



693JJ323NF00013

**Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving
Transportation (PROTECT) Program**
Department of Transportation
DOT Federal Highway Administration

GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Document Type: | Grants Notice |
| Funding Opportunity Number: | 693JJ323NF00013 |
| Funding Opportunity Title: | Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program |
| Opportunity Category: | Discretionary |
| Opportunity Category Explanation: | |
| Funding Instrument Type: | Grant |
| Category of Funding Activity: | Transportation |
| Category Explanation: | |
| Expected Number of Awards: | |
| CFDA Number(s): | 20.205 -- Highway Planning and Construction |
| Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: | Yes |

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| Version: | Synopsis 9 |
| Posted Date: | Apr 21, 2023 |
| Last Updated Date: | Apr 21, 2023 |
| Original Closing Date for Applications: | Aug 18, 2023 |
| Current Closing Date for Applications: | Aug 18, 2023 |
| Archive Date: | Sep 18, 2023 |
| Estimated Total Program Funding: | \$848,000,000 |
| Award Ceiling: | |
| Award Floor: | \$100,000 |

ELIGIBILITY

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| Eligible Applicants: | Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification) |
| Additional Information on Eligibility: | The PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program provides broad applicant eligibility for all levels of government to be direct recipients of funds. States, MPOs, local governments, and Indian Tribes can apply directly to FHWA. A Federal land management agency may be eligible if the agency applies jointly with a State or group of States. (See Section C for a complete list of eligible entities). FHWA encourages all eligible entities regardless of size, location, and experience administering Federal funding awards to apply for Federal assistance for Planning Grants and Resilience Grants under this NOFO. |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Agency Name: DOT Federal Highway Administration

Description:

Section 11405 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, Nov. 15, 2021), established the PROTECT Formula and Discretionary Grant programs, which are codified at 23 U.S.C. § 176. The purpose of the PROTECT Formula and Discretionary Grant programs is to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through formula and competitive discretionary grants. FHWA issued guidance for the formula portion of PROTECT in July 2022. This NOFO is for the discretionary portion of PROTECT. It will result in the distribution of up to \$848 million for the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program through a competitive discretionary grant process.[1] FHWA intends to hold future solicitations for funding available in FY 2024-2026.

The vision of the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program is to fund projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail. Projects selected under this program should be grounded in the best available scientific understanding of climate change risks, impacts, and vulnerabilities. They should support the continued operation or rapid recovery of crucial local, regional, or national surface transportation facilities. Furthermore, selected projects should utilize innovative and collaborative approaches to risk reduction, including the use of natural infrastructure, which is explicitly eligible under the program. Also called nature-based solutions, these strategies include conservation, restoration, or construction of riparian and streambed treatments, marshes, wetlands, native vegetation, stormwater bioswales, breakwaters, reefs, dunes, and shade trees. They reduce flood risks, erosion, wave damage, and heat impacts while also creating habitat, filtering pollutants, and providing recreational benefits. Projects in the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program have the potential to demonstrate innovation and best practices that State and local governments in other parts of the country can consider replicating.

By funding projects that improve resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts, the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program aims to reduce damage and disruption to the transportation system, improve the safety of the traveling public, and improve equity by addressing the needs of disadvantaged populations that are often the most vulnerable to hazards. FHWA will seek to award projects to communities that demonstrate a strong need for the funding; the program includes set asides for rural communities and Indian Tribes.

[1] Funding for the PROTECT Discretionary Grants Program comes from two sources: 1) funding authorized as contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund, and 2) funding appropriated from the General Fund in annual appropriations acts. Funding authorized from the Highway Trust Fund is reduced based on the imposition of the obligation limitation contained in the annual appropriations acts. The BIL authorized \$250 million annually from the Highway Trust Fund for FY 2022 and FY 2023. An additional \$400 million was appropriated in FY 2022 and FY 2023 as shown in detail in Section B. Currently, \$300 million is authorized annually for FYs 2024, 2025, and 2026.

See related documents tab for the full text of the NOFO.

Link to Additional Information: [PROTECT Program Website](#)

Grantor Contact Information: If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact:

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[PROTECT Program Inbox](#)

