



## GRANT INSIGHTS

The purpose of the **Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program** is to reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity—including to mobility, access, or economic development. The RCP Grant Program provides grant funding and technical assistance for community planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve peoples' lives. Program funds are authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

<b>Federal Agency Name</b>	<b>U.S. Department of Transportation - 69A345 Office of the Under Secretary for Policy</b>
<b>Funding Opportunity</b>	<b>Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program</b>
<b>NOFO Release Date</b>	07/03/2024
<b>Application Due Date</b>	09/30/2024 by 11:59 p.m. EST via <a href="#">Valid Eval</a>
<b># of Programs:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Planning Grants</li> <li>2. Capital Construction Grants</li> </ol>
<b>Total Funding Available</b>	\$607,000,000
<b>Award Minimum</b>	Community Planning: N/A Capital Construction: \$5,000,000
<b>Award Maximum</b>	Community Planning: \$2,000,000 Capital Construction: \$100,000,000
<b>Recipient Cost-Share/ Match Requirements:</b>	Community Planning: 80% RCP funds and 20% local match Capital Construction: 50% RCP funds and 50% local match. Other Federal funds may be used to bring the total Federal share up to a maximum of 80%.
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Community Planning: to fund the study of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing facility to restore community connectivity; conduct public engagement, and other transportation planning activities and costs, including but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public engagement activities for public input and meaningful involvement into project plans;</li> <li>2. Feasibility studies to assess traffic patterns, alternative roadway designs, or the project's anticipated community impacts;</li> <li>3. Conceptual preliminary engineering, or design and planning studies that support the environmental review for a construction project; or</li> <li>4. Associated needs such as locally driven land use and zoning reform, transit-oriented development, or climate resilience and sustainability.</li> </ol> <p>Capital Construction: to remove, retrofit, mitigate, or replace an existing eligible facility with a new facility that reconnects communities; activities include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary and detailed design activities and associated environmental studies; preconstruction; construction; permitting activities; completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process; meaningful public involvement throughout the project delivery process; delivering community benefits and the mitigation of impacts identified through the NEPA process or other planning and project development for the project.</li> </ul>





<p><b>Eligible Applicants</b></p>	<p>Community Planning Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State; Unit of Local Government; Tribal Government; Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); or Non-Profit Organization</li> </ul> <p>Capital Construction Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner(s) of the eligible facility proposed in the project for which all necessary feasibility studies and other planning activities have been completed; or owner(s) of an eligible facility may submit a joint application with an eligible Community Planning Grant applicant.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special Considerations</b></p>	<p>The agency will prioritize projects that benefit disadvantaged communities; improve access to jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation; foster equitable development and restoration; and reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating barriers to connectivity and mobility. DOT encourages joint applications from place-based partnerships headed by a lead applicant. A lead applicant may submit no more than three applications. Unrelated project components (spatially or functionally unrelated) should not be bundled in a single application for the purpose of adhering to the limit. If a lead applicant submits more applications, only the last three received will be reviewed.</p>
<p><b>Notes</b></p>	<p>Eligible Facilities - Community Planning Grants and Capital Construction Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined as a highway or other surface transportation facility that creates a barrier to community connectivity—including barriers to mobility, access, or economic development—due to high speeds, grade separations, or other design factors. Eligible facilities may include limited access highways, viaducts, any other principal arterial facilities, and other facilities such as transit lines and rail lines.</li> </ul> <p>Technical Assistance: Potential applicants who are interested in pursuing a “reconnecting project,” but are not prepared to apply, can submit a request for technical assistance. These potential applicants are encouraged to submit a request for technical assistance through the Reconnecting Communities Institute (RCI). An RCI technical assistance opportunity is to participate in a “Reconnecting Communities Community of Practice,” which provides an interactive training opportunity to advance the planning and delivery of projects intended to reconnect communities.</p> <p>Merit Criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Equity and Justice40 Initiative</li> <li>2. Access</li> <li>3. Facility Suitability</li> <li>4. Community Engagement and Community-Based Stewardship, Management, and Partnerships</li> <li>5. Equitable Development</li> <li>6. Climate Change Mitigation and/or Adaptation and Resilience</li> <li>7. Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity</li> <li>8. Planning Integration</li> </ol> <p>A list of previously awarded FY23 RCP Grant Program Projects can be found on the USDOT - FRA website: <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/reconnecting">Reconnecting Communities FY23 Awards   US Department of Transportation</a></p>
<p><b>Contact Information</b></p>	<p>Name/Email: RCP Grant Program Staff - <a href="mailto:ReconnectingCommunities@dot.gov">ReconnectingCommunities@dot.gov</a>  Name/Email: Andrew Emanuele - <a href="mailto:andrew.emanuele@dot.gov">andrew.emanuele@dot.gov</a>  Name/Email: Program FAQs - <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/reconnecting">https://www.transportation.gov/reconnecting</a></p>

