



## GRANT INSIGHTS

The purposes of the **Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program** are 1) to advance community-centered transportation connection projects, with a priority for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities; improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation; and foster equitable development and restoration; and 2) to provide technical assistance to further these goals. Program funds are authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

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.

<b>Federal Agency Name</b>	<b>U.S. Department of Transportation - Office of the Secretary of Transportation</b>
<b>Funding Opportunity</b>	<b>Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program - Pending FY24 Release</b>
<b>NOFO Release Date</b>	TBD (FY23 NOFO was released 07/05/2023)
<b>Application Due Date</b>	TBD (FY23 Application was due 09/28/2023) via Valid Eval
<b># of Programs:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program</li> <li>2. Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program</li> </ol>
<b>Total Funding Available</b>	TBD (FY23 Total was \$3,353,000,000)
<b>Award Minimum</b>	TBD (FY23 RCP-funded Capital Construction Grants: \$5M; no minimum for NAE awards)
<b>Award Maximum</b>	TBD (FY23 RCP-funded Community Planning Grants: \$2M; no maximum for NAE awards)
<b>Recipient Cost-Share/ Match Requirements:</b>	<p><b>RCP Community Planning Grants:</b> 20%</p> <p><b>RCP Capital Construction Grants:</b> 50% (Other Federal funds may be used to bring the total Federal share up to a maximum of 80% of the total project costs)</p> <p><b>NAE Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants:</b> 20% (Projects in a disadvantaged or underserved community do not require a local match)</p>
<b>Summary</b>	<p>If eligible, applications may receive funding from RCP and/or NAE programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RCP Community Planning Grants:</b> for planning activities for future construction projects and allow for innovative community planning to address localized transportation challenges.</li> <li>• <b>RCP Capital Construction Grants:</b> a project to remove, retrofit, mitigate, or replace an existing eligible dividing transportation facility with a new facility that reconnects communities; mitigates a burdening transportation facility that is a source of air pollution, noise, stormwater, heat, or other burdens; or implements a strategy to reduce environmental harm and/or improve access through transportation improvements.</li> <li>• <b>NAE Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants:</b> a project led by two or more eligible applicants to address a persistent regional challenge related to equitable access and mobility. Eligible activities are the same as those listed under Capital Construction and Community Planning Grants but must have a regional focus, and clearly demonstrate regional coordination and leveraging of local, State, and Federal resources and policies.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Eligible Applicants</b></p>	<p><b>RCP Community Planning Grants:</b></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><b>RCP Capital Construction Grants:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Owner(s) of the eligible facility proposed in the project for which adequate planning activities such as public involvement, user data evaluation, and conceptual design have been complete; or</li> <li>2. A partnership between a facility owner (#1 above) and any eligible RCP Community Planning Grant applicant.</li> </ol> <p><b>NAE Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State or Territory of the United States; Unit of Local Government; Political Subdivision of a State; Tribal Government; Special Purpose District or Public Authority with a transportation function; Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); or</li> <li>• Non-profit Organization or Institution of Higher Education that has entered a partnership with an eligible entity above and is applying for a grant for planning and capacity-building activities in disadvantaged or underserved communities.</li> </ul> <p><i>*If statutory requirements are met, applicants to the RCN Program will be considered for both the RCP and NAE programs, unless the applicant opts out from consideration for both.</i></p>
<p><b>Special Considerations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants are encouraged to submit applications meeting statutory requirements for both programs to maximize their potential for receiving Federal support.</li> <li>• DOT encourages joint applications from place-based partnerships headed by a lead applicant. A lead applicant may submit no more than three applications for RCP Community Planning Grants, two for RCP Capital Construction Grants, and one for NAE Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Notes</b></p>	<p><b>RCP-Eligible Facilities</b> - Community Planning and Capital Construction Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed project must address an "eligible facility," which is defined as a highway or other 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, rail lines, gas pipelines, and airports.</li> </ul> <p><b>NAE-Eligible Facilities</b> - Community Planning, Capital Construction, and Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants</p> <p>The proposed project may address one of two "eligible facilities":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Dividing Facility: a surface transportation facility that creates an obstacle to community connectivity by high speeds, grade separation, or other design factors; or</li> <li>2. A Burdening Facility: a surface transportation facility that is a source of air pollution, noise, stormwater, heat, or other burden to a disadvantaged or underserved community.</li> </ol> <p>A list of previously awarded FY23 RCN Program Projects can be found on the USDOT - FRA website: <a href="#">Reconnecting Communities FY23 Awards   US Department of Transportation</a></p>
<p><b>Contact Information</b></p>	<p>Name/Email: RCN 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: Tameka Macon-Ryan - <a href="mailto:tameka.maconryan@dot.gov">tameka.maconryan@dot.gov</a></p>

