



Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program



Est. application deadline: TBD (FY24 was due 5/28/2024)



Est. funding: \$2.4B

Note: Estimated based on prior year's NOFO. Subject to change with future announcements (e.g., agency announcements, actual NOFOs).

Source: [2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements \(CRISI\) Program Notice of Funding](#)

DOCUMENT INTENDED TO PROVIDE INSIGHT BASED ON CURRENTLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERATION AND NOT SPECIFIC ADVICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Considerations for NOFO guidance and application preparation

- As of August 4, 2025, this fact pack was based on the prior program NOFO (released in 2024)
- NOFOs may be subject to change. Recent updates to NOFOs for other grants have included:
 - Revisions to program names
 - Removal of language, merit criteria, and application requirements around climate change and sustainability; environmental justice; equity; and workforce development (e.g., BUILD, Large Bridge Projects)
 - Updates to total funding amounts available
 - Defining Historically Disadvantaged Communities using the same statutory definition for Areas of Persistent Poverty
 - New language on applicant compliance with federal laws, regulations, executive orders, policies, guidelines, and requirements, “including cooperating with and not impeding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other Federal offices and components of the Department of Homeland Security in the enforcement of Federal law”¹
 - Clarifying all grant agreements or contracts must include terms that are in compliance with Section 3(C)(iv) of EO *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*
- Please refer to the MIO TAC website, grants.gov, and other source materials linked in this presentation for the latest information on NOFOs

1. [2025 BIP Large Bridge Project Grants Notice of Funding Amendments](#)

Note: Estimated based on prior year's NOFO. Subject to change with future announcements (e.g., agency announcements, actual NOFOs).

Source: [2025 BUILD Notice of Funding Amendment](#), [2025 BIP Large Bridge Project Grants Notice of Funding Amendments](#)

CRISI funds projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail



Goals and merit criteria for CRISI grants:

Grants will be evaluated based on the extent to which they address the DOT Strategic Goals of:

- safety
- equitable economic strength
- improving core assets
- equity and barriers to opportunity
- climate change and sustainability
- transformation

Note: Estimated based on prior year's NOFO. Subject to change with future announcements (e.g., agency announcements, actual NOFOs).

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CRISI Program details

Match funding
requirement: 20%

Direct Pay
applicability: No

CRISI offers 5 “tracks” of grants, primarily concentrated in Tracks 1-3 that correspond to the systems planning, project development, and construction phases of an infrastructure project

Eligible grant functions (“tracks”)	1: Systems Planning	Technical and associated environmental analyses that support the development of rail projects
	2: Project Development	Preliminary engineering and project development such as operations modeling, surveying, project work/management plans, preliminary cost estimates, and preliminary project schedules
	3: FD/Construction	Construction, and project implementation and deployment activities
	4: Research, Safety Programs and Institutes	Workforce development activities, research, safety programs or institutes to improve rail safety
	5: Deployment of Magnetic Levitation Transportation Projects	High speed rail projects including planning, project development, and construction
Eligible grant uses	Capital project to improve short-line or regional railroad infrastructure; Preparation of regional rail and corridor service development plans; Deployment of railroad safety technology; Capital project necessary to address congestion or safety challenges; Facilitate ridership growth in intercity passenger rail transportation along heavily traveled rail corridors; A highway-rail grade crossing improvement project; A rail line relocation or improvement project	
Award amounts	Award size	No set minimum or maximum; largest award in 2022 was ~\$200M and average was ~\$5M
	Award location distribution	A minimum 25% of funding will be allocated to rural localities (in 2022, 2/3 of funding went to rural areas) ²
	Award focus set aside	\$150M for Intercity Passenger Rail; \$25M for Trespassing Measures; \$2M for Track 5
Previous awards (national) ¹	2023-2024 awards	122 awards (\$2.4B)
Previous awards (MI)	2023-2024 awards	5 awards (\$16M, \$27M, \$67M, \$430K, \$8.3M)

1. Previous year application data not available
2. “Rural Area” means any area that is not within an area designated as an urbanized area by the Bureau of the Census
Note: Estimated based on prior year’s NOFO. Subject to change with future announcements (e.g., agency announcements, actual NOFOs).

High-level requirements to apply for a CRISI grant

CRISI applications are open to a broad range of government, non-profit, and private entity applicants, and require a thorough application package with additional components based on application type



Eligible Entities

- States and the District of Columbia
- Local government
- Public agency or publicly chartered authority
- Amtrak or another rail carrier
- Class II railroad or Class III railroad or a holding company/association
- A federally recognized Indian Tribe
- Rail carrier or rail equipment manufacturer
- Universities
- Non-profit labor organization



Key Application Components

25-page application limit¹

- Project description
- Statement of work
- Project location information identifying impacted location (e.g., file like ShapeFile, or decimal format)
- Project budget and funding information
- Narrative of how project meets selection criteria and DOT goals
- BCA narrative and calculations
- Project readiness narrative
 - Project schedule and milestones
 - Describe past experience in managing and overseeing similar projects

Additional project readiness requirements by Track

- Demonstrate that system planning analyses have been completed (Tracks 2 and 3)
- Environmental risk and design readiness (Track 3)
 - Demonstrate that project development activities have been completed
 - Demonstrate project is reasonably expected to begin construction in a timely manner consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal requirements

1. Excluding supporting documents

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Examples of past winners in Michigan



Manistee River Bridge Replacement Project (2022)

Applicant: Michigan Department of Transportation
Impacted locality: Michigan lower peninsula (rural)
Funding: \$20.3M

Project description: The proposed project involves final design and construction activities to replace the Manistee River Bridge, which was built in 1888 and currently has many components that are in poor or critical condition.

CRISI goals and merit criteria addressed:

- Improving system and service performance
- Ability to meet existing or anticipated demand
- Restore railroad timetable speeds
- Increase the load rating of the structure
- Preserve rail service to commodity shippers



Great Lakes Corridor Improvement (2021)

Applicant: Michigan Department of Transportation
Impacted locality: north of Ann Arbor (rural)
Funding: \$21.3M

Project description: The proposed project will rehabilitate track and rail assets operated by the Great Lakes Central Railroad (GLC) just north of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CRISI goals and merit criteria addressed:

- Installing 4.25 miles of new rail
- Eliminating joints on an additional 41.25 mainline track miles
- Replacing or rehabilitating 11 bridges and culverts
- Eliminate 16 slow orders covering a critical 45-mile section of the 260-mile mainline corridor



Rail Replacement and Mainline Reconstruction (2021)

Applicant: West Michigan Railroad Co.
Impacted locality: Southwest Michigan (rural)
Funding: \$8.7M

Project description: The proposed project will fund construction of and infrastructure improvements on approximately 10 miles of West Michigan Railroad (WMR) in Southwest Michigan.

CRISI goals and merit criteria addressed:

- Rail and cross-tie replacements
- Reconstructed roadbeds, bridge and turnout repairs
- Upgrade and replacement of two at-grade crossings
- Rebuilding approximately 5.6 miles of track
- Upgrade portions of the line from 5 mph excepted track to at least FRA Class 2 speeds up to 25 mph