

FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program

Office of the Secretary

US Department of Transportation (DOT)

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A. Basic Information

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, November 15, 2021, IIJA) authorized and appropriated \$1.5 billion to be awarded by the Department of Transportation (“DOT”) for FY 2026 for Local and Regional Project Assistance Program Grants under National Infrastructure Investments. The program is codified at 49 U.S.C. 6702.

IIJA requires the DOT to publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) no later than 60 days after enactment, which is November 30, 2025. In order to comply with this requirement, this (NOFO) solicits applications for projects to be funded under the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program, known as the BUILD Grants program.

The Department intends to amend this NOFO to provide more details on application requirements.

Basic Information: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)	
Announcement Type	Notice of Funding Opportunity
Funding Opportunity Title	FY 2026 National Infrastructure Investments
Funding Opportunity Number	DTOS59-26-RA-BUILD
Assistance Listing Number	20.933
Objective	The goal of the program is to fund projects that will have a significant local or regional impact and improve transportation infrastructure.
Program Overview	BUILD grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, per statute, for planning or constructing surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation.
Funding	\$1.5 billion in FY 2026 IIJA funds
Minimum Award Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 million for rural capital projects • \$5 million for urban capital projects • Planning projects do not have a minimum award size
Maximum Award Size	\$25 million
Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States and the District of Columbia • Any territory or possession of the United States • A unit of local government • A public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States • A special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority • A Federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes • A transit agency • A multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities that are separately eligible

Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highway or bridge projects eligible under title 23; • public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 title 49; • passenger and freight rail transportation projects; • port infrastructure investments including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry; • the surface transportation components of an airport project eligible for assistance under part B of subtitle VII; • project investing in surface transportation facilities located on Tribal land, the title or maintenance responsibility of which is vested in the Federal Government; • projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species that will advance the goal of the program; • intermodal projects whose components are otherwise an eligible project type; • any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program
Submission Requirements and Deadlines	<p>Applications must be submitted online no later than 5:00 pm eastern on February 24, 2026.</p> <p>Complete instructions on how to apply will be posted at grants.gov and the BUILD program website</p> <p>Selections are expected to be announced no later than June 28, 2026</p>
Prior Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For FY 2025 BUILD Round 2, the Department received 815 eligible applications requesting over \$10 billion • 30 projects were awarded a total of \$488 million • Awards were made to projects in 27 states <p>Awards ranged from \$239,000 to \$25 million</p>
Agency Contact Information	<p>Email: BUILDgrants@dot.gov</p> <p>Website: https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants</p>

B. Eligibility

To be selected for a BUILD grant, an applicant must be an Eligible Applicant and the project must be an Eligible Project.

1. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible BUILD grant applicants are:

- States and the District of Columbia
- Any territory or possession of the United States
- A unit of local government
- A public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States
- A special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority
- A Federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes
- A transit agency
- A multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities that are separately eligible

The following are **not** eligible BUILD grant applicants:

- Federal agencies
- Non-profits
- Private entities
- Individuals

Multiple states or jurisdictions may submit a joint application, designating a lead applicant as the primary contact and award recipient. The application should outline each applicant's roles and responsibilities.

DOT expects the applicant to manage and deliver the project. If the applicant plans to transfer the award to another agency, this should be stated in the application, along with a supporting letter from the designated entity.

2. MINIMUM FUNDING REQUEST FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital Grants	Minimum Request
Rural Areas	\$1 million
Urban Areas	\$5 million

Applicants submitting capital grant applications for projects located in rural areas must request at least \$1 million in BUILD funding. Applicants submitting capital grant applications for projects located in urban areas must request at least \$5 million in BUILD funding. **Failure to request the minimum funding amount for a capital grant application will result in the application being ineligible.**

There is **no minimum funding** request requirement for planning grant applications.

3. COST SHARING

Cost sharing means the portion of the project's cost that is not paid by Federal funds. Cost share funds are typically stated as a percentage of the total project cost.

Project Location	Cost Share Requirement
Urban	Up to 80% Federal Funding
Rural	Up to 100% Federal Funding
Area of Persistent Poverty	
Historically Disadvantaged Community	

The Federal share for BUILD grant projects **shall not exceed 80 percent** unless the project receives one of the following location designations (see Location Designations for definitions):

- Rural
- Area of Persistent Poverty (APP) / Historically Disadvantaged Community (HDC)

Applicants with projects located in one of the designated areas above are eligible to fund the project up to 100 percent with Federal funding. Projects located in an **urban area**, that are not designated APP/HDC, that have **more than 80 percent federal funding will be ineligible**.

Applicants should use the following equation when determining the cost share for their project:

$$\frac{(\text{BUILD Grant Request} + \text{Other Federal Funds})}{\text{Total Project Cost}} = \text{Federal Cost Share}$$

Total Project Cost means the sum of future eligible Federal and non-Federal costs yet to be incurred.

Eligible sources of non-Federal funds include:

- State funds originating from programs funded by State revenue
- Local funds originating from State or local revenue-funded programs
- Private funds
- Tribal transportation program funds under section 202 of title 23
- Federal lands transportation program funds under section 203 of title 23
- TIFIA program funds (as defined in section 601(a) of title 23)
- Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program under chapter 224
- Federal credit assistance (if repaid from non-Federal sources)

Toll credits under [23 U.S.C. 120\(i\)](#) are considered a Federal source under the BUILD program.