

HOW TO APPLY FOR COMPETITIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



U.S. Senator Gary Peters

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) helped pass the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law which will help grow our economy, strengthen our economic competitiveness and make our economy more sustainable, resilient, and equitable.

See below to learn about programs supported through the bipartisan infrastructure law – and how you may be eligible to apply for assistance in fields including transportation, expanding high-speed internet, resiliency and more.

Competitive Infrastructure Funding Opportunities for Local Governments – By Issue Area¹

● Transportation

- **Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably and Equitably (RAISE) Grants** – This existing competitive grant program at the Department of Transportation provides \$7.5 billion with an additional \$7.5 billion subject to Congressional approval in funding for road, rail, transit, and other surface transportation of local and/or regional significance. Selection criteria safety, sustainability, equity, economic competitiveness, mobility, and community connectivity. Applications will open in the first quarter of 2022.
- **Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants** – This existing \$2 billion Department of Transportation program funds investment in the modernization and expansion of U.S. ports to remove supply chain bottlenecks, ensure long-term competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability while reducing impacts to the environment and neighboring communities. The infrastructure law expanded the program's eligibilities to include projects that improve goods movement, as well as port electrification projects, idling reduction solutions, equipment charging infrastructure and related worker training initiatives. **The Department of Transportation expects to open applications in February 2022.**
- **Bus & Bus Facilities Competitive Grants** – This existing \$2 billion program at the Department of Transportation provides capital funding to replace, rehabilitate, purchase, or lease buses and bus related equipment and to rehabilitate, purchase, construct, or lease bus-related facilities – as well as capital funding for low or no emissions bus projects.

¹ Funding amounts includes programs' contract authority, advanced appropriations and mandatory appropriations. Funding subject to appropriations not included.



Fiscal Year 2021 grant selections will be announced soon. **Applications are expected to open for the Fiscal Year 2022 grant program in the first quarter of 2022.**

- **National Infrastructure Project Assistance (also known as “Megaprojects” or MEGA)**– This \$5 billion competitive grant program supports multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects of regional or national significance. Communities are eligible to apply for funding to complete critical large projects that would otherwise be unachievable without assistance. **Selection criteria for the program will be posted on the [Department of Transportation](#) website in February 2022.**
- **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants** – This Department of Transportation program supports highway and rail projects of regional and economic significance. **Applications will open in the first quarter of 2022. Learn more about how to apply [here](#).**
- **Safe Streets and Roads for All** – This new \$5 billion competitive grant program at the Department of Transportation will provide funding directly to and exclusively for local governments to support their efforts to advance “vision zero” plans and other complete street improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians. **Applications are expected to open in May 2022.**
- **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants** – In addition to the \$5 billion formula program distributed to states, this \$2.5 billion discretionary grant program at the Department of Transportation will fund the strategic deployment of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure, as well as hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling infrastructure, along designated alternative fuel corridors and in communities. **The Department is seeking comments on program design by January 28th [here](#), and after January 28th [here](#).**
- **Clean School Bus Program** – This new \$5 billion competitive grant program at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will provide funding to replace existing school buses with low- or zero-emission school buses. **Applications for funding will be made available [here](#) later this spring.**
- **Reconnecting Communities** – The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law creates a first-ever \$1 billion program at the Department of Transportation to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure – particularly historically disadvantaged communities too often nearly destroyed or cut in half by a highway. This new competitive program



will provide dedicated funding to state, local, metropolitan planning organizations, and tribal governments for planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure to address these legacy impacts. **Applications will open in the second quarter of 2022.**

- **Rural Surface Transportation Grant** - This new \$2 billion competitive grant program at the Department of Transportation will improve and expand surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas, increasing connectivity, improving safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth. This amount includes specific set asides for small projects (\$200 million), rural roadway lane departure improvements (\$300 million), and the Appalachian Development Highway System (\$500 million). **Applications will open in the first quarter of 2022.**
- **Climate, Energy & Environment**
 - **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program** – This existing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program will distribute \$1 billion to support communities undertaking hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks they face from disasters and other natural hazards. FY21 applications are open until January 28th, 2022 and hundreds of millions of dollars in funding remains available. Communities will apply as sub-applicants under their states. **Applications for FY22 are expected to**
 - **Flood Mitigation Assistance** – \$3.5 billion from this existing FEMA program can be used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the [National Flood Insurance Program](#). FY21 applications are open until January 28th, 2022. Communities will apply as sub-applicants under their states. **Applications for FY22 are expected to open no later than September 30th, 2022.**
 - **Brownfields Remediation Program** – This existing EPA program will provide \$1.2 billion in grants and technical assistants to communities to assess and safely clean-up contaminated properties and offer job training programs. Communities are currently able to request funding for Targeted Brownfields Assessments through their regional EPA office. **Additional competitive funding opportunities will be announced this spring.**
 - **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants** – This Department of Energy block grant program will provide \$550 million to states, local governments, and tribes for projects that reduce energy use, increase energy efficiency, and cut pollution. **The first funding opportunity is expected for release in the Fall of 2022.**



