



Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program



Est. application deadline: TBD (FY24 was due 6/17/2024)



Est. funding: \$49M

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

Source: [2024 Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot 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](#)

Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program supports the purchase of electric or low-emitting ferries and the electrification of or other reduction of emissions from existing ferries



Goals and merit criteria:

Eligible activities are capital projects that include the purchase of electric or low-emitting ferry vessels that reduce emissions by using alternative fuels or on-board energy storage systems and related charging infrastructure to reduce emissions or produce zero onboard emissions under normal operation.

The use of alternative fuel means:

- methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols
- a mixture containing at least 85 percent of methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols by volume with gasoline or other fuels
- natural gas
- liquefied petroleum gas
- hydrogen
- fuels (except alcohol) derived from biological materials
- electricity (including electricity from solar energy)
- any other fuel that is not substantially petroleum and that would yield substantial energy security and environmental benefits

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

Source: [2024 Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program Notice of Funding](#)

Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program details

Match funding
requirement: 20%¹

Direct Pay
applicability: Likely
yes

Description	ELEF makes funding available competitively to assist in the financing of capital projects for the purchase of electric or low-emitting ferry vessels that reduce emissions by using alternative fuels or on-board energy storage systems and related charging infrastructure to reduce emissions or produce zero onboard emissions under normal operation.	
Award amounts	Anticipated number of awards	~15
	Award ceiling	\$49M
	Set-asides	\$5 million is set aside specifically for low- or zero-emission ferries and related facilities/equipment
Ongoing & past funded projects	2024: Total grants: 6 Total funding: ~\$64M Average funding: ~\$10.5M	

2. Match funding decreases to 15% for CAA or ADA compliance and 10% for ferry equipment.
Note: Estimated based on prior year's NOFO. Subject to change with future announcements (e.g., agency announcements, actual NOFOs).
Source: [2024 Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program Notice of Funding](#)

High-level requirements to apply for an Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot grant



Eligible Entities

- Providers of publicly owned public transportation service
- States and federally recognized Tribes that operate a public ferry system in an urbanized area
- The state or tribal territory should submit application on behalf of a local entity - and the local service provider should be the proponent of the project and included in the proposal development.



Key Application Components¹

- Project description
- Statement of work
- Project location information identifying impacted location (a map in a PDF format)
- Project budget and funding information
- Narrative of how project meets selection criteria and DOT goals
- Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan
 - useful life benchmark for the vehicles
 - state of good repair performance targets

Additional criteria FTA may consider

- Geographic diversity
- Diversity in transit system size
- Walk-on vs. vehicle boardings
- Address Climate Change and Sustainability
- Support the Creation of Good-Paying Jobs
- Support the Justice40 Initiative

1. Excluding supporting documents

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Source: [2024 Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program Notice of Funding](#)

Examples of past winners (2024)



Rock Island County Metropolitan Mass Transit District (MetroLINK)

Location: Illinois

Funding: \$8M

Award description: The Rock Island County Metropolitan Mass Transit District (MetroLINK) will receive funding to buy a new a battery-electric ferry, charging equipment to support a zero- emission vessel along the Mississippi Riverfront, and to make land-side improvements. The project will improve service, reliability, and state of good repair and improve air quality for passengers taking the ferry across the Mississippi River between Illinois and Iowa's Quad Cities



Maine Department of Transportation

Location: Maine

Funding: \$28M

Award description: The Maine Department of Transportation will receive funding to build a hybrid-electric vessel to replace a 35-year-old vessel that has exceeded its useful life



City of Annapolis

Location: Maryland

Funding: \$3M

Award description: The City of Annapolis will receive funding to initiate passenger ferry service between the city's downtown and Eastport by buying two battery electric vessels and charging equipment and making improvements to the two docks. The fixed-route service will accommodate workers, residents and visitors, support redevelopment of the City Dock area