

Pollinator-Friendly Practices on Roadsides and Highway Rights-of-Way Project

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 goals of the Roadside Pollinator Program (RPP) are to fund the implementation, improvement, or further development of the applicants’ Pollinator Friendly Practices Plan (PFPP) on routes eligible for Federal aid. Roadsides can provide habitat for a diverse community of pollinators, including opportunities to forage for feeding, nesting and breeding. By acting as refugia for pollinators in otherwise inhospitable landscapes, roadside habitat can contribute to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and provision of ecological services such as crop pollination services.

Opportunity Numbers – 693JJ324NF00015	Agency – USDOT FHWA	
Obligation Deadline(s) (pg. 6): September 30, 2026	Closing – June 18, 2024, 11:59 PM EST	BCA Required? No
Available Funding (pg. 6): \$3 million available for award and is using existing administrative resources to manage the program rather than set-aside 2% of the appropriated amount as authorized	NOFO & Related – https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/353446	
Maximum Award (pg. 6): \$150,000	Eligible Project Cost Restrictions (pg. 18): Unless authorized by FHWA in writing after FHWA’s announcement of FY 2023 Roadside Pollinator Program awards, any costs incurred prior to FHWA’s obligation of funds for a project (“pre-award costs”) are ineligible for reimbursement. Grant funds may not be used to support or oppose union organizing, whether directly or as an offset for other funds.	
Required Cost Share (pg. 8): None		
Eligibility (pg. 8): (1) Eligible Applicant; (2) the inclusion of a PFPP; and (3) the statutorily required coordination and consultation requirements, if applicable		

Merit Criteria: FHWA will evaluate FY 2023 Roadside Pollinator Program grant applications using the following:			
Overall Benefits to Pollinator Species and Habitats	Context and Connectivity	Roadside Pollinator Design and Methods	Maintenance and Management
Project must support these statutory requirements: The RPP is a unique program with important differences from other FHWA and DOT discretionary grant programs, including the requirement for an applicant to submit a PFPP, the requirement for FHWA to fund all satisfactory applications, and the requirement for FHWA to base the amount of all awards on the number of PFPs that the applicant has implemented or plans to implement.			
Areas of Persistent Poverty (APP) or Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC): N/A			

Eligible Applicants (pg. 8) – (1) State DOTs; (2) Indian tribes; (3) Federal Land Management Agencies (FMLAs).

Eligible Practices (pg. 9-10) – (1) Pollinator-friendly mowing strategies; (2) Implementation of an integrated vegetation management plan or Pollinator-Friendly Practices Plan; (3) Planting or seeding; (4) Safety; (5) Obtaining expert training or assistance on pollinator-friendly practices; (6) Outreach; (7) Updating, improving, or further developing the Pollinator Friendly Practices Plan; (8) Protecting existing habitat; (9) Removing nonnative grasses from planting and seeding mixes.

Eligible Project Costs (pg. 11) – Eligible costs must be necessary and reasonable for the performance of the RPP award in accordance with the cost principles under 2 C.F.R. part 200, subpart E.

Project Readiness Criteria (pg. 24-25) – (1) Environmental review and permitting risk; **(2)** Project risks and mitigation strategies; **(3)** Technical assessment; **(4)** Financial completeness

Application & Narrative Requirements (pg. 13-14) – The required components include **SF-424, Application Template, SFLL, and SF-434A (non-construction projects)** or **SF-424C (construction projects)**. Applicants should also include a map or maps of the area funded under this NOFO.

Applicants **must** complete the Roadside Pollinator Program Application Template and attach it to their application for their application to be eligible to receive Roadside Pollinator Program funding. The Application Template should provide information necessary for FHWA to determine that the project satisfies the eligibility requirements described in Section C (Eligibility) of the NOFO and to evaluate the selection criteria specified in Section E.1 (Merit and Readiness criteria) of the NOFO. Merit criteria responses should not exceed 500 words per criterion.