

Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) and Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements (CRISI) Fact Sheet and Guide

Fact Sheet

Agency: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

Category: Passenger Safety, Improved Freight Transportation

Eligible Applicants: Local governments, states, and federally recognized Indian Tribes are eligible for both programs. Additional eligibility varies by the grant program.

Total IJA Funding: [\\$3 billion](#) (RCE) and [\\$5 billion](#) (CRISI)

Overview: The RCE/CRISI programs fund improvements to rail infrastructure. Both programs support highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects, promoting safety and mobility for people and goods. Communities can use grant funding for track relocation, improving or installing protective devices, signals, or signs, improving safety, and conducting environmental audits of eligible projects. Specific activities vary by grant program.

FY25 Grant Funding: TBD. For reference, [\\$1.148M](#) in RCE funding was available for FYs23-24 and [\\$2.478M](#) in CRISI funding was available in FYs23-24.

Match Requirements: Based on the FYs23-24 NOFOs ([RCE](#); [CRISI](#)), the expected match requirement for each program will likely be 20%.

Key Dates: The FY25 NOFOs have yet to be released. For reference, the [FYs23-24 RCE NOFO](#) opened on July 10, 2024, and closed on September 23, 2024. The [FYs23-24 CRISI NOFO](#) opened on March 29, 2024, and closed on May 28, 2024.

Key Funding Criteria: Based on the FYs23-24 NOFOs ([RCE](#); [CRISI](#)), applicants will be evaluated based on the project's impact on improving railroad safety and mobility of people and goods. Additional information will be released in the FY25 NOFOs.

Eligible Activities: Based on the [FYs23-24 NOFO](#), eligible activities under the **RCE** program include grade separation, track relocation, the improvement or installation of protective devices, additional safety enhancements, and planning, environmental review, and design activities.

Based on the [FYs23-24 NOFO](#), The **CRISI** program includes five program tracks, each with different eligible activities:

1. Systems Planning and Project Planning;
2. Project Development;



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3. Final Design (FD)/Construction;
4. Research, Workforce Development, Safety Programs and Institutes (Non-Railroad Infrastructure); or
5. Deployment of Magnetic Levitation Transportation Projects

Please refer to the [CRISI FYs23-24 NOFO](#) for more details on eligible activities.

Additional Information: Program information is available on the [RCE](#) and [CRISI](#) webpages.

Comprehensive guide

The Local Infrastructure Hub has developed a [comprehensive guide](#) designed to help cities successfully navigate the **Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) and Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)** grant programs.

The materials provide practical steps, examples, and tools to help your team align your rail safety and mobility goals with eligible federal projects—such as track relocation, protective devices, and environmental assessments—and strengthen project readiness for competitive grant applications.

Topics covered

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

1. **Understand the Grants**: An overview of the RCE/CRISI grant programs, including core priorities, guiding principles, and related White House directives. Includes how to align proposals with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s strategic goals.
2. **Use Data to Strengthen Your Case**: Essential datasets and analytical tools that strengthen project planning and applications, to make grant proposals evidence-based and compelling.
3. **Engage the Right Partners**: An overview of community engagement strategies that incorporate local voices, foster collaboration, and build public/private partnerships. These approaches strengthen project design, show community alignment, and boost competitiveness.
4. **Build a Stronger Budget**: An understanding of key financial components of applications, including eligible capital sources, local match requirements, and benefit-cost analysis. Includes how to use practical templates to create compliant, strategically aligned project budgets.
5. **Write a Winning Application**: How to craft persuasive, well-structured grant narratives that clearly communicate goals, impact, and alignment with federal priorities.
6. **Learn from Real Examples**: How to write the components of a successful, “winning” application by analyzing a real-world grant case study.
7. **Access Tools & Resources**: A curated list of federal resources, including guidance, past awards, and templates to help cities prepare high-quality, compliant grant applications.

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 February 2026 and is intended to be used as a general guide to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF & DWSRF); cities should consult their state SRF program guidance and Intended Use Plans (IUPs) for specific requirements.

