



August 8, 2025

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 \$54 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. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible applicants with an eligible project who meet the merit criteria.
Application Due	October 8, 2025 (Applications open at 2pm on 9/8/2025)
Total Funding	\$54,200,000 \$20 million set aside for tribal governments.
Award Amount	Approximately 21- 216
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 support financial, technical, and legal services for their projects that are reasonably expected to be eligible for <u>TIFIA/RRIF, INFRA, Mega, BUILD, or, Culvert AOP programs</u> , including but not limited to: <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 cost estimation, public engagement, procurement support, etc. A separate application is required for each project submitted for Project grant funding consideration. The maximum number of applications that can be submitted is two. The total maximum number of RTA Program grant awards an applicant can receive is two.
Merit Criteria	<p>1. Criterion #1: Appropriateness of services requested</p> <p>(1) Please describe the activities/advisory services for which you are seeking program funds, and how these activities will materially advance your overall project. (2) State the requested funds from this program. (3) Include the estimated cost of the activities and the amount of RTA Program funding requested. (4) Describe (4)Describe what project-related development activities have been completed, if any. Examples include: data or information that has been collected or activities conducted that are necessary for completing the activities funded through this Program.</p> <p>2. Criterion #2: Viability of grant funds requested</p> <p>(1) State if you intend to either procure advisory services or hire staff to complete the proposed activities and discuss your procurement or hiring experience and process. (2) State if you have additional funds available to commit to this effort should grant funding prove insufficient to complete the proposed activities. If additional funds will be provided, include the amount and source of the local funding commitment. (3) Confirm if a bid, quote, or estimate has been obtained for the proposed activities.</p> <p>No Letters of Support will be accepted or considered in determining grant awards.</p>
Link:	https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/360227
Application Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must answer the standard application questions. All applications must be submitted online through the RTA Program webpage at Rural and Tribal Assistance Grants.
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/ IJA Launchpad https://billlaunchpad.com/ and Grants+ https://grantsplus.ai/
If your agency is interested in exploring this opportunity, contact us at bac@umd.edu for details on collaboration	