



GRANT ALERT

April 25, 2023

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)

DEADLINE

Friday, August 18, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST

(Submitting agencies must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting the final application; the process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.)

PROGRAM NAME & LINK

[Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation \(PROTECT\) | US Department of Transportation](#)

DESCRIPTION

The US DOT Federal program provides discretionary grants to support projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail. Projects should support the continued operation or rapid recovery of crucial local, regional, or national surface transportation facilities. Projects in the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program have the potential to demonstrate innovation and best practices that State and local governments in other parts of the country can consider replicating.

There are four categories of funding under the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program. One category is for Planning Grants. The other three categories are for Resilience Improvement, Community Resilience and Evacuation Routes, and At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure projects, and are collectively referred to as Resilience Grants.

What's New this Round? N/A. This is the first funding round for the PROTECT Grant Program.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants (differs with grant type)

Planning Grants, Resilience Improvement Grants, and Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants

- States
- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs)
- Local governments
- Special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority
- Federally recognized Tribal government
- Federal Land Management agency may be eligible if the agency applies with a State or group of States.
- A multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities

At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants

- A State (including the U.S. Territories Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) in, or bordering on, the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the Great Lakes.
- Political subdivision of a State
- MPO
- Local government
- Special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority
- Federally recognized Tribal government
- Federal Land Management agency may be eligible if the agency applies with a State or group of States.
- A multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities

Projects

Planning Grants

- In the case of a State or MPO, developing a Resilience Improvement Plan.
- Resilience planning, predesign, design, or the development of data tools to simulate transportation disruption scenarios, including vulnerability assessments.
- Technical capacity building by the eligible entity to facilitate the ability of the eligible entity to assess the vulnerabilities of the surface transportation assets and community response strategies of the eligible entity under current conditions and a range of potential future conditions.
- Evacuation planning and preparation.

Resilience Improvement Grant

- One or more construction activities to improve the ability of an existing surface transportation asset to withstand one or more elements of a weather event or natural disaster, or to increase the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of changing conditions, such as sea level rise, flooding, wildfires, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters.

Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grant

- One or more projects that strengthen and protect evacuation routes that are essential for providing and supporting evacuations caused by emergency events.

At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants

- Projects that address the risks from a current or future weather event or natural disaster, including coastal flooding, coastal erosion, wave action, storm surge, or sea level change, and that reduce long-term infrastructure costs by avoiding larger future maintenance or rebuilding costs.

FUNDING

General

For FY 2022 and FY 2023, up to \$848 million is available for Grant Program awards under this notice. Of this amount, up to \$45 million is available for Planning Grants; up to \$638 million is available for Resilience Improvement Grants; up to \$45 million is available for Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants; and up to \$120 million is available for At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants.

Cost-Sharing

For Planning Grants, the Federal share of an eligible planning activity shall be 100 percent.

For Resilience Grants, the Federal share of an eligible project shall not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the project, with some exceptions.

Reduction of Non-Federal Share for Resilience Grants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an Indian Tribe receives a Resilience Improvement Grant and Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grant or At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants, on the determination of the Secretary of US DOT, the Federal share of an eligible project may be up to 100 percent. • 3% Reduction in Non-Federal Share if Resilience Improvement Plan is incorporated in other planning. • 7% Reduction in Non-Federal Share if project is prioritized in a Resilience Improvement Plan.
--	--

<p style="text-align: center;">Planning Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum award size of \$100,000 and no maximum award size. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Resilience Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three categories: Resilience Improvements, Community Resilience and Evacuation Routes, and At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Projects • Minimum award size of \$500,000 and no maximum award size. • FHWA anticipates awarding between 30 to 40 Resilience Grants.
--	---

SELECTION CRITERIA

<p style="text-align: center;">Planning Grants</p> <p>Merit Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program alignment • Schedule and budget • Public engagement, partnerships, and collaboration • Innovation 	<p style="text-align: center;">Resilience Grants</p> <p>Merit Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability and risk • Criticality to community • Design elements • Public engagement, partnerships, and collaboration • Equity and Justice40 • Climate Change and sustainability • Schedule and budget • Innovation
---	--

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

Selected projects will be funded with either FFY 2022 or FFY 2023 funds. Awards funded with FFY 2022 funds must be obligated, via a signed grant agreement between FHWA and the recipient, by September 30, 2025. Awards funded with FFY 2023 funds must be obligated via a signed grant agreement by September 30, 2026. Funding expenditure deadlines for FFY 2022 and 2023 funds will be documented in the grant agreement depending on the fund source. To determine whether a project selected to receive a PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program award will be funded with FFY 2022 or FFY 2023 funds, FHWA will consider

the estimated project start date provided in the application. Funds will be assigned after the announcement of the award during the grant agreement process.

PENNDOT ROLE

PennDOT Emphasis

PennDOT continues to prepare for and anticipate the consequences of extreme weather events and natural disasters on the Commonwealth's transportation network. The PROTECT grant program provides PennDOT, and its planning partners, the opportunity to plan for extreme weather events and to aid in constructing resilient infrastructure. Extreme weather events and natural disasters are an ever more present threat to the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure. Preparing for its impacts and constructing more resilient infrastructure is extremely important in ensuring the Commonwealth's transportation network can weather the storm in an extreme weather event.

PennDOT Support

Transportation Federal Funding Opportunities
Resource Account:

RA-PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov

PennDOT will consider providing support for regionally supported grant proposals as applicable. PennDOT support may include providing data and subject matter expertise as available.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is August 4, 2023.