




A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program

On April 13, 2021 the U.S. DOT announced the availability of \$1 billion in infrastructure funding in FY 2021 through **RAISE Discretionary Grants** to modernize and create new American infrastructure. The **RAISE Program** was formally known as **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)** during the Trump administration and **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)** during the Obama administration. As reported by the DOT, the program has awarded approximately \$8.9 billion in grants to nearly 680 projects in all 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico since 2009.

What are RAISE Grants?

Projects considered for RAISE funding will be evaluated based on varying criteria—safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. The DOT will prioritize selection of projects that demonstrate improvements to racial equity, reductions of climate change impacts, and the ability to create jobs. This current round of funding includes:

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- \$25 million** Maximum grant award
 - \$100 million** Maximum awarded per state
 - \$30 million** Maximum awarded for planning grants
 - \$10+ million** Planning grants for areas of persistent poverty*

*Counties with 20% or more of the population living in poverty over the 30 years preceding December 20, 2019

This is a competitive process and grant applications are due by July 12, 2021, 5pm.

The RAISE Program will provide much-needed financial support but requires a strategic and concerted effort to understand, identify, and to proactively position projects that not only meet eligibility but are most likely to secure funding. State agencies and municipalities that can get ahead of that curve will be positioned to compete for the limited capital many are vying for.

View our [Grant Assistance Capabilities](#) document, as well as the [grant workbook](#), for further details on how VHB can assist clients.