

# USDOT Open Discretionary Grant Opportunities

September 2023



## Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCN)

**Application Due: September 28, 2023**

**Link:** <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=348959>

RCN supports two grant programs (Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood Access and Equity) that prioritize disadvantaged communities, improving access destinations, foster equitable development, and remove barriers to connectivity

### • [Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program \(RCP\)](#)

**Amount Available:** \$198 million

**Eligible Applicants:** States, county, city, or township governments, tribal governments, nonprofits, facility owner (for Capital Construction projects)

**Funding Available for:**

- Planning Grants: public engagement activities, planning studies, other planning activities including preliminary engineering, anti-displacement policies, and associated local needs
- Capital Construction Grants: design activities, environmental studies, preconstruction, permitting activities

### • [Neighborhood Access and Equity Program \(NAE\)](#)

**Amount Available:** \$3.16 billion

**Eligible Applicants:** States, local governments, tribal governments, special purpose district, MPO, nonprofit or higher ed institution in partnership with one of the aforementioned entities

**Funding Available for:**

- Planning Grants: activities listed above, plus activities in underserved communities regarding air quality, emissions, and flooding
- Capital Construction Grants: activities listed above, plus projects to mitigate negative impacts on humans or environment resulting from a burdening or dividing facility

## Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program

**Application Due:** October 10, 2023

**Link:** <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2023-08/Final%20SMART%20FY23%20Stage%201%20NOFO.pdf>

**Amount Available:** \$100 million

**Eligible Applicants:** States, tribes, public transit agency or authority, public toll authority, MPO, or group of two or more eligible entities

**Funding Available for:**

- Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants (only Stage 1 recipients are eligible for eventual Stage 2 grants)
- Advanced smart city or community technologies in systems that improve transportation efficiency and safety
- Project that includes one or more of the following technology areas:
  - Coordinated automation, connected vehicles, intelligent sensor-based infrastructure, systems integration, commerce delivery and logistics, leveraging use of innovative aviation technology, smart grid, smart technology traffic signals

## Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning

**Application Due: October 10, 2023**

**Link:** <https://www.transit.dot.gov/notices-funding/pilot-program-transit-oriented-development-planning-fy-2023-notice-funding>

**Amount Available:** \$13.4 million

**Eligible Applicants:** States or local governmental authorities that are FTA grantees. Applicant must either be the project sponsor of an eligible transit capital project or an entity with land use planning authority in the project corridor. Transit project sponsors are required to partner with entities with land use planning authority.

**Funding Available For:**

- Projects that integrate land use and transportation planning in a new fixed guideway and core capacity transit project corridors
- Comprehensive or site-specific planning that studies the following: ways to improve economic development and ridership potential, multimodal connectivity and accessibility, transit access for bike/ped traffic, engaging private sector, identifying infrastructure needs, enabling mixed use development near transit stations

## Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA)

### National Grants

**Application Due:** December 1, 2023

**Link:** <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349696>

**Amount Available:** \$115 million (for combined FY22-23)

**Eligible Applicants:** States, local governments, school districts, MPOs, nonprofits

**Funding Available for:**

- Retrofit or replacement of existing diesel engines, vehicles, and equipment with certified engine configurations and verified retrofit and idle reduction technologies
- Priority given to projects in local communities overburdened by air pollution

## TxDOT Letter of Support

**If you would like a Letter of Support for a grant application please fill out the form located here:**

**Link:** <https://www.txdot.gov/about/legislative-resources/federal-grants.html>

(Towards the bottom of the web-page.)

**RCN: September 15**

**TOD: September 26**

**DERA: November 17**

**Contact: Robin Ayers for more information**

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