

Five winning strategies for developing competitive applications for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding

#1 Be strategic about where you focus your time and energy when applying for grants – and connect your strategic planning efforts with grant applications.

The most competitive program applications will demonstrate the connection between a funding request, the agency's goals, and your city's long-term goals. Not only does this make your application more competitive, but making sure the funding is aligned with your goals means that it will serve your agenda for your city more powerfully.

There are a lot of funding sources contained in BIL, and some of them will be right for your city – while others may not be.

#2 Think BIG! BIL is more than just roads and bridges.

This funding can be used to rebuild America's roads, bridges, and rails; expand access to clean drinking water; and ensure every American has access to high-speed internet. But the way these opportunities are structured can help your city truly tackle the climate crisis, build the workforce you need to implement these transformational projects, and focus on investing in communities that have too often been left behind.

#3 Build in data and evidence tools from the beginning – they will serve you well.

Many BIL programs offer cities the flexibility to invest in data and evidence tools as part of their program expenditures. Taking advantage of this flexibility means you get long-term benefits from this funding.

#4 Get all the high quality help you can – it's all hands on deck!

These federal funding opportunities may seem overwhelming – and like a lot of work. That's why taking all the high quality help you can get is essential. Technical assistance supports like those that will be offered through the [Local Infrastructure Hub](#) can help you and your teams navigate the process.

#5 This is a marathon – AND a sprint.

You may be feeling a sense of urgency about applying for federal funds – and while there will indeed be a lot of funding opportunities available in the coming months, it's important to remember that nearly all of these programs have several years of funding through BIL.

Pace yourself and pick the right opportunities for you, not just the most timely or urgent ones.