



# Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Restoration and Enhancement Grants Program



**Application period: currently closed**  
**Estimated: 7/30/2024**



**Available funding for 2019-20: \$22.4M**

# FRA supports investments in intercity passenger rail transportation



## Goals and merit criteria:

This program funds operating assistance grants for initiating, restoring, or enhancing intercity passenger rail transportation

The last time that the grant was awarded was in FY 2019-20 but there will likely be a new round of funding in the coming months

# FRA Restoration and Enhancement Grants Program Planning Details

May require some match funding (see footnote 1)

Match funding  
requirement:  
20-60%<sup>1</sup>

Description	FRA’s Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Grants Program aims to initiate, restore, or enhance intercity passenger rail service across the US	
Award amounts	<i>Anticipated no. of awards</i>	To be announced
	<i>Approx. federal funding available for all awards</i>	To be announced
	<i>Typical funding period</i>	Up to 3 years
Ongoing & past funded projects	<b>2019-2020:</b> Total grants: 3 Total funding: \$22M Average funding: ~\$7.3M	

1. Grants for a project funded under the R&E program shall not exceed 80 percent of the projected Net Operating Costs for the first year of service; 60 percent of the Net Operating Costs for the second year of service; and 40 percent of the projected Net Operating Costs for the third year of service

# Examples of past winners (examples outside Michigan)

**Applicant:** Connecticut Department of Transportation

**Project:** CTrail- Hartford Line Rail Enhancement Project

**Location:** New Haven, CT to Springfield, MA

**Funding:** \$4,395,616

**Project description:** The project provides two additional weekday trains between New Haven, Connecticut, and Springfield, Massachusetts, on the CTrail service. It also includes adding a customer service representative in Hartford Union Station to enhance and ease passengers' experiences with ticket vending machines and access to and from the platform.

**Applicant:** Southern Rail Commission

**Project:** Restoring Intercity Passenger Rail Service along America's Gulf Coast

**Location:** New Orleans, LA, to Mobile, AL

**Funding:** \$5,450,000

**Project description:** The project restores intercity passenger rail service along the Gulf Coast with state-supported Amtrak service from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Mobile, Alabama. It will serve regions that are underserved and the project is expected to foster economic development, enhance connectivity, provide other non-transportation benefits to the Gulf Coast region, and fill a critical geographic gap in Amtrak's National Network.

**Applicant:** Wisconsin Department of Transportation

**Project:** Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail Service Project

**Location:** Chicago, IL, to Saint Paul, MN

**Funding:** \$12,569,200

**Project description:** The project adds a second daily roundtrip passenger train between Union Depot in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and Union Station in Chicago, Illinois. These endpoints are currently served along Amtrak's Empire Builder long distance service. This additional train will provide travelers with more reliable service at convenient times between Saint Paul and Chicago.

# What you will need to apply for an FRA grant – NOTE: will be updated with release of the new NOFO

FRA applications are open to states, groups of states, inter-state entities, public agencies and rail carriers (e.g., Amtrak)



## Eligible Entities

Projects eligible for funding under this grant program include:

- additional frequency of current service
- offering new on-board services
- establishing new service
- extension of current service
- restoration of previously operated service

Eligible Recipients:

- (1) a State (including the District of Columbia);
- (2) a group of States;
- (3) an Interstate Compact;
- (4) a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States;
- (5) a political subdivision of a State;
- (6) Amtrak or another Rail Carrier that provides Intercity Rail Passenger Transportation;
- (7) any Rail Carrier in partnership with at least one of the entities described in (1) through (5); and
- (8) any combination of the entities described in (1) through (7).



## Key Grant Application Components

- Project Narrative
- Statement of Work
- Capital and mobilization plan
- Operating plan
- Funding plan
- Status of negotiations and agreements
- SF424—Application for Federal Assistance
- SF 424A—Budget Information for Non-Construction
- SF 424B—Assurances for Non-Construction
- FRA's Additional Assurances and Certifications
- SF LLL—Disclosure of Lobbying Activities