

# NLC's Rebuilding America Dashboard Methodology

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The data populating the *Rebuilding America: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Dashboard* (“the dashboard”) was extracted from the General Services Administration’s (GSA’s) publicly available [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\) Maps Dashboard](#). The GSA released updates to their dataset on August 28, 2023, containing newly announced funding (as of August 7, 2023) and awarded funding (as of June 30, 2023). The GSA dataset contains information on BIL recipients, including but not limited to cities, counties, states, US territories, airports and more.\* As compared to GSA’s dashboard, NLC’s dashboard only includes programs cities could directly apply to and awarded projects of which cities are the sole recipient.

## Sample Description- A Focus on City Eligibility

To further our mission in supporting cities, towns, and villages, NLC’s dashboard narrows the scope of GSA’s dataset to focus only on cities, towns, villages and city-counties or equivalents (i.e., city-borough, city-parish, or town-county) and the programs they could directly apply to and receive funding for through BIL. Of recipients included, 888 were cities, 167 were towns, 82 were villages, and 21 were city-county equivalents (Table 1).†

Some recipients applied for multiple projects with a total of 1,643 projects representing a total of 1,158 unique cities, towns, villages or similar municipalities reflected in this dashboard.

Table 1: Municipal BIL Awardee Counts

Recipient Type	Project Counts	Unique Recipients Counts
City	1,323	888
Town	176	167
Village	83	82
City-County or Equivalent	61	21
Total	1,643	1,158

Source Note: Data from NLC’s BIL dataset, updated as of August 28, 2023.

Based on the sample exclusions described below, there are a total of 133 different possible eligible programs that municipalities could apply to through BIL.

## Sample Exclusions

The unit of analysis for the dashboard is individual projects identified by city (n=1,643) in the GSA dataset. GSA’s dataset did not clearly distinguish between recipient types or city-eligible programs in the data. To understand the total funding going directly to cities, researchers removed varying entities and program types from the recipient list to exclude them‡.

Researchers merged the GSA data against an internal NLC dataset of relevant municipalities that includes GEOIDs (or place-based unique identifiers) to ensure all recipients were accurately identified.

\* For more information on the initial data, including all project descriptors, please review [GSA’s “A note about this data.”](#)

† For the purposes of this comparison, boroughs in Pennsylvania and New Jersey are grouped with towns.

‡ Recipient exclusions were made by dropping observations that were identified as not a city or city-equivalent based on a matching process between the GSA dataset and an internal dataset of incorporated places.

By merging against this dataset, we were able to include additional data, like congressional districts, population and regions, as well as determine per capita funding estimates. Puerto Rico’s population data was matched based on cityids in a subsequent dataset.<sup>§</sup>

For the downloadable dataset, researchers removed GSA’s original program categories and renamed the program subcategories as “program categories.” Because the GSA dataset included only three substantive categories and one generalized “other” category, doing so allowed researchers to present more informative details to users.

*Table 2: Sample Exclusions*

<b>Exclusion Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Reason for Exclusion</b>
Municipal recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counties and county equivalents</li> <li>Tribes</li> <li>US territories (not Puerto Rico)</li> <li>Census designated places</li> <li>Unincorporated areas</li> </ul>	Dashboard’s goal is to narrow the scope of GSA’s dataset to include all cities, towns, villages and city-counties or equivalents
Non-municipal recipients**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporations</li> <li>Port authorities</li> <li>Water districts</li> <li>Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)</li> <li>Transit districts</li> <li>Universities</li> </ul>	Dashboard’s goal is to narrow the scope of GSA’s dataset to include all cities, towns, villages and city-counties or equivalents
Non-municipal eligible projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Fire Assistance</li> <li>Tribal Irrigation and Power Systems</li> <li>Federal Lands Access Program</li> <li>Affordable Connectivity Program</li> <li>Coastal Zone Management</li> </ul>	Cities/city equivalents were unable to apply directly for these funds
Pass through projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formula grants</li> </ul>	Most formula spending went to airports because all municipal airports received funds, offering little insight for cities applying to BIL

*Source Note: Exclusions based on NLC’s BIL dataset, updated as of August 28, 2023.*

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<sup>§</sup> GEOIDs and per capita estimates are based on the 2021 data release of the Government Units Survey of the Census of Governments. For Puerto Rico, populations are based on 2020 figures as reported in the Census Bureau’s Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Puerto Rico Municipios.

\*\* This row contains only a sample of non-municipal recipients excluded from the dataset.