

# Combined Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program & Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program

## INTRODUCTION

RCE funds projects that improve rail infrastructure to enhance safety, improve the health of communities, eliminate grade crossings frequently blocked by trains, and/or mitigate impacts of railroad operations on underserved communities.

CRISI funds projects that improve railroad safety, efficiency, and reliability; mitigate congestion at chokepoints; enhance multimodal connections; and improve Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation corridors.

## GRANT APPLICATION BOOTCAMP GOALS

- Provide clear, actionable, and user-centered information on funding opportunities available to all local governments as part of the IJJA
- Raise cities' ambition for how they can leverage funds to deliver a big impact for their residents, specifically in relation to racial wealth equity, climate, and other important policy areas
- Provide focused support to resource-constrained communities to help them submit competitive applications and win more federal funds
- Elevate the collective efforts of local governments, philanthropic and civic sectors in their efforts to leverage federal infrastructure dollars for high-impact, outcomes-driven efforts

## BOOTCAMP MODULES

**Module 1, Orientation and Grant Overview:** Cities will be oriented to the funding program.

Link to Peer Learning Session: [https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocuuqrzIsHtenh\\_owanZFM7T6FUDnvPy0](https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocuuqrzIsHtenh_owanZFM7T6FUDnvPy0)

**Module 2, Federal Administration Priorities:** Cities will also be able to incorporate climate, equity, and training and workforce development into their grant applications and demonstrate that they are willing to raise their ambitions in these priority areas.

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**Module 3, Incorporating Data:** Cities will access and utilize a data platform providing local statistics on issues ranging from health and housing to local economy and environmental issues, as well as other focused variables relevant to their grant application. This module also includes training on conducting equity analysis and developing a strong, data-driven narrative to complement grant applications.

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**Module 4, Engaging the Community:** Cities will be able to draft Community Engagement and Advocacy Strategies and understand the audience for advocacy and project strategies.

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**Module 5, Demystifying Capital Sources, Budget, and Service Contracts:** Cities focus on the fundamentals of capital sources, budget, and service contracts and develop a draft project budget with matching sources and potential new sources of funding.

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**Module 6, Telling Your Story:** Cities learn the best practices to produce a compelling grant narrative and package their full grant application.

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**Module 7, Post Submission Long-Term Capacity Building:** Once the applications have been submitted, cities develop plans to successfully administer the grant including how best to (re)organize local institutional processes.

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## WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN EACH SESSION?

**Mayor:** Participates in selective modules to spearhead goals and advocacy, review the impact story of draft applications, and implement long-term capacity-building measures (Modules 1, 2, 8)

**Grant Lead:** Participates in all modules and is the primary point of contact for each participating city team (All Modules)

**Community Engagement Lead:** Participates in selective modules to help design community engagement strategies (Module 4)

**Finance Lead:** Participates in budget and capital stacks module (Module 5)

## BOOTCAMP MEETING STRUCTURE

**Peer Learning Sessions (Webinars):** Interactive sessions featuring Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) on the policy and grant approach; followed by smaller sessions for peer discussions

**Coaching Sessions:** Smaller sessions that continue to build on specific application questions identified in the peer learning session

**Office Hours (Consultant Meetings):** Support in the form of designated time slots with our SMEs and your team to address specific questions about your grant application

## SUPPORT DURING THIS BOOTCAMP

**Navigator Team:** Our Navigator is available to help answer the following kinds of questions:

- Bootcamp timelines
- Bootcamp schedules
- Participation expectations

Our Navigator for this grant, Broderick Smith, can be reached at [SmithB@nlc.org](mailto:SmithB@nlc.org).

## GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible entities include a unit or group of local government(s) (i.e., cities, towns, counties, etc.).

## TIMELINE

The RCE NOFO is anticipated for Summer 2023 release with a ~90 day turnaround; the CRISI NOFO is anticipated for release Fall 2023 release with a ~90-day turnaround.

## LINK TO FEDERAL WEBSITE

<https://railroads.dot.gov/grants-loans/competitive-discretionary-grant-programs/consolidated-rail-infrastructure-and-safety-2>

## PREPARING FOR THE BOOTCAMP

- Create an account at [login.gov](https://login.gov) if you do not already have one.
- Register at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) or update registration to obtain a DUNS number.
  - Note: It can take almost a month after an applicant submits the SAM (System for Award Management) registration before the registration is active in the system. Please keep this in mind and create your account as early as possible.
  - Note: Existing SAM.gov registrants should check annually to confirm that their registration is active. Please ensure that your city's name, address, and EIN are up to date.
    - Getting started with your UEI:
      1. Sign in to SAM.gov.
      2. Go to Workspace (top right corner).
      3. Locate the Entity Management widget to find your UEI.
      4. Once you have the UEI, validate your entity's legal business name and physical address under Profile.