

FAA Contract Tower (FCT) Competitive Grant Program

Agency	Department of Transportation-Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)				
Program	The Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announces the opportunity to apply for up to \$120 million in FY 2026 Airport Infrastructure Grant funds for the FCT competitive grant program, made available under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), Pub. L. 117-58. The purpose of the FCT competitive grant program is to make annual grants available to eligible airports for airport-owned airport traffic control tower (ATCT) projects that address the aging infrastructure of the nation's airports. The FAA will consider ATCT projects that sustain, construct, repair, improve, rehabilitate, modernize, replace, or relocate non-approach control towers; or acquire and install air traffic control, communications, and related equipment to be used in those towers; or construct a remote tower certified by the FAA including acquisition and installation of air traffic control, communications, or related equipment.				
Description	Application Due	Feb 17, 2026 5:00 PM Eastern Time			
	Total Funding	\$120,000,000	Max Award: \$83,300,000		
	Award Amount	NA	Min Award: \$25,000		
	Local Match:	NO			
Eligible Applicants	Eligible applicants are those airport sponsors approved in the FAA's Contract Tower Program or Contract Tower Cost Share Program as defined in 49 U.S.C. § 47124, and normally eligible for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants as defined in 49 U.S.C. § 47115.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Agency • Private Entity • State Agency • Indian Tribe or Pueblo owning a public-use NPIAS airport • Secretary of the Interior for Midway Island airport • Republic of the Marshall Islands • Federal State of Micronesia • Republic of Palau 			
Eligible Activities/Projects	All projects funded from the FCT Competitive Grant Program must be airport-owned ATCT projects that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain, construct, repair, improve, rehabilitate, modernize, replace, or relocate non-approach control towers; • Acquire and install air traffic control, communications, and related equipment to be used in those towers; or • Construct a remote tower certified by the FAA, including acquisition and installation of air traffic control, communications, or related equipment. 			
Review Criteria	Applicants should be ready to provide any technical documentation to support any type of eligibility determination, if requested. The FAA requests that each project application have a financial plan (or project budget) available for review upon request. Project budgets should show how different funding sources will share in each activity and present that data in dollars and percentages. The budget should identify other Federal funds the applicant is applying for or has been awarded, if any, that the applicant intends to use. Applicants should break out funding sources between FCT and any other Federal funding sources.				
	Applications for FY 2026 FCT Competitive Grant Program will be evaluated using the following criteria:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must meet eligibility requirements under the FCT Competitive Grant Program outlined under Sections B.1. and B.3. above. • The FAA will consider timeliness of implementation, with priority given to those projects, including "design only" projects, that can satisfy all statutory and administrative requirements for grant obligation by September 1, 2026. • ATCT projects will be assessed based on the overall impact on the NAS, including age of facility, operational • constraints, nonstandard facility conditions, or new FCT entrant requirements. • Priority will be given to projects that advance aviation safety or enhance air traffic efficiency. 				
Link:	https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361165				
Application Submission	To apply for projects under the FCT Competitive Grant Program, interested parties should use FAA Form 5100-144, titled Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Competitive Grant Project Information. This form is available online at: https://www.faa.gov/forms/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/1040623 . Applications will only be accepted electronically on FAA Form 5100-144 fillable PDF via email: 9-ARP-IIJAAirports@faa.gov .				
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://billaunchpad.com/ 				

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