

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

## PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

May 4, 2023

<u>Agency:</u> US Department of Transportation	<u>Bureau:</u> Federal Highway Administration
<u>Application Deadline:</u> August 18, 2023	<u>Max Award:</u> Varies by type

### Description

Created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program aims 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. By funding projects that improve resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts, the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program aims to reduce damage and disruption to the transportation system, improve the safety of the traveling public, and improve equity by addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities that are often the most vulnerable to hazards.

### Eligible Recipients

- A state or political subdivision of a State
- An MPO
- A unit of local government
- A special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function
- An Indian Tribe
- A Federal land management agency that applies jointly with a State or group of States
- A multijurisdictional group of eligible entities

### Matching Grant Requirements

- Planning Grants: 0% matching requirement
- Resiliency Grants: 20% matching requirement

### Eligible Projects

There are four categories of funding that applicants may apply to. Applicants may use one application to submit the same project for multiple funding categories if the project meets the eligibility criteria for multiple categories.

- Planning Grants may be used to develop Resilience Improvement Plans, including resilience planning, predesign, design, or the development of data tools to simulate transportation disruption scenarios.
- Resilience Grants: "Resilience Grants" refer to following three grant categories. DOT plans to make 30-40 Resilience Grants.

- Resilience Improvement Grants: May be used to improve the ability of an existing surface transportation asset to withstand one or more elements of a weather event or natural disaster, or to increase the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of changing conditions.
- Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants: May be used for activities that strengthen and protect evacuation routes that are essential for providing and supporting evacuations caused by emergency events, including activities that will improve evacuation routes, provide safe passage during an evacuation, and reduce the risk of damage to evacuation routes as a result of future emergency events.
- At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants: May be used for activities to strengthen, stabilize, harden, elevate, relocate or otherwise enhance the resilience of highway and non-rail infrastructure to protect highways that face increased long-term future risks of a weather event, a natural disaster, or changing conditions

	Grant Category	Available Funding	Award Minimum	Award Maximum
	Planning Grants	\$45 million	\$100,000	None
Resilience Grants	Resilience Improvement Grants	\$638 million	\$500,000	None
	Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants	\$45 million	\$500,000	None
	At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants	\$120 million	\$500,000	None

**New or Existing Program**

New

**Tips for Being Competitive**

The Department seeks to fund projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, incorporate evidence-based climate resilience measures and features, reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from the project materials, avoid adverse environmental impacts to air or water quality, wetlands, and endangered species, and address the disproportionate negative environmental impacts of transportation on disadvantaged communities. Applicants should supply data wherever possible to demonstrate the potential benefits of their proposed projects.

**Labor Requirements**

The Department intends to use the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program to 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 training and placement programs, especially registered apprenticeships, in project planning stages.

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**Partners Required**      Though not explicitly required, “Public Engagement, Partnerships and Collaboration” is a merit criterion that will be used to evaluate all grants. In response to this criterion, the applicant should demonstrate how they will pursue comprehensive stakeholder engagement, collaboration with other government agencies, and cross-sector partnerships.

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**Agency Contact**      PROTECTdiscretionary@dot.gov

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**Upcoming Events**

- May 8, 2023 at 1-2PM ET: [Notice of Funding Opportunity Webinar](#)
- May 11, 2023 at 1-2PM ET: [Notice of Funding Opportunity Webinar](#)
- May 25, 2023 at 2-4PM ET: [How to Prepare the Benefit Cost Analysis Webinar](#)

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**Total Allocation**      \$848 million

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**Anticipated Award Date**      Not listed

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**Resources**

- [Grant Opportunity - Grants.gov](#)
- [PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program Page - DOT](#)