

GRANT ALERT

July 8, 2024

Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program

DEADLINE	PROGRAM NAME & LINK
<p>Monday, September 30, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST <i>(Applications must be submitted via Valid Eval, an online proposal submission system used by USDOT.)</i></p>	<p>Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program US Department of Transportation</p>
DESCRIPTION	
<p>This discretionary grant program purpose is to advance community-centered transportation connection projects, with a priority for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, that improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster equitable development and restoration, and to provide technical assistance to further these goals.</p> <p>The Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program provides technical assistance and grant funding for planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve people’s lives.</p> <p>What’s New this Round?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program is now closed as all NAE funds were expended during the FY23 grant cycle. 	
ELIGIBILITY	
<p style="text-align: center;">Applicants</p> <p>RCP Community Planning Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State government Local government Tribal government Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Non-profit organization <p>RCP Capital Construction Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owner(s) of the eligible facility proposed in the project for which all necessary feasibility studies 	<p style="text-align: center;">Projects</p> <p>RCP Community Planning Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public engagement activities, including community visioning or other place-based strategies for public input into project plans. Planning studies to assess the feasibility of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing eligible dividing facility to reconnect communities. Other planning activities in advance of the project. <p>RCP Capital Construction Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary and detailed design activities and associated environmental studies.

<p>and other planning activities have been completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A partnership between a facility owner and any eligible RCP Community Planning Grant applicant 	<p>predevelopment / preconstruction; permitting activities including the completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).</p>
---	--

FUNDING

<p style="text-align: center;">General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$607 million for FY 2024 – FY 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY 2024 - \$200 million ○ FY 2025 - \$202 million ○ FY 2026 - \$205 million • Planning Grants and Technical Assistance funding - \$150 million total for FY 2024 – FY 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$50 million annually ○ Award maximum of \$2 million • Capital Construction Grant funding \$457 million total for FY 2024 – FY 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Award minimum of \$5 million • If additional funding is provided for the RCP program during FY 2024 or FY 2025, DOT intends to use those funds for projects selected to receive a grant under this NOFO. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cost-Sharing</p> <p>RCP Community Planning Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants may be used for up to 80% of total eligible project costs. <p>RCP Capital Construction Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants may be used for up to 50% of total eligible project costs. • Other Federal funds may be used to bring the total Federal share up to a maximum of 80% of the total cost of the project.
--	---

SELECTION CRITERIA

<p style="text-align: center;">Project Criteria</p> <p>All RCN Applications will be evaluated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merit Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equity and Justice40 ○ Access ○ Facility Suitability ○ Community Engagement and Community-based Stewardship, Management, and Partnerships ○ Equitable Development ○ Climate Change Mitigation and/or Adaptation and Resilience ○ Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity ○ Planning Integration • Project Readiness • Benefit-Cost Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required for RCP Capital Construction Projects but not necessary for Community Planning Grants

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

RCP Program grant funds are available until expended. However, to ensure that projects are started and completed in an efficient manner, DOT encourages all projects awarded with FY 2024 RCP Program grant funds to be obligated by September 30, 2027. DOT encourages all projects awarded with FY 2025 RCP Program grant funds to be obligated by September 30, 2028. DOT encourages all projects awarded with FY 2026 RCP Program grant funds to be obligated by September 30, 2029. DOT retains the right to prioritize projects for selection that are most likely to achieve this timeline and choose from which source to award funds to recipients, as applicable. If additional funding is provided for the RCP program during FY 2024, FY 2025, or FY 2026, applicants selected will be informed of the obligation and expenditure deadlines.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Application Submission

Applications must be submitted via Valid Eval, an online proposal submission system used by USDOT, at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/rcp_community_planning_fy24/signup for Community Planning Grants, and at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/rcp_capital_construction_fy24/signup for Capital Construction Grants.

PENNDOT ROLE

PennDOT Emphasis

PennDOT, primarily through PennDOT Connects, places a high priority on the relationship between improved transportation and better communities. This includes but is not limited to integrated transportation and land use planning and efforts to ensure that mobility and access support the many facets of quality of life. Transportation planning and programming and project development should maximize community interests to the greatest extent possible.

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 offering data and subject matter expertise as available.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is September 16, 2024.