

Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)

Agency

U.S. Department of Transportation

Category

Community Development Grants

Eligible Applicants

To be confirmed. This is a new program included in the Inflation Reduction Act. Per existing guidance in the [Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#) (IRA Guidebook), local governments, transportation agencies, and states are expected to be eligible applicants while nonprofits and institutions of higher education may be eligible to participate in partnership with an eligible entity.

Total IRA Funding

[\\$3.2+ billion](#)

FY23 Grant Funding

FY23 funding levels are TBD.

Key Dates

The [Department of Transportation](#) estimates this NOFO to be released in late Spring 2023.

Match Requirements

To be confirmed. Based on available information from the IRA Guidebook, the match requirement will be 20% and may be waived to 0% if the project is in a disadvantaged or underserved community. This information is subject to change when the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is released.

Overview

Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) is a new program created by the Inflation Reduction Act. The program supports removing surface transportation structures (e.g. highways or viaducts) to increase connectivity in disadvantaged or underserved communities.

Eligible Activities

RCNs will support projects that improve walkability and safety and provide affordable transportation access; mitigate or remediate negative impacts on the human or natural environment from a surface transportation facility in a disadvantaged or underserved community; and implement planning and capacity-building activities in disadvantaged or underserved communities.

Opportunities for Climate and Racial Wealth Equity

The IRA Guidebook states that RCNs are intended to redress the legacy of harm caused by transportation infrastructure, including barriers to opportunity, displacement, damage to the environment and public health, and other hardships. In pursuit of this goal, it is likely that the program will support and engage economically disadvantaged communities to increase affordable, accessible, and multimodal access to daily destinations like jobs, healthcare, grocery stores, schools, places of worship, recreation, and park space.

Key Funding Criteria

While the Notice of Funding Opportunity will provide specific information on evaluation criteria, applicants can likely expect to be evaluated on the project's impact on equitable redevelopment, environmental justice, and community engagement and stewardship, based on evaluation criteria from a similar program, the [Reconnecting Communities Pilot](#).

Additional Information

Until the program is officially launched, information is available in the [Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#).