Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

INTRODUCTION

RAISE provides investments in road, rail, transit, and port projects to enhance freight and passenger transportation networks. These projects will ultimately strengthen supply chains, reduce bottlenecks, and make local communities safer and more efficient for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. Projects might include the development of master plans, zero emissions plans, reducing conflicts in residential areas between freight and traffic, development of port planning, and risk assessments.

GRANT APPLICATION BOOTCAMP GOALS

- Provide clear, actionable, and user-centered information on funding opportunities available to all local governments as part of the IIJA
- 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, Setting the Table: Cities will be oriented to the funding program.
Link to Peer Learning Session:

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.
Link to Peer Learning Session:

Module 3, Incorporating Data: Cities will understand application data requirements; general data principles and uses; how to apply data tools to assess local framework and to support a transformational agenda.
Link to Peer Learning Session:

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.
Link to Peer Learning Session:

Module 5, Demystifying Capital Stacks and Budgeting: Cities will understand the basics of capital stacks and funding structures for projects; possible matching grant requirements and allowable uses; and apply this understanding towards developing a draft project budget with matching sources and potential new sources of funding.
Link to Peer Learning Session:

Module 6, Writing and Packaging a Strong Grant Application: Cities will understand best practices for crafting narratives and will be able to produce a compelling grant narrative consistent with the funding opportunity requirements. Additionally, Cities will understand how to package/submit a complete grant application along with developing a plan to advance the request with key officials.
Link to Peer Learning Session:

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.
Link to Peer Learning Session:

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
Grant Lead: Participates in all modules and is the primary point of contact for each participating city team
Community Engagement Lead: Participates in selective modules to help design community engagement strategies
Finance Lead: Participates in budget and capital stacks module

BOOTCAMP MEETING STRUCTURE

Peer Learning Sessions (Webinars): Interactive sessions featuring subject matter experts 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 Subject Matter Experts (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 team for this grant can be reached at: SmithB@nlc.org.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

States; territories; a unit of local government; a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States; a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority; a Federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes; a transit agency; and a multi-State or multi-jurisdictional group of entities that are separately eligible.

HELPFUL LINKS

Application Information: https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/apply
Link to NOFO: https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo
Link to Federal Website: https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants

PREPARING FOR THE BOOTCAMP

- Create an account at login.gov if you do not already have one.
- Register at 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.