

# GRANT ALERT

May 15, 2024

## FY 24 Stage 1 Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART)

DEADLINE	PROGRAM NAME & LINK
<p><b>Friday, July 12, 2024, 5:00 p.m. EST</b> <i>(Applications must be submitted via Valid Eval)</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program   US Department of Transportation</a></p>
DESCRIPTION	
<p>The SMART grant program from USDOT aims to provide grants to eligible entities to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety. The program funds projects that are focused on using technology interventions to solve real-world challenges and build data and technology capacity and expertise in the public sector.</p> <p>The SMART Grants Program includes two stages: Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping Grants (Stage 1 Grants) and Stage 2 Implementation Grants (Stage 2 Grants). The current Notice of Funding Opportunity is for Stage 1 grants with the Stage 2 Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity to be released in the near future.</p> <p><b>What’s New this Round?</b> Two Stage grant program as noted above, with updates of sections from the 2023 Grant Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section D.2 asks applicants to provide the Lead Applicant City, State, Zip Code, and County (Questions #3, #4, #5, and #6).</li> <li>• Section D.2 asks applicants to provide a One Sentence Description and provides further detail on what should be included in the Brief Project Description (Questions #14 and #15).</li> <li>• Section D.2 provides further considerations for determining the Size of Community Receiving Benefit (Question #19).</li> <li>• Section D.2 adds Cambridge, MA, as a potential location for required in-person meetings.</li> <li>• Section E.1 asks applicant to include consideration for transportation insecurity when outlining the project's Expected Benefits (Technical Merit Criterion #3).</li> <li>• Section F.3 describes the requirements of a data management plan.</li> <li>• Section F.4 adds guidelines and requirements for grant recipients employing project signage and public acknowledgements.</li> </ul>	

## ELIGIBILITY

### Applicants

- State government
- Political subdivision of a State
- Federally recognized Tribal government
- Public transit agency or authority
- Public toll authority
- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs)
- Group of two or more eligible entities listed above applying through a single lead applicant (Group Application)

### Projects

The SMART Grants Program funds multiple technology areas, as listed below. Projects must demonstrate at least one technology area and may demonstrate more than one technology area, including:

- Coordinated Automation
- Connected Vehicles
- Intelligent, Sensor-Based Infrastructure
- Systems Integration
- Commerce Delivery and Logistics
- Leveraging Use of Innovative Aviation Technology
- Smart Grid
- Smart Technology Traffic Signals

## FUNDING

### General

- Up to \$100 million is expected to be awarded for FFY 2024.
  - Up to \$50 million available for Stage 1 grants (current Notice of Funding Opportunity)
  - Up to \$50 million available for Stage 2 grants associated with Notice of Funding Opportunity to be released in 2024.
- Anticipated award of up to 30 Stage 1 grants of up to \$2 million per award
- Minimum award size of \$250,000 for Stage 1 grants

### Cost-Sharing

- Cost sharing or matching is **NOT** required for Stage I: Planning and Prototyping.
- While an applicant may provide a local funding contribution, it will not make a Stage 1 application more competitive. If the applicant submits an application with a voluntary match and their project is chosen, they will be required to provide the match as stated in their application.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Stage 1 SMART Grant awards will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Technical Merit Criteria
  - Criterion 1 - Identification and understanding of the problem to be solved.
  - Criterion 2 – Appropriateness of proposed solution
  - Criterion 3 – Expected benefits
- Project Readiness Selection Criteria
  - Criterion 1 – Feasibility of workplan
  - Criterion 2 – Community engagement and partnerships

- Criterion 3 – Leadership and qualifications
- Community Impact
  - Criteria 1 – Benefit to disadvantaged communities

## PROJECT TIMEFRAME

USDOT expects to obligate SMART award funding via a signed grant agreement between the Department and the recipient as flexibly and expeditiously as possible. USDOT expects that recipients will be ready for a signed grant agreement no later than six (6) months after the announcement of awards, and recipients must fully liquidate grant funds by the end of the project’s period of performance. If a recipient is unable to meet either of these deadlines, USDOT may deobligate and/or reallocate any such funds. The expected period of performance for Stage 1 SMART grant agreements is up to 18 months.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES

### Departmental Priorities

USDOT priorities for the SMART Grant Program include the following:

- Safety
- Equity
- Transformation
- Climate change and sustainability
- Workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation

### SMART Grants Program Priorities

SMART Grants seek to provide significant benefits in the following categories:

- Safety and reliability
- Resiliency
- Equity and access
- Climate
- Partnerships
- Integration

## PENNDOT ROLE

### PennDOT Emphasis

PennDOT continues to promote technology innovations for the safe and efficient performance of the transportation network. The Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grant provides PennDOT, and its partners, the opportunity to continue to address safety, reliability, and mobility by utilizing advanced and emerging technologies to solve transportation issues.

### Submitting an Application for the SMART Grant Program

Prior to developing an application for the SMART Grant Program, potential applicants in Pennsylvania are asked to contact the PennDOT Transformational Technology Division in order to refine the project concept and coordinate efforts around the State. If you plan on submitting a project for the SMART Grant Program, please reach out to Derrick Herrmann ([deherrmann@pa.gov](mailto:deherrmann@pa.gov)).