



Policy Update

October 6, 2022

US Congress – Congress is out until after the November 8th elections.

Grants - The U.S. Department of Transportation released the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) about its \$25M **Thriving Communities Program (TCP)** today (10/6). This is a new program through the Congressional appropriation process – not the IIJA. The goal of the TCP is to ensure disadvantaged communities adversely and/or disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes have the technical tools and organizational capacity to comprehensively plan for and deliver quality infrastructure projects and community development projects. The TCP will support and build local capacity to improve project acceleration, access to and management of federal funding, and deployment of local hiring, workforce development and inclusive community engagement practices.

The TCP will be administered through DOT's Build America Bureau's (Bureau).

TCP [Website](#).

Applications are due 11/22.

The NOFO can be found [here](#).

TCP allows DOT to prioritize support to rural, Tribal, and other disadvantaged communities.

Cooperative agreements between \$3.5 million and \$6 million will be awarded to up to six capacity building teams.

In its first year, TCP will provide deep-dive technical assistance to at least 30 communities. This will be done through cooperative agreements with eligible parties to help those communities with the highest degree of burden and capacity constraints prepare, develop, and deliver transformative infrastructure projects.

Interested applicants must identify community partners and together [submit a Letter of Interest](#) (LOI) by December 6, 2022, to be considered for selection.

Recipients of the technical assistance provided through TCP are state, local, or Tribal governments, United States territories, metropolitan planning organizations, regional transportation planning organizations, transit agencies, or other political subdivisions of state or local governments. DOT is establishing as a prerequisite to eligibility, that these governmental entities form coalitions, referred to as Community Partnerships (as described in the [LOI](#)), with organizations from within and outside the government that may also serve as local capacity building and technical assistance implementation partners and generate deeper community engagement particularly from historically under-represented populations and environmental justice stakeholders. This interested in receiving support will submit a letter in interest (LOI).

USDOT seeks applications from technical assistance, planning, and capacity building providers – henceforth referred to as Capacity Builders – to provide a spectrum of support to selected recipients. Capacity Builders include:

- Non-profit organizations

- State or local governments and their agencies (such as transit agencies or metropolitan planning organizations)
- Indian Tribes
- Philanthropic entities
- Other technical assistance providers with a demonstrated capacity to develop and provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building

This support includes:

- 1) Delivering individualized deep-dive technical assistance, planning, and capacity building to selected communities across pre-development and grant application activities through project development, project funding and financing, and project delivery.
- 2) Establishing and managing a national Community of Practice to advance policies, practices and projects informed by meaningful public involvement and partnership.
- 3) Providing targeted technical support as part of the national TCP capacity building network.

Selected Capacity Builders are expected to develop detailed work plans and budgets describing their scope of work and how the goals of the TCP will be met. Capacity Builders will provide short-term technical assistance necessary to recipient communities to develop integrated plans, advance projects, conduct pre-development activities and to build longer-term organizational and community capacity.

Capacity Builders will develop processes to engage with the selected recipients and their Community Partnerships to co-design a tailored scope of work and set of equitable development outcomes to be achieved over a two-year period of performance.

Link to upcoming webinars can be found [here](#).

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - Competitive Grant Programs | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

[Grants | US Department of Transportation](#)

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law | FTA \(dot.gov\)](#)

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - FHWA | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

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