

GRANT SPOTLIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RURAL AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM

The DOT is offering funds for early-stage infrastructure project development. This includes legal, technical, and financial assistance to advance infrastructure projects that may continue to be supported through DOT credit or grant programs.

Agency: Department of Transportation

Award: \$3.4 million over 2 years split into 5 to 10 grants. The maximum individual award is \$320,000.

Application deadline: Sept. 28. Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Match Requirement: none

Eligible applicants: communities with less than 150,000 residents

Application Tips

- You can apply again next year. If you don't get an award this year, you may apply again.
- If possible, leverage funding from other grant programs.
- Location and project should be specific. The solution to the problem does not need to be identified in the application.
- This program will not fund research studies that result in multiple projects.
- Applications cannot be saved in progress. It is best to type responses in a separate document and paste responses in the web form. Attachments to the application will not be allowed.

Resources

- [Grant opportunity - grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- [transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants](https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants)
- RuralandTribalTA@dot.gov

Eligible Recipients

- A unit of local government or political subdivision with a population less than 150,000 residents and is located outside of an urban area as determined by the Bureau of the Census;
- A state seeking to advance a project in an area with a population of less than 150,000 residents located outside of an urban area as determined by the Bureau of the Census;
- A federally recognized Indian Tribe;
- The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include those that are reasonably expected to qualify for certain DOT funding and financing programs. This eligibility expectation is beneficial to applicants because work completed using funding from this program may be referenced in applications for other DOT funding and financing programs which, if awarded, may continue to advance infrastructure projects. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- 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 (VM) studies
- Evaluations of costs to sustain the project
- Evaluation opportunities for private financing and project bundling

