



# Passenger Ferry Grant Program



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



**Est. funding:** \$56M

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

Source: [2024 Passenger Ferry Grant 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”<sup>1</sup>
  - 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](https://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](#)

# Passenger Ferry Grants provide funding for capital projects to purchase, replace, or rehabilitate passenger ferries, terminals, and related facilities and equipment



## Goals and merit criteria for Passenger Ferry Grant:

FTA will consider the extent to which the projects address the following DOT Strategic Goals:

- renew transit systems
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions from public transportation
- advance racial equity
- maintain and create good-paying, jobs with a free and fair choice to join a union
- connect communities

# Passenger Ferry details

Match funding  
requirement: 20%

Direct Pay  
applicability:  
Potentially (if EV  
related)

Passenger Ferry		
Description	Capital projects to purchase, replace, or rehabilitate passenger ferries, terminals etc.	
Eligible grant uses	<p>Support existing ferry service, establish new ferry service, and repair and modernize ferry boasts, terminals, and related facilities and equipment<sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Projects must support public transportation ferry systems serving an urbanized area</li><li>Vehicle ferries are eligible if they also accommodate walk-on passengers.</li><li>Workforce development/training (recipients are permitted to use up to 0.5% of the requested grant award for workforce development activities)</li></ul>	
Award amounts	Minimum award	No minimum award
	Maximum award	No maximum; largest award in 2023 was \$72M
	Award number	No specify, 13 projects have been awarded in FY23
	Award type set aside	\$5 million is set aside specifically for low- or zero-emission ferries and related facilities/equipment
Previous awards (national)	2024 awards	8 projects (\$56.3M total)
Previous awards (MI)	0 awards for Passenger Ferry	

1. Passenger Ferry Program may not be used to fund operating expenses, planning, or preventive maintenance  
Note: Estimated based on prior year's NOFO. Subject to change with future announcements (e.g., agency announcements, actual NOFOs).  
Source: [2024 Passenger Ferry Grant Program Notice of Funding](#), [FY24 Passenger Ferry award fact sheet](#)

# High-level requirements to apply for a Passenger Ferry 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 Components

- 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

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

Source: [2024 Passenger Ferry Grant Program Notice of Funding](#), [FY24 Passenger Ferry award fact sheet](#)

# Examples of recent winners in other states



## San Francisco Bay Area Passenger Ferry Project (2023)

**Applicant:** San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Agency  
**Impacted locality:** City of San Francisco  
**Funding:** \$15.9M

**Project description:** The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Agency will receive funding to retrofit two ferry floats with battery energy storage systems. The upgrades will improve service, reduce emissions, improve air quality and reduce electrical demand in downtown San Francisco and two terminals in the City of Alameda (Seaplane Lagoon and Main Street)



## New York City Passenger Ferry Project (2022)

**Applicant:** New York City Department of Transportation  
**Impacted locality:** New York City  
**Funding:** \$7.5M

**Project description:** The New York City Department of Transportation, on behalf of the Trust for Governors Island, will receive funding to build charging equipment to support future rapid charging for vessels serving Governors Island, which is solely accessible by ferry. A battery energy storage system will stabilize the demand on the island's power grid and support rapid charging of vessels and allow them to operate in zero-emissions mode, significantly reducing emissions, decreasing maintenance costs, and improving reliability