



Reconnecting Communities RCP



Application due:
9/28/2024



Available funding for 2023: \$198M

The RCP Grant provides funding to advance community-centered transportation connection projects

Goals and merit criteria for RCP Grant:



The objectives of the grant are to:

- advance community-centered transportation connection projects, with a priority for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities that improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster equitable development and restoration
- to provide technical assistance to further these goals.

Specifically, the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program provides technical assistance and grant funding for planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve people's lives.

RCP Grant Details

RCP: Community Planning Grants funded with RCP funds may not exceed 80% of the total cost of the project for which the grant is awarded. Recipients are required to contribute a local matching share of no less than 20% of eligible activity costs.

RCP: Capital Construction Grants funded with RCP funds may not exceed 50% of the total cost of the project for which the grant is awarded. Federal assistance other than the RCP Program award may be used to partially satisfy the match requirement so long as total Federal assistance (all Federal sources) does not exceed 80% of the total cost of the project. Recipients are required to contribute a local matching share of no less than 20% of eligible activity costs.

Eligible grant uses



Topic 1

Community Planning Grants

Provides funding for planning activities for future construction projects and allow for innovative community planning to address localized transportation challenges.

Topic 2

Capital Construction Grants

Provides funding for projects to:

- Remove, retrofit, mitigate, or replace an existing eligible dividing transportation facility with a new facility that reconnects communities
- Mitigate s a burdening transportation facility that is a source of air pollution, noise, stormwater, heat, or other burdens
- Implement a strategy to reduce environmental harm and/or improve access through transportation improvements.

Topic 3

Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants

Provides funding for projects led by two or more eligible applicants to address a persistent regional challenge related to equitable access and mobility

Award amounts



Maximum grant size:

For community planning grants (RCP), max amount \$2M

For capital construction grants (CRP), max amount \$5M

For regional partnerships challenge grants, no size restrictions

High level requirements to apply for the RCP Grant



Eligible Entities

RCP (community planning)

- States
- Units of local govts.
- Tribal Govs.
- MPO
- Non-profit

RCP (capital construction)

- owners of the eligible facility proposed in the project for which adequate planning activities such as public involvement, user data evaluation, and conceptual design have been completed
- partnership between a facility owner and any eligible RCP Community Planning Grant applicant.



Key Grant Application Components¹

Application components:

- SF-424 (all applicants)

For Community Planning Grants and Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants with planning activities:

- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)

For Capital Construction Grants and Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants with construction activities:

- Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF-424C)
- Assurances for Construction Programs (SF-424D)

Additional information on application

All applicants must submit the standard form

Examples of past winners



Bridging I-696: Connecting Oak Park (Oak Park, Michigan) - 2022

Applicant: Michigan Department of Transportation

Funding: \$22M

Project description:

- The project will reconstruct a deck/plaza over Interstate 696 in suburban Detroit at a point which bisects the Orthodox Jewish community of Oak Park into two halves. Currently, I-696 is trenched in Oak Park and has three large bridge decks to reconnect the community, one of which is failing and will be obsolete by 2025.
- This project remove and replace the deck in order to maintain the connection for the community, as well as maintain an important pedestrian and bicycle connection. The existing deck leaks water, causing icicles to form, creating safety issues for drivers on the interstate in the winter



NJ TRANSIT's Long Branch Station Pedestrian Tunnel (LBSPT) (Long Branch, New Jersey) - 2023

Applicant: New Jersey Transit Corporation

Funding: \$13M

Project description:

- This project will remove an at-grade rail crossing and construct a pedestrian tunnel at Long Branch Station to provide access from multiple directions to the station and eliminate a problematic crossing for passengers and pedestrians.
- This project will replace a portion of existing parking with a green station plaza that includes stairs and ADA-compliant ramps to provide access to all parts of the station. The pedestrian tunnel project will improve local connectivity, address safety challenges and inequitable access to transit, while making the station more resilient long term.
- The project enhances bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, with the installation of bike racks and a bus shelter, which will make transportation modes other than driving more accessible and is in line with the vision and priorities identified by the Long Branch Master Plan



NYS Route 33 (Kensington Expressway) Project (Buffalo, New York)- 2023

Applicant: New York Department of Transportation

Funding: \$56M

Project description:

- The project will cap approximately 4,100 feet of the Kensington Expressway to provide continuous greenspace and reestablish community character and cohesiveness. Community groups have advocated for covering the expressway and restoring elements of the historic Humboldt Parkway design since the late 1980s
- The project is intended to attract new businesses, create equity, and add value to the community. In addition, the project will invest in green spaces and parkland to improve the community quality of life. Community engagement has been made possible through various community groups and elected officials