


# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COUNTIES


*The Lifecycle of Federal Competitive Grant Programs for Transportation*

## MILESTONE


U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announces Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) opening on grants.gov

**1** Register your county with the System for Award Management (SAM) 


Applicant will be assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) upon registering at SAM.gov

**2** Register with grants.gov and create a profile for your county 

Grants.gov will send a registration email once your profile is created

**3** Develop a thorough and complete grant application addressing all NOFO requirements 

- Pay particular attention to all merit and statutory criteria, ensuring all are addressed in a way that results in a high rating as outlined in the NOFO
- Formulate a compelling project narrative using data that outlines why your project should be funded
- Utilize technical assistance opportunities and consultants wherever possible

**4** Submit your county's completed application to grants.gov<sup>1</sup> 

Verify agency receipt using grants.gov tracking number


For assistance with submitting your application, email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

PHASE I TIMEFRAME: UP TO 1 MONTH  
PHASE II TIMEFRAME: 1-2 MONTHS  
PHASE III TIMEFRAME: 4-6 MONTHS

PHASE IV TIMEFRAME: 6-14 MONTHS  
PHASE V TIMEFRAME: VARIES BASED ON GRANT OBLIGATION PERIOD  
PHASE VI TIMEFRAME: UP TO 1 YEAR

## MILESTONE

Project selections announced by USDOT

**5** Begin grant pre-obligation period 

Successful applicants must work with USDOT to complete the required documentation, including NEPA and Terms and Conditions, before funds can be obligated

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Federal grant funds obligated<sup>2</sup>

**6** Begin reporting requirements submission 

Financial and programmatic data and compliance information must be regularly reported and may be collected via progress reports, site visits or audits

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Award completed

<sup>1</sup> Some programs require submittal through different platforms; review NOFO for full instructions

<sup>2</sup> USDOT reimburses actual eligible expenses on a progress payment basis rather than providing funding up front

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise specified

**NOTE:** These are general steps through which federal competitive grant funds for transportation may be awarded. It is imperative to read NOFOs in full to understand unique criteria and application instructions tied to different grant programs.