



Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program NOFO

Agency	US DOT		
Program Description	The purpose of this notice is to solicit applications for Rural and Tribal Assistance (RTA) Pilot Program grants. A total of \$27 million is available to award for planning and design phase activities for developing transportation projects in rural or tribal communities. Grants will support hiring staff or expert firms to provide technical, legal, or financial assistance to advance transportation projects that would be reasonably expected to be eligible for select Department of Transportation discretionary grant or credit programs. There is no local match required to participate in this program.		
Application Due	April 17, 2025 (Applications open at 2pm on 3/18/2025)		
Total Funding	\$27,000,000	Max Award: \$750,000;	Min Award: \$200,000
	\$10 million of Program funding is set aside for tribal governments.		
Award Amount	Expected 50	Single Project Grants: \$10M Minimum Award: \$200,000 Maximum Award: \$750,000	Multi-Community Grants: \$17 million Minimum Award: \$500,000 Maximum Award: \$2,250,000
Local Match:	No		
Eligible Applicants	State governments Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized) County governments City or township governments Special district governments Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification) *Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Additional information on eligible applicants for this Program is included in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.		
Eligible Activities/Projects	Eligible project sponsors may receive grant funds to select advisors to assist with pre-development-phase activities related to <i>TIFIA/RRIF, INFRA, Mega, RAISE, Culvert AOP programs</i> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> feasibility studies project planning revenue forecasting and funding and financing options analyses preliminary engineering and design work environmental review economic assessments and cost-benefit analyses public benefits studies statutory and regulatory framework analyses value-for-money (VFM) studies evaluations of costs to sustain the project evaluation opportunities for private financing and project bundling 		
Review Criteria	<p>1. Project Advancement Describe planned activities, their costs, and how they address transportation challenges. Provide evidence of project readiness and prior development efforts.</p> <p>2. Experience and Cost Confidence State whether services will be procured or staff hired, and outline experience in these areas. Provide a detailed budget, including funding sources and cost estimates.</p> <p>3. Policy Alignment Explain how the project addresses transportation insecurity (e.g., safety, cost, multimodal options).</p> <p>4. Partnerships (Multi-Community Applicants Only) Detail coordination plans with partner communities, past collaboration, and commitment evidence. *Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.</p>		
Link:	https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/357673		
Application Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All applications must be submitted online through the RTA Program webpage at Rural and Tribal Assistance Grants. 		
BAC Partnership Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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