



## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

# Competitive Grant Programs That Will Benefit Communities

### Infrastructure Funding Opportunities for Local Governments

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 is a step forward towards helping our nation and communities remain competitive. The funds being allocated will provide our communities with the resources necessary to invest in the future, developing the critical infrastructure that will lay the foundation for economic growth.

In January 2022, the White House released the first edition of [Building A Better America](#), a bipartisan infrastructure law guidebook, to help state, local, and Tribal governments understand the resources that are available and programs included in the legislation. State and local governments can look forward to these new and expanded competitive grant programs that are anticipated to launch over the course of the next year. Please visit the [Building a Better America](#) site for a complete list of transportation, broadband and other select formula and grant programs in the bipartisan IJJA Act.



## Transportation Grants

### Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably and Equitably Grants (RAISE)

- » Department of Transportation (DOT) discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: \$7.5 billion for road, rail, transit, and other surface transportation of local and/or regional significance. FY2022 \$1.5 billion.
- » Projects will be evaluated for safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership, innovation, mobility, and community connectivity. The DOT will assess projects for universal design and accessibility and consider how proposals increase mobility for freight and supply chain efficiency.

**Application deadline: April 14, 2022.**

### Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants (PIDP)

- » DOT discretionary grant program administered by the U.S. Maritime Administration.
- » Funding: \$2 billion for projects that improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port to help alleviate supply chain bottlenecks, ensure long-term competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability while reducing impacts to the environment and neighboring communities. FY2022 \$450 million.
- » The program was expanded to include port electrification projects, idling reduction solutions, equipment charging infrastructure and worker training initiatives.

**Application deadline: May 16, 2022.**

### Safe Streets and Roads for All

- » New DOT discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: \$5 billion for local governments to support their efforts to advance “vision zero” plans and other complete street improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians.

**Application deadline: September 15, 2022.**

### **Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG)**

- » DOT discretionary grant program.
- » **Three major discretionary grant programs have been combined into one Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity.**
- » Funding: FY2022 \$2.9 billion for the [National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program \(Mega\)](#), the [Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program \(INFRA\)](#), and the [Rural Surface Transportation Grant program \(Rural\)](#). FY2022 \$1 billion Mega; \$1.64 billion INFRA; \$300 million Rural.
- » Mega, INFRA, and Rural funding opportunities will be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects, including highway and bridge, intercity passenger rail, railway-highway grade crossing or separation, wildlife crossing, public transportation, marine highway, freight projects, groups of projects with significant national or regional impact, or to improve and expand infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve safety, and generate regional economic growth.

**Application deadline: May 23, 2022.**

### **Low-No Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program**

- » DOT discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: FY2022 \$1.1 billion under the Low-No Program and approximately \$372 million under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program.
- » The Low-No Program provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.
- » The Buses and Bus Facilities Program is to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing, or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing, or leasing bus-related facilities.

**Application deadline: May 31, 2022.**

### **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants**

- » New DOT discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: \$2.5 billion for the strategic deployment of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure, as well as hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling infrastructure, along designated alternative fuel corridors and in communities.

**The DOT has issued an [RFI](#) and is seeking comments on the program.**

### **Clean School Bus Program**

- » New Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: \$5 billion to replace existing school buses with low- or zero-emission school buses.

**Applications will be made available at the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the second quarter of 2022.**

### **Reconnecting Communities**

- » New DOT discretionary grant program.
- » Funding: \$1 billion to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure, particularly historically disadvantaged communities that were nearly destroyed or cut in half by a highway. The funds can be used by state, local, metropolitan planning organizations, and tribal governments for planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure to address these legacy impacts.

**Funding opportunities will be released in the Summer 2022.**



## **Climate | Energy | Environment Grants**

### **Brownfields Remediation Program**

- » Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant program.
- » Funding: \$1.2 billion for communities to assess and safely clean-up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties and offer job training programs.

**Funding opportunities will be announced in the spring of 2022.**

### **Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs**

- » New DOE program.
- » Funding: \$8 billion to support the development of at least four regional clean hydrogen hubs to improve clean hydrogen production, processing, delivery, storage, and end use.

