

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant Program

INTRODUCTION

The CWSRF program offers low-interest loans to support water quality infrastructure projects. There are 11 categories of eligible projects, including the construction, repair, and replacement of publicly owned treatment works that enhance energy efficiency, water conservation, recycling, and stormwater management. Forty-nine percent of general supplemental funding must go towards disadvantaged communities to address affordability challenges.

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, Setting the Table: Cities will be introduced to the funding program and its criteria and hear from federal administration speakers.

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. Cities will learn how to start the PROTECT application process.

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.

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.

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

Module 6, Writing and Packaging a Strong Grant: Cities will understand how to produce a compelling grant narrative and package grant documents and supporting materials consistent with the funding opportunity requirements.

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.

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.

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

One-on-One Consultations: 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 for this grant is Whitney Young, who can be reached at: wyoung@nlc.org.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant program provides funding to ensure surface transportation resilience to natural hazards including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure. For information from the Federal website, please [Click Here](#).

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.

BOOTCAMP WEBSITE

The PROTECT website has all the information you need. The Modules and Resources section provides the dates/times and links for peer learning sessions, recordings, and slide decks from previous sessions, and office hours/coaching session info. To access the website, please [Click Here](#).

- In each Module section, you will find relevant information and resources for that Module.

BOOTCAMP PEER SESSION REGISTRATION

You can register for all the peer learning sessions by [Clicking Here](#).