



Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program



Application deadline: 06/08/2026



Available funding: \$1.15B

RCE funds highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving safety and mobility



Goals and merit criteria for RCE grants:

The Railroad Crossing Safety Program intends to fund highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects, including but not limited to elimination projects, that improve safety and mobility of people and goods.

FRA expects outcomes of selected projects to include:

- Safety: Reduce highway-rail grade crossing incidents, trespass incidents, and train accidents.
- Improvement of Mobility of People and Goods: Eliminate highway-rail and pathwayrail grade crossings that are frequently blocked by trains in order to enhance rail safety, improve the health and safety of communities, and reduce the impacts that freight movement and railroad operations may have on underserved communities.

RCE Program Details

Match funding requirement: 20%

Direct Pay applicability: No

RCE is a moderately competitive program with a 40% award rate, and ~50% of the awards going to small planning grants under \$1M

	Capital grants	Planning grants
Description	Construction projects that build or upgrade physical infrastructure at railroad crossings	The planning, environmental review, and design of an eligible project described in options 1) - 5)
Eligible grant uses	<p>(1) Grade separation or closure</p> <p>(2) Improvement or installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures to improve safety</p> <p>(3) Track relocation</p> <p>(4) Other means to improve the safety and mobility of people and goods</p> <p>(5) A group of related projects in 1) – 4) that would collectively improve the mobility of people and goods</p>	<p>Analysis (including but not limited to environmental, feasibility)</p> <p>Community engagement</p>
<i>At least 3% (\$36M) of the total grant funds available will be made available for planning projects. At least 20% (\$229M) of these funds will be made available for projects located in Rural Areas or on Tribal Lands.</i>		
Award amounts	<p>Minimum award: \$1M</p> <p>Maximum award: No maximum; largest award in 2024 was \$204M</p> <p>Award distribution: A minimum of 20% (\$229M) of funding will be for projects located in rural areas or on Tribal Lands¹</p> <p>Award type set aside: A minimum of 3% (\$36M) of grant funds</p>	<p>No minimum award</p>
Previous awards (national)	2023-2024 Awards	123 rail projects (\$1.1B)
Previous awards (MI)	2023-2024 awards	3 rail projects (\$5.2M, \$2.6M, \$73.4M)

1. "Rural Area" means any area that is not within an area designated as an urbanized area by the most recent Bureau of the Census.

High level requirements to apply for a RCE grant

RCE grants are open to a range of public entity applicants, and requires a moderately thorough application; it does not include a BCA and the NOFO does not distinguish requirements between capital and planning grants



Eligible Entities

- States and the District of Columbia
- Political subdivision of a State
- Unit of local government or a group of local governments
- Federally recognized Indian Tribe
- Public port authority
- Metropolitan planning organization
- Group of the entities described above



Key Application Components

25-page
Narrative limit

- Project Narrative, with the following outline:
 - Cover page
 - Project summary
 - Grant funds, sources, and use of project funds
 - Applicant eligibility criteria
 - Project eligibility criteria
 - Detailed project description
 - Project location
 - Evaluation and selection criteria
 - Project implementation and management
- SF 424: Application for Federal Assistance

Applicants may submit the following additional documents and forms:

- SF 424A/SF 424C: SF 424A – Budget Information for Non-Construction or SF 424C – Budget Information for Construction
- SF 424B/SF 424D: SF 424B – Assurances for Non-Construction or SF 424D – Assurances for Construction
- FRA F30: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters, Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying. 16
- FRA F251: Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire
- SF LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Examples of past winners in Michigan



West Side Grade Separation Project (2022)

Applicant: City of Monroe

Impacted locality: City of Monroe

Funding: \$24M

Project description: The proposed project will complete project development activities, right-of way acquisition, final design, and construction of the Monroe West Side Grade Separation and Traffic Safety Improvement Project to eliminate an existing grade crossing and construct a new grade separation with CSX.

RCE goals and merit criteria addressed:

- Improve roadway traffic flow on the west side of Monroe
- Improve safety response times for emergency vehicles



Manistee County Safer Southern Rail Route (2022)

Applicant: Manistee County

Impacted locality: Manistee County (rural)

Funding: \$424K (planning)

Project description: The proposed planning project will support a track relocation study to abandon a northern perimeter track around Lake Manistee for a new southern segment.

RCE goals and merit criteria addressed:

- Elimination of four at-grade crossings
- Elimination of three marine bridges
- Elimination of a rail car staging area on CSX right-of-way