

GRANT ALERT

October 26, 2022

Thriving Communities Program

DEADLINE	PROGRAM NAME & LINK
<p style="text-align: center;">Capacity Builders Tuesday, November 22, 2022, 11:59 p.m. EST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Letters of Interest Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 11:59 p.m. EST</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting the final application; the process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Thriving Communities Program - Capacity Builders US Department of Transportation</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Thriving Communities - Letters of Interest US Department of Transportation</u></p>
DESCRIPTION	
<p>This discretionary grant program was authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for the purpose of ensuring disadvantaged communities adversely and/or disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes have the technical tools and organizational capacity to comprehensively plan for and deliver quality infrastructure projects and community development projects that enable their communities and neighborhoods to thrive. The Thriving Communities Program (TCP) will provide technical assistance, planning and capacity building support to advance transportation and community revitalization activities that increase mobility, reduce pollution from transportation sources, expand affordable transportation and housing options, improve health outcomes, facilitate efficient land use, preserve or expand jobs, and enhance connections to health care, education, and food security to benefit disadvantaged populations and communities.. The TCP will also support and build local capacity to improve project acceleration, access to and management of federal funding, and deployment of local hiring, workforce development and inclusive community engagement practices (including persons with disabilities and limited English proficient individuals).</p> <p>Within the program, there are two separate response opportunities (individual application processes):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity Builders - Eligible applicants TO PROVIDE technical assistance, planning, or capacity building services to help disadvantaged communities. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Three Communities of Practice cohorts: Main Streets, Complete Neighborhoods, and Networked Communities. b. Receive grant funding 2. Letters of Interest (LOI) – applicants eligible TO RECEIVE TCP support. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Will receive assistance as a voluntary program with no obligation to apply for DOT grants. <p>What’s New this Round? N/A. This is the first funding round for the Thriving Communities Program.</p>	

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants

Capacity Builders

- State government
- Local government
- Tribal government
- Transit agencies
- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs)
- Philanthropic entities
- Other technical assistance providers with a demonstrated capacity to develop and provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building

Letters of Interest

- State government
- Local government
- Tribal government
- Political subdivision of a state or local government
- United States Territory
- Transit agencies
- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs)

Projects

Capacity Builders

Based on the three Communities of Practice Cohorts (Main Streets, Compete Neighborhoods & Networked Communities), development of:

- Technical assistance
- Planning
- Capacity building

Letters of Interest

Identify which **one** of the three Communities of Practice they would like to receive support:

- **Main Streets** – Focused on Tribal and rural communities and the interconnected transportation, housing, community, and economic development issues they face.
- **Complete Neighborhoods** – Focused on urban and suburban communities located within metropolitan areas working to better coordinate transportation with land use, housing, and economic development.
- **Networked Communities** – Focused on those communities located near ports, airports, freight, and rail facilities to address mobility, access, environmental justice, and economic issues including leveraging their proximity to these facilities for wealth-building and economic development opportunities.

FUNDING

General

- \$25 million to be obligated by September 30, 2024.

Capacity Builders

- Anticipated to award at least three separate cooperative agreements to Capacity Builders.
 - Range of award will be between \$3.5 million to \$6 million for each cooperative agreement.
 - DOT may select a Capacity Builder to specifically work with Tribal governments.

Letters of Interest

- Technical assistance to at least 30 communities.

Cost-Sharing

- No cost sharing or matching is required as a condition of eligibility under this competition. DOT will fund up to 100 percent of eligible project costs.

- Participation in DOT’s TCP is voluntary and does not obligate the awardee or recipients to apply for DOT grants or credit programs in the future, nor does participation offer preferential treatment to future applications or a guarantee of Federal funding.

APPLICATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

Capacity Builders

DOT will prioritize applicants who possess and successfully demonstrate expertise in at least one of the following optional areas, with a preference for multiple areas of expertise specifically working with and empowering disadvantaged communities and equitable transportation approaches:

- Innovative financing and leveraged funding approaches that address the unique challenges of under-resourced, low-tax base and credit-challenged communities.
- Community wealth building and economic development practices including community ownership models, apprenticeship, and business entrepreneurial programs.
- Strategies to nurture small and disadvantaged business participation and development including capacity building initiatives and facilitating supportive services within disadvantaged business enterprise community marketplaces.
- Conducting a mobility needs analysis, racial equity, or health equity analysis to evaluate transportation plans and proposals.
- Incorporating sustainable practices across the lifecycle of projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and operations and maintenance costs across the lifecycle of a project.
- Strategies to measure and mitigate natural hazards including flooding or the urban heat island effect, such as siting trees and implementing other nature-based solutions.

Letters of Interest

Model deployments are expected to provide benefits in the form of:

- Identify Thriving Community of Practice cohort
- Prepare Needs Statement
 - Describes the key challenges or needs that the identified community faces.
 - What technical or capacity challenges the applicant or community has faced when seeking Federal funding or delivering transportation projects, or in trying to coordinate infrastructure projects with broader community and economic development efforts.
 - Any infrastructure projects that may be planned or underway, and specific or anticipated challenges your team may face in funding or implementing these projects (if applicable).
- Prepare Vision Statement
 - Community and/or organizational goals to be advanced through participation in the TCP.
 - Why the key community partners were chosen and how the assembled team will be able to successfully work together to meet identified goals.
 - Ways in which traditionally underrepresented voices and community stakeholders, including but not limited to those with Limited English Proficiency and those with disabilities, will be engaged in the technical assistance, planning, and capacity building process throughout the two-year period.
- Complete Letter of Interest Worksheet and LOI Submission Form

- [LOI Worksheet](#)
- [LOI Submission Form](#)

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The estimated period of performance is two years, with obligation of funding by September 30, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Letters of Interest

Community Partner Letter of Commitment must be submitted by the two key community partners identified in the LOI. The letter is to be signed by the organizations’ executive director, commissioner, top elected official, or equivalent if the team is selected as a finalist to participate in TCP. Letters should clearly demonstrate that the partner is aware of its commitment to participate in TCP and must clearly describe:

- The specific anticipated role of the partner organization and nature of the relationship between the lead applicant and partner organization, including a brief description of past formal or informal partnerships, if applicable.
- If applicable, indicate whether your organization may be providing technical assistance, planning or capacity building support that could be directly supported by the TCP.
- The partner organization’s relationship to the identified disadvantaged community and, if applicable, its experience with engaging meaningfully with the community.

PENNDOT ROLE

PennDOT Emphasis

PennDOT continues to promote and provide technical assistance for its partners across the Commonwealth. The Thriving Communities Program provides PennDOT, and its partners, the opportunity to provide or receive additional technical assistance in planning and capacity building support to advance transportation and community revitalization activities. The Thriving Communities Program provides the opportunity for underserved communities to leverage the knowledge base of the Communities of Practice which will be formed by the program. This opportunity is extremely important as it aids communities who lack the staffing or technical expertise in scoping, funding and developing infrastructure projects. Providing the tools for local communities to drive innovation will strengthen infrastructure projects that address critical social, economic, environmental and mobility needs across the Commonwealth.

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.

PennDOT recognizes the potential this program has to significantly help communities and individuals and will consider how the Department might assist or collaborate with applicants to advance and strengthen competitive proposals. PennDOT will also collaborate with other state agencies where there may be an interest in this program.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is two weeks prior to the application deadline.