

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

The Rural and Tribal Assistance (RTA) Pilot Program is a five-year discretionary program through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the RTA is to provide early-stage development assistance for rural and tribal infrastructure projects.

Eligible Applicants

1. Rural local governments (population < 150,000)
2. Political subdivisions
3. States
4. Tribes
5. Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Funding Availability

- \$3.4 million for FY22 and FY23
- For FY24-FY26, “progressively more funding available each year.”

Eligible Activities

- Financial Assistance
 - Revenue Forecasting, Benefit Cost Analysis, Financial Feasibility Analysis
- Technical Assistance
 - Project Planning, Feasibility Studies, Environmental, Public Engagement, etc.
- Legal Assistance
 - Statutory and regulatory framework, Concession agreement, procurement support

Match Requirement

- None

Grant Award

- FY22: \$150,000 to \$320,000
- FY23: \$150,000 to \$360,000

RTA Evaluation Criteria

- Criterion #1: Appropriate of services requested
 - Current state of the project’s development
 - Will the grant fund services that will forward the project
- Criterion #2: Visibility of grant funds requested
 - Capacity/experience of person/firm providing service
 - Scope and Fee is reasonable

Grant Application Cycle

- August 14, 2023

RTA Requirements

Per the Program's requirements, projects receiving assistance under this Program must be reasonably expected to be eligible for any one or more of the USDOT's lending or grant programs.