- [The Rural Grant Homepage](#)
- [MPDG - Frequently Asked Questions](#)