



Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) Grant Program: FY25	
Agency	U.S. Department of Transportation Build America Bureau (Bureau)
Program Description	The RIA program was established to assist U.S. public entities in developing improved infrastructure priorities and financing strategies for the accelerated development of projects. Assistance can include: (1) project planning; (2) studies and analysis (including feasibility, market analysis, project costs, value for money, public benefit, environmental reviews, etc.); (3) revenue forecasting; (4) preliminary engineering and design work (5); and statutory and regulatory compliance analyses.
Deadline and Submissions	Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. EST on June 16, 2025.
Total Funding	Total Funding is \$20,000,000 for all RIA Minimum Award Amount: \$ 1,000,000, Maximum: \$ 2,000,000, Expected Number of Awards: 15
Eligible Applicants	U.S. public entities including state, multi-state, county, municipalities, MPOs, regional transportation planning organizations, Tribal governments, and others. No prior RIA designation is required, but priority will be given to new applicants.
Cost Sharing	There is no requirement for cost sharing or matching the grant
Special Note	These grants are intended to support RIAs that: 1) serve a defined geographic area; 2) act as a resource to qualified entities in the geographic area; and 3) demonstrate the effectiveness of the RIA to expedite the delivery of projects eligible for the TIFIA credit program. Projects are not required to apply for or receive TIFIA credit assistance to be eligible; however, applicants who are considering the appropriateness of innovative financing methods to accelerate the delivery of eligible projects are strongly encouraged to apply.
Criteria	<p>Experience: The Bureau assesses applicants' ability to promote innovative financing, including TIFIA and RRIF programs, enhance transparency, deploy predevelopment capital, bundle projects, reduce transaction costs, accelerate infrastructure projects, develop financial plans, achieve financial closure, and collaborate with private sponsors and disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Partnerships: Demonstrate strong collaboration among a broad range of stakeholders in the proposed geographic area of the RIA. An applicant that can demonstrate effective partnerships with the public sector, the private sector, and academic entities will receive a STRONG rating in this criterion.</p> <p>Business Model: Ability to efficiently establish and operate the RIA, including initial setup costs, staffing, and relationship-building, as well as ongoing operational efficiency, technical expertise, and project delivery timelines, with strong ratings awarded to those operational within 6 months, moderate within 9 months, and marginal for longer timelines.</p> <p>Pipeline: Eligibility of projects for TIFIA credit assistance, the level of local or regional support, project timelines, and the applicant's ability to attract, assist, and monitor new projects, with strong ratings given to pipelines demonstrating local support and a clear timeline for TIFIA assistance within the RIA performance period.</p> <p>Readiness: Ability to commence operations, achieve project-specific results, and adhere to its budget, assessing factors such as facilities and equipment availability, governance structure, and existing relationships, with strong ratings for plans addressing all three areas, moderate for two, and marginal for fewer.</p> <p>Self-Sustainability: The Bureau will consider whether and to what extent the proposed RIA will achieve self-sustainability during the proposed award's 2-year base period of performance. If a proposed RIA does not anticipate achieving self-sustainability, the Bureau will assess the extent to which the execution of a cooperative agreement for the RIA might deliver long-term benefits as the result of projects delivered during the 2-year base funding period.</p> <p>Risk: The Bureau evaluates risks to the implementation and operation of the proposed RIA, focusing on the adequacy and practicality of mitigation measures, with strong ratings for applicants demonstrating qualitative risk assessments addressing Federal eligibility requirements, moderate for plans to develop such assessments within the initial funding period, and marginal for no assessments or plans.</p>
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