



National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program (Culvert AOP Program)

Agency Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration

Program Description The National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program, also known as the Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program, provides grants to eligible applicants for projects aimed at replacing, removing, or repairing culverts and weirs. These projects are designed to significantly improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish species by mitigating barriers caused by transportation-related infrastructure. The primary goal is to enhance the connectivity of aquatic habitats, thereby supporting the recovery of fish populations. This includes infrastructure improvements to facilitate fish passage around or over the barriers.

Application Due 11:59 PM ET on Sep 23, 2024
 11:59 PM ET on Aug 25, 2025
 11:59 PM ET on Aug 24, 2026
 11:59 PM ET on Aug 23, 2027

Total Funding Up to \$784 million ; \$196 million annually (FY 2023 through FY 2026)

Award Amount Approximately 60 \ Max Award: \$ 50 M (approximate) Min Award: \$ 200,000 (approximate)

Local Match: 20 percent non-federal match
 No matching requirement for Indian Tribes

Eligible Applicants (1) States; (2) units of local government; and (3) Indian Tribes; (4) Multiple Eligible Applicants

Eligible Activities/Projects Eligible Projects must: (1) meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish; and (2) involve the replacement, removal, or repair of culverts or weirs. With respect to weirs, an Eligible Project may also include infrastructure to facilitate fish passage around or over the weir and weir improvements. Eligible Projects should also: (3) have a transportation nexus (e.g., involve, relate to, or be situated in close proximity to a road/rail crossing, pipeline, highway, or other transportation infrastructure). Applications may propose a project(s) that may include non-construction activities, construction activities, or both. Non-construction activities can include planning, feasibility analyses, revenue forecasting, environmental review, preliminary engineering and design studies, and other preconstruction activities. Construction activities can include replacement and preservation, reconstruction, rehabilitation, acquisition of real property, environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, acquisition of equipment, and operational improvements directly related to improving system performance. Eligible grant activities may include preliminary and detailed design studies and associated environmental studies; predevelopment/preconstruction; preliminary engineering; acquisition of rights-of-way; consultation and permitting activities; completion of environmental review under NEPA process; the replacement, removal, or repair of culverts or weirs, or weir improvements; and the replacement of an eligible facility with a new facility that meaningfully restores fish passage, as well as performing data collection and monitoring prior to, during, and following construction activities funded by the Culvert AOP Program. Proposals may also include capacity-building and stakeholder engagement to support the project activities.

Review Criteria USDOT will evaluate Culvert AOP Program grant applications using the following six project selection criteria. DOT will also use the project selection criteria to assess how a project will advance DOT policy priorities including safety, increased resilience to climate change, equity, and advancing the state of practice in aquatic organism passage

- Conservation Benefits to Anadromous Fish
- Regional and Watershed Context
- Ecosystem Benefits
- Project Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation
- Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience
- Equity and Barriers to Opportunity

DOT will consider project readiness to assess the likelihood of a successful project. To assess project readiness, DOT will evaluate three criteria: Environmental Review and Permitting Risk, Technical Assessment, and Financial Completeness Assessment. .

Link: • <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/355106> • [FHWA Culvert AOP Program](#)

BAC Partnership Opportunity • The Build America Center (BAC) is a technical assistance program funded by the USDOT, offering grant development services to localities at NO CHARGE. For more information, please visit our websites: <https://bac.umd.edu/> and <https://billlaunchpad.com/>

If your agency is interested in exploring this opportunity, contact us at bac@umd.edu for details on collaboration