



# Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program



**Est. application deadline:** TBD (prior release was due 02/24/2026)



**Est. funding:** \$1.5B

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

Source: [2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development \(BUILD\) Program Notice of Funding](#)

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN

# BUILD supports investments in surface transportation infrastructure that will have a significant local or regional impact



## Goals and merit criteria for BUILD grants:

Grants will be awarded for surface transportation infrastructure projects (roads, bridges, rail, ports, transit, etc.) that will improve:

- safety;
- quality of life;
- mobility and community connectivity;
- economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism;
- environmental sustainability;
- state of good repair;
- partnership and collaboration; and
- innovation

Note that the former four have been denoted as ‘priority merit criteria’

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# BUILD Program Details

BUILD is a competitive grant program for infrastructure construction and planning projects, with the majority of funding going towards large capital projects

Match funding requirement: 0-20%<sup>1</sup>

Direct Pay applicability: Yes<sup>3</sup>

	Capital grants	Planning grants
<b>Description</b>	Construction or physical modifications for infrastructure	Planning, preparation, or design of eligible pre-construction surface transportation projects
<b>Eligible grant uses</b>	Highway, bridge, or other road projects	Environmental analysis
	Public transportation projects	Planning for the development of a multimodal freight corridor
	Passenger and freight rail transportation projects	Development of port and regional port planning
	Intermodal projects	Risk assessments and vulnerability planning
<b>Award amounts</b>	<i>Minimum award</i>	\$1M for rural, \$5M for urban areas <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Maximum award</i>	\$25M for both types
<b>Award set asides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of funding will be allocated to urban localities, 50% to rural localities</li> <li>• At least 1% (\$15M) to historically disadvantaged areas/persistent poverty areas</li> <li>• At least 5% (\$75M) to planning projects</li> <li>• No more than 15% (\$225M) of funding will go to any individual state</li> </ul>	
<b>Previous awards (national)</b>	<i>2025 awards (815 applications)</i>	30 grant projects awarded (\$488M total)
	<i>2023 awards (1100 applications)</i>	113 capital grants (\$2B total)      49 planning grants (\$198M total)
<b>Previous awards (MI)</b>	<i>2025 awards</i>	2 capital grants (\$25M, \$4M)      None
	<i>2023 awards</i>	3 capital grants (\$6.7M, \$8.5M, \$16.3M)      None

1. Up to 100% federal funding for rural areas, historically disadvantaged communities (HDC), or areas of persistent poverty (APP) as defined by CEJST. Urban project locations may have a match requirement of 20%.  
 2. A project is designated as urban if it is located within (or on the boundary of) a Census-designated urban area that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census. A project is designated as rural if it is located outside a Census-designated urban area that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census.  
 3. A previous awardee in Michigan, Truck Stop of Future, intended to install solar canopies and serve as prototype for transition to electric vehicles.

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# High-level requirements to apply for a BUILD grant

BUILD applications are open to government entities and transit agencies, and require a thorough application package with additional components for capital grants



## Eligible Entities

- States and the District of Columbia
- Any territory or possession of the United States
- Local governments
- Public agencies or publicly chartered authorities
- Special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function, including a port authority
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes or a consortium of such Indian Tribes
- Transit agencies
- Multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities



## Key Grant Application Components<sup>1</sup>

30-page application limit<sup>2</sup>

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Project Information Form (Excel)
- Project description
- Project location file identifying impacted location (ShapeFile or KML/KMZ)
- Project budget
- Funding commitment documentation
- Narrative of merit goals and criteria met
- Project Readiness Review
  - Applicant Capacity Review
  - Financial Completeness Review

### Additional requirements for capital grants

- Project Risk Review
- Benefit-Cost Analysis

1. Not the requirements to apply for TAC support. Not inclusive of all documents required to apply; please refer to NOFO for the full requirements and details.

2. Specifically, 5 pages for project description, 5 pages for project budget, 15 pages for merit criteria, and 5 pages for project readiness. Excluding other documents/forms.

# Examples of past winners of BUILD (formerly known as RAISE) in Michigan



## Pike Street Clinton River Trail Connector (2023)

**Applicant:** City of Pontiac

**Impacted locality:** City of Pontiac (urban)

**Funding:** \$16.3M (capital grant)

**Project description:** This project will make pedestrian improvements along approximately four miles of road in Pontiac and will install the North Spur Trail (NST).

**RAISE goals and merit criteria addressed:**

- Impacts underserved community
- Improves safety
- Reduces transportation-related air pollution
- Eliminates gaps in the existing bicycle and pedestrian network through ADA and universal design improvements
- Increases accessible transportation choices
- Improves connectivity to a variety of destinations including jobs, parks, and neighborhoods.



## Truck Stop of the Future Initiative (2023)

**Applicant:** Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

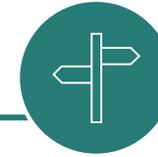
**Impacted locality:** Wayne County (urban)

**Funding:** \$8.5M (capital grant)

**Project description:** The project will construct electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Redford, Michigan. The project will include multiple Direct Current Fast Chargers (DCFCs), solar canopies, and battery energy storage systems.

**RAISE goals and merit criteria addressed:**

- Impacts underserved community
- Supports environmental sustainability efforts
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions due to the clean energy investments
- Aligns with the state's decarbonization plan
- Incorporates innovative technologies such as a solar roof and waste reduction strategies
- Serves as a prototype for the region's transition to zero-emission electric vehicles



## Downtown Kalamazoo Transportation Network (2022)

**Applicant:** City of Kalamazoo

**Impacted locality:** City of Kalamazoo (urban)

**Funding:** \$6M (planning grant)

**Project description:** This planning grant will redesign the Downtown Kalamazoo Transportation Network to be more walkable based upon a complete streets design, including converting Kalamazoo Avenue from a one-way street to a two-way street.

**RAISE goals and merit criteria addressed:**

- Impacts underserved community by addressing corridor of downtown that has separated neighborhoods and perpetuated old "redline district" boundaries
- Improves safety in corridor with speed-related crash rates historically higher per million vehicles than I-94
- Supports partnership and collaboration by utilizing the City's Public Participation Plan to implement a diverse community engagement process during design and construction