



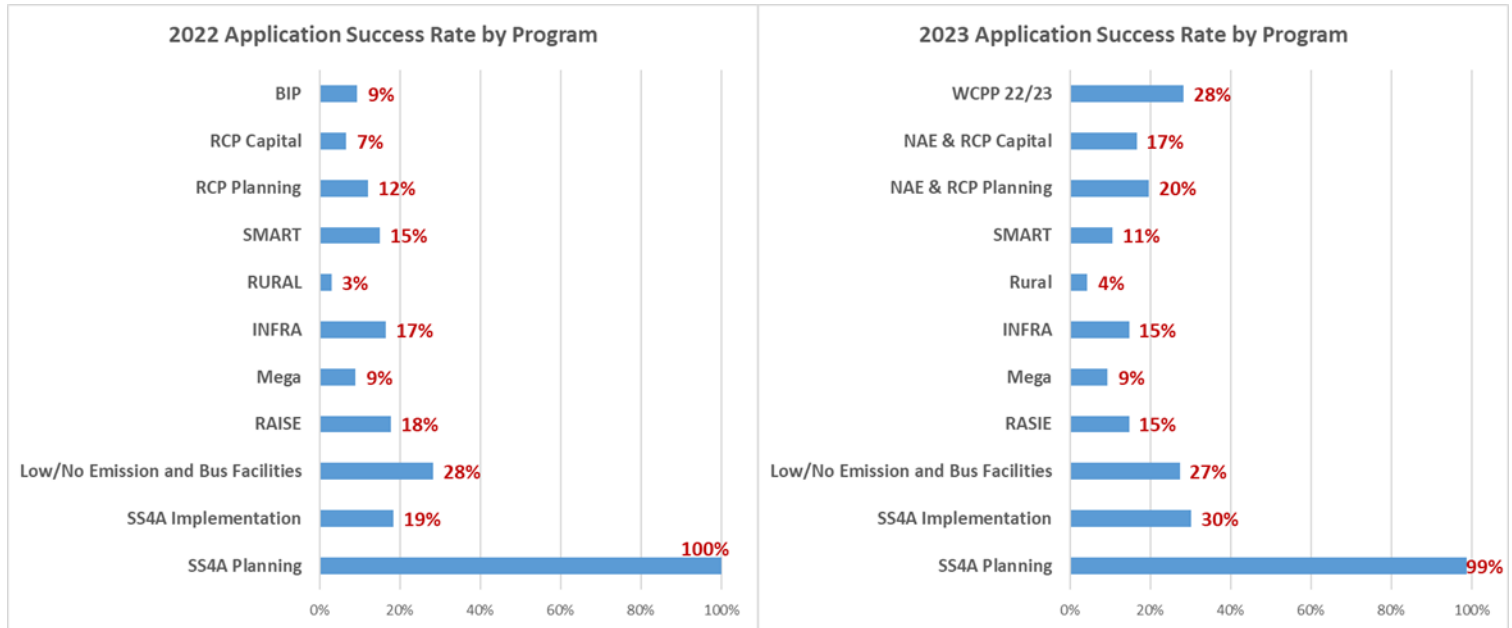
July 3, 2024

Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP)

Agency	US Department of Transportation (USDOT)		
Program Description	<p>The RCP Grant Program aims to help reconnect communities previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. The goal is to advance community-centered transportation connection projects that improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster equitable development and restoration. Funds for the fiscal years (FY) 2024, 2025, and 2026 RCP grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning and capital construction activities that aim to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation or replacement of highways, roadways, or other infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access or economic development. Applications will be submitted through Valid Eval, but the signup links are not yet available. We expect this to be a brief delay. Please check the "How to Apply page" regularly at the Reconnecting Communities Website and sign up for email updates. Once the links are live, they will be located on Valid Eval at:</p> <p>Capital Construction Application Portal Community Planning Application Portal</p>		
Application Due	11:59 PM EST, September 30, 2024		
Total Funding	\$607 M (FY2024 -\$200 million, FY2025-\$202 million, and FY2026 -\$205 million)		
Award Amount	Approximately 100	Max Award: \$ 100 M (Capital) Max Award: \$ 2 M (Planning)	Min Award: \$ 5 M (Capital Project) Min Award: \$ 0 (Planning)
Local Match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Grants: a minimum 20% non-Federal match. • Capital Construction Grants: Up to 50% of project costs can be covered by the RCP grant, with a minimum 20% non-Federal match. Additional Federal funds can cover up to 80% of total project costs. 		
Eligible Applicants	<p>Eligible applicants are: (1) a State; (2) a unit of local government; (3) a Tribal government; (4) a Metropolitan Planning Organization; and (5) a non-profit organization.</p> <p>For Capital Construction Grants, eligible applicants must be the owner(s) of the eligible facility proposed in the project for which adequate planning activities, such as engaging with the public to understand the public’s needs and interests, evaluating relevant data, and/or developing a conceptual design have been completed.</p>		
Eligible Activities/Projects	<p>The proposed project must address an “eligible facility,” which is defined as a highway or other transportation facility that creates a barrier to community connectivity, including barriers to mobility, access, or economic development due to high speeds, grade separations, or other design factors. Eligible facilities include, limited access highways, viaducts, any other principal arterial facilities, and other facilities such as transit lines, rail lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning: Planning study of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing facility to restore community connectivity; public engagement; and other transportation planning activities. • Capital Construction: Capital Construction Grants fund a project to remove, retrofit, mitigate, or to replace an existing eligible facility with a new facility that reconnects communities. Eligible construction grant activities include: preliminary and detailed design activities and associated environmental studies; preconstruction; construction; permitting activities including the completion of the NEPA process; the removal, retrofit, or mitigation of an eligible facility; the replacement of an eligible facility with a new facility that restores community connectivity; meaningful public involvement throughout the project delivery process; delivering community benefits and the mitigation of impacts identified through the NEPA process or other planning and project development for the capital construction project. 		
Review Criteria	<p>USDOT will evaluate applications for the programs using consistent merit criteria and other considerations. The merit criteria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity and Justice40 Initiative • Access • Facility Suitability • Community Engagement and Community-based Stewardship, Management, and Partnerships • Equitable Development • Climate Change Mitigation and/or Adaptation and Resilience • Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity • Planning integration <p>Additional considerations include cost effectiveness, demonstrated project readiness (including technical assessment, financial completeness, and environmental review), permitting risk, and geographic diversity among recipients – including a balance between the needs of urban and rural projects.</p>		
Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/355098 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDOT RCP Program 	
Example Applications	<p>A list of successful RCP and NAE Applications are available via BILLLaunchpad tool, including the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconnecting Communities: Gulfton and Beyond • Shoreline Drive Gateway: Corridor Realignment and Community Connections • Reconnecting 4th Ave N: A Two-Way Vision for Reviving Legacy and Inspiring Progress • Enhancing Easton Neighborhood Access on U.S. Route 50 		



BIL Program Successful Rate



Data Source: BILLaunchpad

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://billaunchpad.com/>

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