



# Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Highways Project Implementation / Bureau of Local Roads & Streets  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Room 205 / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

**FILED**

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**CIRCULAR LETTER 2023-20**

*Cathy Johnson*  
COUNTY CLERK  
VERMILION CO. IL

**FEDERAL NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: 2023-2024 MULTIMODAL PROJECT DISCRETIONARY GRANT (MPDG) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:**

- ❖ **NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (MEGA)**
- ❖ **NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT MULTIMODAL FREIGHT AND HIGHWAYS PROGRAM (INFRA)**
- ❖ **RURAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM (RURAL)**

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS / MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS / METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS / TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS / CONSULTING ENGINEERS

**INTRODUCTION:**

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has recently announced that they are soliciting project applications for three separate funding opportunities under the banner/title of the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants opportunity (MPDG). The solicitation includes funding for both Federal Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024. The three programs are:

1. National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grant Program (Mega)
2. Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Program (INFRA)
3. Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (Rural)

The funding opportunities are awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects—including highway and bridge, intercity passenger rail, railway-highway grade crossing or separation, wildlife crossing, public transportation, marine highway, and freight projects, or groups of such projects—with significant national or regional impact, or to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas.

**PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

Detailed information about each program may be found on the MPDG website or in the MPDG-NOFO. Each program is open to applicants from States, Local Public Agencies (including counties, municipalities, and townships), Metropolitan Planning Organizations or Regional Planning Organizations, and others.

The programs share many similarities and specific differences are spelled out in the NOFO, on the respective opportunity pages, and highlighted in the available webinars. Please note that a project will be evaluated for consideration for all three programs unless the applicant wishes to opt-out of being evaluated for one or more

of the grant programs. The purpose of this combined application process is to ease the application process, save valuable application preparation time, to proactively assist the USDOT in matching projects with the most applicable and appropriate grant program, and to facilitate individual projects in potentially receiving funding from multiple grant programs

The below table highlights some of the key available funding information:

	<b>Mega</b>	<b>INFRA</b>	<b>Rural</b>
Project size	\$100 million to \$500 million (50% of available funding) Greater than \$500M (50% of available funding)	Small Projects: \$5 million to \$25 million (15% of available funding) Large Projects: greater than \$25 million (85% of available funding)	Less than \$25 million (10% of available of available funding) Greater than \$25 million (90% of available funding)
Project Share	60% of future costs	60% of future costs	80% of future costs
Available Funding	\$1.8 billion	\$3.1 billion	\$675 million

**WEBINARS:**

The USDOT has recorded webinars that provide overviews of the three programs and discuss how to apply. The webinars are available anytime at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdg-webinars>.

**DEADLINES:**

Applications must be submitted through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) by **11:59 PM Eastern on August 21, 2023**. Applicants are only required to submit one application through any one of the three grant program opportunities to be considered for all three grant programs, depending on the project's eligibility.

Importantly, applicants must be pre-registered in Grants.gov, which can take 2-4 weeks to complete for first time applicants. Visit <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdg-how-apply> to learn more.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

For further information regarding this notice, please contact the USDOT Office of the Secretary via email at [MPDGrants@dot.gov](mailto:MPDGrants@dot.gov).

In addition, the U.S. Department of Transportation will post answers and responses to common inquiries and requests for clarifications at the USDOT website at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdg-frequently-asked-questions>

**IDOT SUPPORT:**

To request letters of support by August 4, 2023, from the Department, please contact Tim McMahon, Bureau Chief of Federal Affairs at [Timothy.McMahon@illinois.gov](mailto:Timothy.McMahon@illinois.gov).

If you have any questions on the Circular Letter; and as a courtesy, we request that you notify us of your intent to apply to foster good communication, as well as enable the Department to be able to provide administrative support for your project, please contact Holly Primm, Local Planning & Programming Manager at (217) 782-1662 or [Holly.Primm@illinois.gov](mailto:Holly.Primm@illinois.gov).

Sincerely,



George A. Tapas, P.E., S.E  
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

cc: David Snyder, FHWA Illinois Division Administrator  
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Arnie Vegter, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois