

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

Background and Purpose

This resource is designed to help RCI participants to identify whether the RAISE grant opportunity is a good fit for their reconnection project, and to help make the case for taking the time to apply for this grant. Fill out Table 2 under *Making the Case for Your Grant Application*, and then share this document with internal decision-makers as a quick overview of the grant and why it may be worth pursuing.

Grant Program Overview

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program funds the planning and construction of surface transportation projects that enhance economic competitiveness, improve safety, reduce environmental impact, and promote innovation. RAISE grants are particularly useful for pursuing multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional projects.

For additional information on the RAISE program, please see the following:

- The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available [here](#).
- Previously awarded projects are [here](#).
- FAQs are [here](#).

2025 Eligibility Requirements

RAISE grants are available to the applicant types listed in Table 1. Recipients of past RAISE, BUILD, or TIGER grants are eligible for funding to support additional phases of a project that was previously awarded funds through these programs.

Table 1. Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicant Types	Ineligible Applicant Types
State, local, and tribal governments	Federal agencies
Any territory or possession of the United States	Non-profits
Transit agencies	Private entities
A multi-State or multi-jurisdictional group of entities that are separately eligible	Individuals
A special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority	
Public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States	

Eligible planning projects include the planning, preparation, or design of eligible surface transportation capital projects that will not result in construction with FY 2025 RAISE funding.

Examples of eligible capital projects include the following:

1. Highway, bridge, or other road projects eligible under title 23, United States Code.
2. Public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code.
3. Passenger and freight rail transportation projects.
4. Port infrastructure investments.
5. Intermodal projects.

Please note that additional examples of eligible projects are available in the [NOFO](#), and that improvements to Federally owned facilities are not eligible.

Minimum and Maximum Awards

Capital grant applications for projects located in rural areas must request at least \$1 million in RAISE funding. Capital grant applications for projects located in urban areas must request at least \$5 million in RAISE funding. For capital projects in urban areas that are not within areas of persistent poverty or historically disadvantaged communities, the minimum project total cost must be \$6.25 million. There is no minimum award size for planning grant applications. The maximum grant award is \$25 million.

Potential Project Benefits and Mission Alignment

Once you have determined that your reconnection project is eligible for RAISE, use this section to identify how this grant aligns with your organizational mission and/or community priorities, and how this grant could help you to accomplish your goals. This information can help you to demonstrate the relevance of the grant and make the case for applying for it to decision-makers, internal teams, and other stakeholders.

Importantly, make sure that your project is a good fit for the grant before trying to make the case for applying, such as by looking at the merit criteria and previously awarded projects. Checking some of the boxes below should not be considered a substitute for 1) having a project that accomplishes the intention of RAISE or 2) having a reconnection project that your entity would like to advance in general.

You can delete these instructions once you have completed Table 2.

Table 2. Making the Case for Your Grant Application

Under “Your Case,” write a few sentences based on the “Questions” column. Questions are developed as thought prompts from RCI, and you are encouraged to think of additional considerations to highlight. You can delete the “Questions” column and any irrelevant rows when you are done and then use the table as talking points about the value of this grant for your entity.

Grant Information	Questions to Determine Potential Grant and Project Benefits	Your Case
Eligible Capital projects include intermodal projects (whose component parts are otherwise an eligible project type), which are otherwise difficult to fund through Federal grants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is your reconnection project an intermodal project that would benefit from this funding? 	
Certain geographies do not require a local match.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you in a rural area, area of persistent poverty, or historically disadvantaged community? • Do you have eligible projects that would otherwise require a prohibitively large match under other grant programs? 	
RAISE Capital grants fund projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the RAISE program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would the ideal version of your reconnection project include elements related to stormwater mitigation (or flood mitigation related to stormwater runoff)? • Is stormwater management an important need for community members in the project area, and do you have data to support this? 	
RAISE Capital grants fund surface transportation components of transit-oriented development (TOD) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has your comprehensive plan identified any specific TOD projects, particularly any that are relevant to your reconnection work? • Would any current TOD development projects need additional funding to complete the full versions of their transportation components? 	

Grant Information	Questions to Determine Potential Grant and Project Benefits	Your Case
<p>RAISE Planning grants fund the planning, preparation, or design of eligible surface transportation capital projects. Examples include environmental analysis, equity analysis, community engagement, feasibility studies, and benefit-cost analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would the RAISE grant build upon your commitment to current strategic goals? For example, outreach and engagement for your project could also be used to help improve relationships with the community. • How do you plan to use the Planning grant to move your reconnection project forward? 	
<p>RAISE Planning grants fund the development of master plans, comprehensive plans, transportation corridor plans, and integrated economic development, land use, housing, and transportation plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you need funding to ensure that potential reconnection projects are included as part of a master plan (or any other eligible plan)? 	
<p>RAISE Planning grants fund zero emissions plans for transit fleets and goods movement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a local climate action plan or greenhouse gas reduction plan that requires or recommends zero-emission transit fleets or goods movement? 	
<p>RAISE Planning grants fund risk assessments and planning to identify vulnerabilities and address the transportation system's ability to withstand probable occurrence or recurrence of an emergency or major disaster.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a local resilience plan that would benefit from incorporating this analysis, or that requires conducting an analysis like this? 	
<p>Merit criteria includes safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does your project respond directly to the criteria in the NOFO? Is there any overlap with local officials' or departments' priorities? 	

<p>The merit criteria on state of good repair includes restoring and modernizing existing core infrastructure assets that have met their useful life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your community have infrastructure that is reaching the end of its useful life, without a plan for funding its repair or replacement? 	
<p>To the extent an awarded project requires a jobs coordinator to complete the project, the costs of that coordinator may be allocable to the RAISE grant and allowable for reimbursement or use as cost share.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would your project need a jobs or workforce coordinator, which may not be funded under other grants? • Are there organizations with whom you can partner on workforce development? 	
<p>If completing an awarded project requires training the recipient’s employees, training costs may be allocable to the RAISE grant and allowable for reimbursement or use as cost share.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you need to train people to work on the project, which may not be funded under other grants? 	
<p>Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there other uses of the RAISE grant that are not highlighted here, but align with existing plans, goals, or priorities? 	

Cost Sharing and Matching Requirements

RAISE grants typically cover up to 80% of the total project cost for urban projects and up to 100% for projects located in rural or economically disadvantaged areas. See the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for eligible non-Federal funds.

- **Urban areas are generally expected to have a 20% local match.** This does not apply to areas of persistent poverty and historically disadvantaged communities within cities, so be sure to determine whether the project falls into one of these areas.
- **Rural areas, areas of persistent poverty, and historically disadvantaged communities do not have a required local match.** However, applicants are encouraged to contribute funding to strengthen their applications.

Applicants must demonstrate financial commitment, provide a funding plan, and, if applicable, document any existing cost-share arrangements. **FY 2025 RAISE grant funds must be obligated by September 30, 2029, and expended by September 30, 2034.**¹

¹ An obligation is a legal commitment reflecting that the Federal government will disburse funds to the grant recipient.

Application Deadlines and Evaluation

The RAISE application deadline is 11:59 PM Eastern on January 30, 2025. Applicants must submit their proposals through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by this deadline to be considered. It is strongly recommended that you begin the application process early to ensure all requirements are met.

Projects are evaluated on various criteria, including economic impact, environmental sustainability, quality of life improvements, and project readiness. Priority consideration is given to rural and underserved communities, and a benefit-cost analysis is needed for Capital grant applications.

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