**Applications will open in the summer of 2022.**

### **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program**

- » Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant program.
- » Funding: \$1 billion to support communities undertaking hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks they face from disasters and other natural hazards.

**Applications are expected to open by September 30, 2022.**

### Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant

- » FEMA grant program.
- » Funding: \$3.5 billion for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the [National Flood Insurance Program](#).

**Applications are expected to open by September 30, 2022.**

### Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) Program

- » New Department of Energy (DOE) block grant program.
- » Funding: \$550 million to states, local governments, and tribes for projects that reduce energy use, increase energy efficiency, and cut pollution.

**Funding opportunities will be released in the fall of 2022.**

### **Grants for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements in Schools**

- » New DOE grant program.
- » Funding: \$500 million in funds for local government education agencies and nonprofit partners to make energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean vehicle upgrades and improvements at public schools.

**Applications are expected to be open in the fall of 2022.**

### **Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas**

- » New DOE grant program.
- » Funding: \$1 billion to entities in rural or remote areas (defined as cities, towns, or unincorporated areas with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants) to increase environmental protection from the impacts of energy use and improve resilience, reliability, safety, and availability of energy.

**Applications are expected to be open in the fall of 2022.**

### **Grants for Energy Efficiency and Resilience Code Adoption**

- » DOE grant program.
- » Funding: \$225 million to state energy agencies, in partnership with local building code agencies, codes and standards developers, utilities, and other entities, to enable sustained, cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes to save customers money on their energy bills.

**Applications are expected to be open in 2022.**



### **Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program**

- » New U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program.
- » Funding: \$1 billion in grants to communities at risk from wildfire to develop or revise their community wildfire protection plans and carry out projects described within those plans. It will include a mix of formula and competitive funds.

**Applications are expected to open in the first quarter of 2023.**



## **Broadband, Cyber, and Other Programs**

### **Emergency Watershed Protection Program**

- » USDA program.
- » Funding: \$300 million in technical and financial assistance to project sponsors for the design and construction of measures to help repair damages from a recent disaster. The program helps local communities relieve threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters that impair a watershed.

**Applications opened in February 2022.**

### **Water & Groundwater Storage and Conveyance**

- » Department of Interior program.
- » Funding: \$1 billion for water storage projects with capacity between 2,000 and 30,000 acre-feet as well as projects to transport water to or from surface water or groundwater storage.

**Applications will open in the spring of 2022.**

### **Middle Mile Grants Program**

- » New program at the Department of Commerce.
- » Funding: \$1 billion in grants for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile broadband infrastructure.

**Applications are expected to open in the second quarter of 2022.**

### **ReConnect Program**

- » USDA program.
- » Funding: \$2 billion in loans and grants for projects that provide broadband in rural areas.

**Applications are expected to open in the third quarter of 2022.**

### State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

- » New program at the Department of Homeland Security.
- » Funding: \$1 billion to state, local, and tribal governments to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems that they own or operate.

**Applications will open in the third quarter of 2022.**

### Smart Grid Investment Grant Program & Energy Sector Operational Support for Cyber Resilience Program

- » DOE programs.
- » Funding: \$3 billion Smart Grid Grant Program and \$50 million Energy Sector Operational Support for Cyber Resilience Program for electric utilities, including municipal and co-operative utilities, to modernize the electricity grid and increase resilience to cybersecurity threats.

**Applications for the Smart Grid program are expected to open by the end of 2022.**

**Applications for the Cyber Resilience program are expected to open in the Summer of 2022.**

## How VHB can Help

VHB has a strong understanding of the federal grant processes related to funding the planning, design, construction and operations of transportation services and infrastructure. We have worked with clients to prepare applications and secure competitive grants that have translated into substantial benefits for communities.

VHB is here to help you understand and navigate potential funding opportunities for your next project. Contact [Steve McElligott, PE](#), Transportation Agencies Market Leader, to learn more about our future-focused infrastructure solutions to provide for a sustainable, resilient, equitable future.

Learn more about the [IIJA Grant Funding Process](#) and [VHB's Grant experience](#).