



Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program



Application deadline: 4/17/2025 at 4:59pm ET



**Available funding for 2025: \$27M¹
(\$10M is set-aside for tribal applicants)**

1. Up to \$10M available for Single Project grants, up to \$17M available for Multi-Community grants

Source: [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#)

Note: This fact pack has been created with the program NOFO as of January 24th, 2025 and revised on February 26th, 2025 to capture updated dates. NOFOs may be subject to change. Please monitor [grants.gov](#) and source material for additional information

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program



Goals and merit criteria for Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program grants:

The DOT will prioritize awarding funds to rural and tribal communities that will benefit from the RTAP Program. These include:

- Rural local governments or political subdivisions
- States seeking to advance projects in rural areas
- Federally recognized tribes, and
- The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

The funding aims to help applicants develop infrastructure projects in rural and tribal communities by providing funding for planning and design phase activities

Source: [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#)

Note: This fact pack has been created with the program NOFO as of January 24th, 2025 and revised on February 26th, 2025 to capture updated dates. NOFOs may be subject to change. Please monitor [grants.gov](#) and source material for additional information

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Grants

Match funding
requirement: none

Direct Pay
applicability: No

Eligible grant uses **Financial services, technical services, and legal services for infrastructure projects** that would reasonably qualify for one or more DoT funding programs (TIFIA, RRIF, INFRA, Mega, RAISE, National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration)

Single project grants can be used for planning and design phase of single project; multi-community grants can be used for planning and design activities of projects within three separate communities, at a minimum, submitted under a single application

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to feasibility studies, project planning, revenue forecasting, funding and financing options analyses, preliminary engineering and design work, environmental review, economic assessments and cost-benefit analyses, public benefits studies, statutory and regulatory framework analyses, value-for-money (VFM) studies, evaluations of costs to sustain the project and evaluation opportunities for private financing and project bundling

Award amounts	Single Project	Minimum award	\$0.2M
		Maximum award	\$0.7M
		Award distribution	\$10M of total RTAPP funding is set aside for eligible tribal applicants; no more than 20% of RTAPP funding will be allocated to a single state
		Period of performance	Up to 36 months
Multi-Community		Minimum award	\$0.5M
		Maximum award	\$2.25M
		Award distribution	\$10M of total RTAPP funding is set aside for eligible tribal applicants; no more than 20% of RTAPP funding will be allocated to a single state
		Period of performance	Up to 36 months
Previous awards (national, 2023)		13 awards (\$3.4M)	
Previous awards (MI, 2023)		1 award (\$300K)	

Source: [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, US Department of Transportation Press Release](#)
 Note: This fact pack has been created with the program NOFO as of January 24th, 2025 and revised on February 26th, 2025 to capture updated dates. NOFOs may be subject to change. Please monitor **STATE OF MICHIGAN** grants.gov and source material for additional information

High level requirements to apply for a Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program grant

NON-EXHAUSTIVE



Eligible Entities¹

- **Rural local governments or political subdivisions** located outside of an urbanized area that has a population of more 150,000 residents as determined by census²
 - e.g., town, township, parish (under state of LA), local public authority³, special district, school district, council of governments⁴, or any other agency or instrumentality of a multi-, regional, or intra-State or local govt.
- **State, territory or possession of the United States** seeking to advance a project in a location outside of an urbanized area that has a population of more than 150K residents as determined by Bureau of the Census
- **Federally recognized Indian tribe**
- **Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**



Key Grant Application Components

- An active System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration for the entity that is applying and Points of Contact (POC) listed under the organization's entity registration in SAM.gov
- Applicant information
- Organization information
- Project information including project location, description, cost and alignment with DoT policy
- Metrics against key goals:
 - Provide benefits to the community through transportation projects
 - Increase grant recipient's capacity, knowledge, and skills to execute transportation projects
 - Engage, educate, and listen to the community throughout the project planning process
 - Advance the transformational project(s) closer to delivery
- Letters of support from partner communities (Multi-Community grant applications only)

1. Recipients of FY2022/2023 RTAPP grants may not apply for funding for the *same* project

2. Determine rural eligibility using the [Rural Eligibility | US Department of Transportation tool](#)

3. Including any public housing agency under US Housing Act of 1937

4. Whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law

Source: [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#)

Note: This fact pack has been created with the program NOFO as of January 24th, 2025 and revised on February 26th, 2025 to capture updated dates. NOFOs may be subject to change. Please monitor [grants.gov](#) and source material for additional information

Examples of past winners in Michigan and the Midwest



Technical services for design and permitting for new road and trail (2023)

Applicant: Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians

Impacted locality: Shelbyville, MN

Funding: \$300K

Project description:

- Funding will provide technical services in support of design and permitting for road and trail construction on the lands of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians



Design and engineering for street reconstruction and bicycle lane addition (2023)

Applicant: City of Elkhorn

Impacted locality: Elkhorn, WI

Funding: \$320K

Project description:

- Funding will enable engineering and design services for roadway reconstruction, addition of a bike lane and improvements to off-street bike path
- Infrastructure improvements include, but is not limited to, watermain replacement, sanitary sewer replacement, erosion control and installation of new street signs



Environmental review for construction of non-motorized path extension (2023)

Applicant: Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Impacted locality: Cloquet, MN

Funding: \$320K

Project description:

- Funding will enable an environmental review for the construction of a non-motorized path extension from multi-use Munger State recreational trail
- Trail extension will connect communities of Proctor (~3K residents) and Hermantown (~10K residents) to 70-mile multi-use recreational trail, not currently traversable by foot / bicycle due to a steep ridge

Source: [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, US Department of Transportation Press Release](#)

Note: This fact pack has been created with the program NOFO as of January 24th, 2025 and revised on February 26th, 2025 to capture updated dates. NOFOs may be subject to change. Please monitor [grants.gov](#) and source material for additional information