



GRANT INSIGHTS

The purpose of the **Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program** is to support highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods. Such projects will improve the health and safety of communities, eliminate grade crossings that are frequently blocked by trains, and reduce the impacts that freight movement and railroad operations may have on underserved communities. Program funds are authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The agency intends to award projects aligned with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) strategic goals of improving safety; equity; climate and sustainability; workforce development; job quality; wealth creation; and transformation of our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

Federal Agency Name	U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
Funding Opportunity	Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program - FY23-24
NOFO Release Date	07/11/2024
Application Due Date	09/23/2024 by 11:59 p.m. EST via www.Grants.gov
# of Programs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Track 1—Project Planning 2. Track 2—Project Development 3. Track 3—Final Design (FD)/Construction
Total Funding Available	\$1,148,809,580
Award Minimum	\$1,000,000 (Except for Project Planning)
Award Maximum	N/A (No more than 20% of the grant funds available will be awarded to projects in any single State)
Recipient Cost-Share/ Match Requirements:	Applicants must provide at least 20% of the total project costs via non-federal matching contributions.
Summary	<p>Eligible Projects: (include, but are not limited to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade separation or closure; including through the use of a bridge, embankment, tunnel, or combination thereof • Track relocation • Improvement or installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures that improve safety, provided that such activities are related to a separation or relocation project • Other means to improve the safety and mobility of people and goods at highway-rail grade crossings, including technological solutions • A group of related projects described above that would collectively improve the mobility of people and goods • Planning, environmental reviews, and design of an eligible project described above <p>FRA will give preference to eligible projects that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Result in one or more grade separated crossings; 2. Close grade crossings through Track relocation; or 3. Result in corridor-wide grade crossing improvements.



<p>Eligible Applicants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States; District of Columbia; Puerto Rico; and other U.S. Territories • Political Subdivisions of a State • Federally Recognized Indian Tribes • Units of Local Government or Groups of Local Governments • Public Port Authorities • Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) • Groups of Eligible Entities <p>*An application may identify entities that are not eligible applicants as project partners. **Applicants are not limited in the number of projects for which they seek funding.</p>
<p>Special Considerations</p>	<p>Planning Project Set-Aside: at least 3% of the total grant funds available, or \$38,281,580; and of this set-aside, \$10,840,000 will be made available for planning projects located in Rural Areas or on Tribal Lands.</p> <p>Rural or Tribal Set-Aside: at least 20% of the total grant funds available, or \$229,305,600; and of this set-aside, at least 5%, or \$11,465,280 will be made available for projects in counties of 20 or fewer residents per square mile according to the most recent decennial census.</p> <p>FRA will consider a project to be in a Rural Area or on Tribal Lands if all or the majority of the project (determined by geographic location[s] where the majority of the project funds will be spent) is located in a Rural Area or on Tribal Lands.</p> <p>Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Information and Education Projects Set-Aside: at least \$3,000,000</p> <p>Applicants are strongly encouraged to use FRA's Justice40 Rail Explorer Tool when assessing their proposed project's potential benefits and burdens, and which communities would ultimately experience them. This tool provides GIS information on existing rail infrastructure, communities, and pollution levels based on the proposed project's location, which can be used to note how a project's location scores across several different categories.</p>
<p>Notes</p>	<p>Applications for multiple Lifecycle Stages of a Capital Project are not precluded, but FRA generally expects applicants to identify one of the three Project Tracks.</p> <p>Evaluation Criteria of Project Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves safety at Highway-Rail or Pathway-Rail Grade Crossings; • Proposes to grade, separate, eliminate, or close one or more Highway-Rail or Pathway-Rail Grade Crossings; • Improves the mobility of both people and goods; • Reduces emissions; protects the environment; and provides community benefit, including noise reduction; • Improves access to emergency services and communities; • Provides economic benefit; and • Uses contracting incentives to employ local labor, to the extent permissible under federal law <p>A list of previously awarded FY22 RCE Program Projects can be found on the USDOT - FRA website: Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program Program FY2022 Selections FRA (dot.gov)</p>
<p>Contact Information</p>	<p>FRA NOFO Support Staff Email: FRA-NOFO-Support@dot.gov Name: Ms. Jenny Zeng - Transportation Industry Analyst (USDOT - FRA) Email/Phone: Jenny.Zeng@dot.gov (preferred); and (857) 330-2481</p>