- **Grants for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements in Schools** – This new Department of Energy Program will provide \$500 million for local government education agencies and nonprofit partners to make energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean vehicle upgrades and improvements at public schools. **The opportunity to apply for funding is expected to be open in the Fall of 2022.**
- **Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas** – This new Department of Energy program will provide \$1 billion to entities in rural or remote areas (defined as cities, towns, or unincorporated areas with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants) to increase environmental protection from the impacts of energy use and improve resilience, reliability, safety, and availability of energy. **Applications for funding are expected to be open in the Fall of 2022.**
- **Grants for Energy Efficiency and Resilience Code Adoption** – This Department of Energy program will provide \$225 million to state energy agencies, in partnership with local building code agencies, codes and standards developers, utilities, and other entities, to enable sustained, cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes to save customers money on their energy bills. **Applications for funding are expected to be open by the end of 2022.**
- **Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs** – This new Department of Energy program will provide \$8 billion to support the development of at least four regional clean hydrogen hubs to improve clean hydrogen production, processing, delivery, storage, and end use. **Applications for funding will open in the Summer of 2022.**
- **Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program** – This new \$1 billion program at the Department of Agriculture will provide grants to communities at risk from wildfire to develop or revise their community wildfire protection plans and carry out projects described within those plans. It will include a mix of formula and competitive funds. **Applications are expected to open early in 2023.**
- **Broadband, Cyber, and Other Programs**
 - **ReConnect Program** – This existing Department of Agriculture program will provide almost \$2 billion in loans and grants for projects that provide broadband in rural areas. **Applications will likely open in the 3rd quarter of 2022 (and towns in rural areas can apply to the current \$1.15B in loans and grant funding, application deadline: February 22, 2022).**



- **Middle Mile Grants Program** – This new \$1 billion program at the Department of Commerce provides grants for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile broadband infrastructure. **Applications will likely open during the second quarter of 2022.**
- **State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program** – This new \$1 billion program at the Department of Homeland Security makes available federal funds to state, local, and tribal governments to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems that they own or operate. **Applications will likely open during the third quarter of 2022.**
- **Smart Grid Investment Grant Program and Energy Sector Operational Support For Cyber Resilience Program** – These two Department of Energy programs will provide \$3 billion and \$50 million, respectively, for electric utilities, including municipal and co-operative utilities, to modernize the electricity grid and increase resilience to cybersecurity threats. **Applications for the Smart Grid program are expected to be open by the end of 2022, and applications for the Cyber Resilience program are expected to be open in the Summer of 2022.**
- **Water & Groundwater Storage and Conveyance** – This existing \$1 billion program at the Department of Interior provides funding for water storage projects with capacity between 2,000 and 30,000 acre-feet – as well as projects convey water to or from surface water or groundwater storage. **The Department will hold its final stakeholder sessions this month and open applications later this spring.**
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program** – This existing Department of Agriculture program will provide \$300 million in technical and financial assistance to project sponsors for the design and construction of measures to help repair damages from a recent disaster. **Applications open in February.**
- **Other Opportunities**

The law further significantly increased the amount of non-competitive formula funding that will flow first to states and then on to cities and local governments. Examples include funding available through Surface Transportation Block Grant sub-allocations for local governments, which now include significantly expanded the flexibilities for cities to determine how these funds can be used, as well as increases for states' [Clean Water](#) and [Drinking Water](#) State Revolving Funds. We encourage cities to reach out to the state or



regional offices for various federal agencies, as well as state governments' infrastructure coordinators, to better understand forthcoming increases in formula funding.

● **Getting Ready to Apply for and Receive Federal Infrastructure Funds**

Building a better America is a shared endeavor no one can do alone, and investing federal infrastructure dollars will require significant coordination between cities, states, Tribal governments, community stakeholders, and other key partners.

Earlier this month, the White House Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator [sent a letter to Governors](#) recommending a series of preparatory actions, including appointing infrastructure coordinators to manage the flow of funds to their states. Cities can also begin to coordinate across their departments and with metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) to:

- Prioritize your community's capital needs and develop a project pipeline – taking time to think about the projects previously considered impossible due to lack of funding or regional coordination. This is a once-in-a-generation funding opportunity that will require bold, inclusive thinking.
- Use the forthcoming Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook to identify federal funding streams to target.
- Ensure all transit, railway, road, highway, and bridge projects are a part of your
- Begin mapping sites for electric vehicle and alternative fuel charging stations.
- Inventory and map the lead pipes in your city. Read through the Biden-Harris Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan [here](#) for additional federal resources for this effort.
- Work with your state's broadband agency to ensure your city or region's needs are appropriately mapped and inventoried.
- Establish relationships with the regional offices for key federal agencies, who can help direct you to resources and provide technical assistance.

The American Rescue Plan also provided over \$350 billion in critical resources to every state, county, city, and unit of local government to support their response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including in making the investments needed to ensure a durable and equitable economic recovery. Cities should look to leverage those resources to help prepare for the transformative investments included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law including



training the workers needed to build high quality infrastructure; hiring back the public sector workers needed to help manage potential federal investments; and getting a jump start on water, sewer, and broadband projects that could complement investments from the infrastructure law.

We recognize local capacity may be strained due to the pandemic, historic underinvestment, or just the challenges of day-to-day governance. A city's lack of capacity to apply for federal funds can create significant inequities – and for many communities, this will be their first time applying for funds from a suite of federal agencies. While many funding streams in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law specifically set aside funds for disadvantaged communities, the White House Infrastructure Implementation Team will be engaging states, Tribal governments, territories, federal agencies, philanthropies, and others to leverage all available resources to quickly deliver the necessary technical assistance and capacity to underserved communities.

● **Agency Contact Information**

- Environmental Protection Agency: State&Local@epa.gov
- Department of Transportation: intergov@dot.gov
- Department of Interior: OIEA@ios.doi.gov
- Department of Commerce: CommerceIGA@doc.gov
- Department of Energy: DL-RegionalSpecialists@hq.doe.gov
- Department of Agriculture: EIA@usda.gov
- Department of Homeland Security: dhs.iga@hq.dhs.gov