

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program Fact Sheet and Guide

Fact Sheet

Agency: US. Department of Transportation

Category: Roads, Bridges, and Major Projects

Overview: Based on the [FY26 NOFO](#), the BUILD grant program will fund the 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.

FY27 Grant Funding: TBD. For reference, [\\$1.5 billion](#) was offered in FY26.

Number of Awards: For reference, 30 projects were awarded \$488 million in FY2025 Round 2 funding.

Match Requirements: TBD. Based on the [FY26 NOFO](#), applicants will be required to match 20% of overall project costs unless the project is located in a rural area, a historically disadvantaged community (HDC), or an area of persistent poverty (APP), as defined in the NOFO.

Key Dates: The FY27 NOFO has yet to be released. For reference, the FY26 NOFO opened on November 26th, 2025 and closed on February 24th, 2026.

Key Funding Criteria: Based on the [FY26 NOFO](#), applicants can expect to be evaluated on the project's impact on safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation.

Eligible Applicants (based on the [FY26 NOFO](#)): States; territories; 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 Activities: Based on the [FY26 NOFO](#), BUILD grants can be used for planning or capital construction projects.

Planning Projects are related to the planning, preparation, or design— for example environmental analysis, feasibility studies, benefit-cost analysis, permitting and other pre-construction activities—of eligible surface transportation capital projects.

- Development of master plans, comprehensive plans, transportation corridor plans, and integrated economic development, land use, housing, and transportation plans
- Zero emissions plan for transit fleet
- Planning activities related to the development of a multimodal freight corridor
- Development of port and regional port planning, including State-wide or multi-port planning within a single jurisdiction or region
- Risk assessments and planning to identify vulnerabilities and address the transportation system's ability to withstand probable occurrence or recurrence of an emergency or major disaster

Capital Projects are surface transportation capital activities related to:

- Highway, bridge, or other road projects
- Public transportation projects
- 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
- Intermodal projects
- Projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the BUILD program
- Projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government
- Any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program, including:
 - Public road and non-motorized projects that are not otherwise eligible
 - Transit-oriented development projects
 - Mobility on-demand projects that expand access and reduce transportation cost burden

Comprehensive guide

The Local Infrastructure Hub has developed a [comprehensive guide](#) designed to help cities successfully navigate the USDOT's BUILD Program. The materials provide practical steps, examples, and tools to help cities plan, apply, and manage BUILD funding for surface transportation infrastructure projects.

Topics Covered

Click the section titles below to view materials covering each topic:

1. **[Understand the Grant](#)**: Start with the Grant Overview to get familiar with BUILD, federal priorities, and the White House's guidance on project alignment.
2. **[Incorporating Data and Engaging Your Community](#)**: Learn how to find and apply relevant datasets and analytical tools to make your proposal evidence-based and compelling. Explore Community Engagement and Advocacy Strategies and understand the audience for advocacy and project strategies.
3. **[Budgeting to Build a Strong Application](#)**: Find guidance on capital stacks and funding structures, develop a draft project budget with matching sources and potential new sources of funding. Cities will also understand best practices for crafting narratives and will be able to produce a compelling grant narrative consistent with the funding opportunity requirements.
4. **[Long Term Capacity Building](#)**: Develop plans to successfully administer the grant, including how best to (re-)organize local industrial processes.
5. **[Access Tools & Resources](#)**: A curated list of templates, examples, and helpful references to guide each step of your grant preparation process.

Explore more resources at <https://www.nlc.org/initiative/local-infrastructure-hub-initiative/>

The Local Infrastructure Hub was a US-focused, nationwide program that helped city leaders connect with resources and expert advice to access and implement federal infrastructure funding from July 2022 to March 2026. This resource was created in 2024 and updated in February 2026. It is intended to be used as a general guide to the BUILD grant program; consult each Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific guidance.



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