

FY24 Stage 1 (Planning and Prototyping) SMART Grant

This is only a summary; applicants should not rely on it to meet application requirements. Study the full grant opportunity announcement before applying for any federal grant.

Program Description – The purpose of this grant program is to solicit applications for Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants. Funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 SMART Grants Program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety.

Opportunity Numbers – DOT-SMART-FY24-01		Agency – OST-R (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology), USDOT	
Obligation Deadline: A signed grant agreement within 6 months of award; Expected Period of Performance – 18 months		Closing – July 12, 2024, 4:59 PM EST	BCA Required? No, but Summary Budget Narrative required
Available Funding: Estimated \$50M		NOFO & Related – https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/354130	
Minimum Award: \$250K minimum, \$2M maximum Expected number of awards – 30		Eligible Project Cost Restrictions: The following are not eligible costs for SMART Grants Program funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reimbursement of any pre-award costs or application preparation costs of the SMART grant application; traffic or parking enforcement activity; or purchase or lease of a license plate reader. 	
Eligible Projects: The SMART Grants Program funds multiple technology areas, as listed below. Projects <i>must</i> demonstrate at least one technology area and <i>may</i> demonstrate more than one technology area. USDOT will evaluate each application on its merits, and there is no expectation that applications demonstrate more than one technology area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated Automation Connected Vehicles Intelligent, Sensor-Based Infrastructure Systems Integration Commerce Delivery and Logistics Leveraging Use of Innovative Aviation Technology Smart Grid Smart Technology Traffic Signals 		Required Cost Share: N/A Eligible Costs: planning; feasibility analyses; revenue forecasting; environmental review; permitting; preliminary engineering and design work; systems development or information technology work; acquisition of real property (including land and improvements to land relating to an eligible project); construction; reconstruction; rehabilitation; replacement; environmental mitigation; construction contingencies; and acquisition of equipment, including vehicles. Statutorily Required Available Funding: No more than 40% of total funds to large communities (>400K), no more than 30% for midsized communities; and no more than 30 percent to rural (outside of an urbanized area) communities or regional partnerships.	
Technical Merit Criteria	#1 – Identification and Understanding of the Problem to be Solved	#2 – Appropriateness of Proposed Solution	#3 – Expected Benefits
Project Readiness Merit Criteria	#1 – Feasibility of Workplan	#2 – Community Engagement and Partnerships	#3 – Leadership and Qualifications
Additional Criteria – Benefit to Disadvantaged Communities			

Eligible Applicants –

(1) A State; (2) a political subdivision of a State; (3) a federally recognized Tribal government; (4) a public transit agency or authority; (5) a public toll authority; (6) a metropolitan planning organization; (7) a group of two or more eligible entities applying through a single lead applicant (Group Application).

SMART Grants Program Priorities – Safety and reliability, resiliency, equity and access, climate, partnerships, and integration.

Department will prioritize SMART grant funding that demonstrate the following characteristics: Fit, scale and adoption; Data sharing, cybersecurity, and privacy; Workforce Development; Measurement and Validation.

To fulfill the reporting requirements and in accordance with the [Public Access Plan](#), award recipients must consider, budget for, and implement appropriate data management for data and corresponding outputs acquired or generated during the grant.

Administration Priorities -- Safety, Climate Change and Sustainability, Equity and the Justice40 Initiative, and Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation.

Application & Narrative Requirements (page 15)

Required components include: **SF-424, SF-424A, Certification Regarding Lobbying Form, SF-LLL. Application Template with project details on Valid Eval Website Application Page, and Project Narrative** -- Narrative should not exceed **7 pages**, appendices do not count towards the 7-page limit.

The Narrative and Appendices I-III should be in PDF format, with a font size of no less than 12-point, single-spaced, minimum 1-inch margins on all sides, and page numbers. Appendix IV should be uploaded to the application in Valid Eval as a Shapefile, GEOJSON, or KML/KMZ file.

Suggested approximate lengths for each subsection of the Narrative are noted in parentheses: Overview/Project Description (1-2 pages), Project Location (1 paragraph), Community Impact (1 paragraph); Technical Merit Overview (2 pages), Project Readiness Overview (2 pages)

Suggested approximate lengths for Appendices:

Resumes (3 pages or less), Summary Budget Narrative (3 pages or less), Letters of Commitment (no more than 10 pages total).

Applications must be submitted via Valid Eval, not Grants.gov.