



Illinois Department of Transportation

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

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CIRCULAR LETTER 2024-12

Cathy Jenkins
COUNTY CLERK
VERMILION CO. IL

CATEGORY: NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

FEDERAL NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: 2025-2026 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 3 (three) separate funding opportunities under the banner/title of the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants (MPDG). The solicitation includes funding for both Federal Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026. 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, but the specific differences are spelled out in the NOFO, on the respective opportunity pages, and are highlighted in the available webinars. Please note that a project will be evaluated for consideration for all 3 (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:

	MEGA	INFRA	RURAL
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	\$1.7 billion	\$2.7 billion	\$780 million

WEBINARS:

The USDOT has recorded webinars that provide overviews of the 3 (three) programs and discuss how to apply. The webinars are available anytime at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdq-webinars>.

DEADLINES:

Applications must be submitted through www.Grants.gov by **11:59 PM Eastern on May 6, 2024**. 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.

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/mpdq-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.

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/mpdq-frequently-asked-questions>

IDOT SUPPORT & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

To request letters of support by April 19, 2024, from the Department, please contact Tim McMahon, Bureau Chief of Federal Affairs at 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.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Vershun Tolliver, FHWA Illinois Division Administrator
Aaron Metzger, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Molly Rockford, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Brad Cole, Illinois Municipal League
Jerry Crabtree, Township Officials of Illinois
Craig Smith, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois