



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

May 20, 2021

CIRCULAR LETTER 2021-16

FEDERAL NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY FY 2021 REBUILD AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) PROGRAM

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) has recently announced through the Federal Register they are soliciting project applications through the competitive transportation grant program known as the RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) Grant Program. This program was formerly known as BUILD Transportation Grants.

The NOFO (Notice Of Funding Opportunity) for this program is available here: [RAISE NOFO](#) All applicants should read this notice in its entirety so that they have the information they need to submit eligible and competitive applications.

Fiscal Year 2021 RAISE grants are for surface transportation infrastructure projects and will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. RAISE funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. 116-260) appropriated \$1 billion for National Infrastructure Investments. Grants cannot be larger than \$25 million or less than 5 million, except for projects located in rural areas where the minimum award size is \$1 million. Not more than fifty percent of the funds shall be awarded to rural projects. Not more than fifty percent of the funds shall be awarded to urban projects. U.S. DOT seeks to fund projects that to the extent possible, target at least 40 percent of resources and benefits toward low-income communities, disadvantaged communities, communities underserved by affordable transportation, or overburdened communities. No more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State.

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Eligible Applicants for RAISE Transportation grants are State, local, and tribal governments, including U.S. territories, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and other political subdivisions of State or local governments. **Interested agencies should apply through Grants.gov by 5:00 PM Eastern on July 12, 2021.**

U.S. DOT will regularly post answers to questions and requests for clarifications as well as information about webinars for further guidance on DOT's website at www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants.

For further information regarding this notice, please contact the RAISE grant program staff via email at RAISEgrants@dot.gov, or call Howard Hill at (202) 366-0301. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 202-366-3993.

If you have any questions regarding this circular letter, please contact Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, Local Program Development Engineer at (217) 782-3972 or Bablibile.Seck@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,



George A. Tapas, P.E., S.E.
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

cc: Jon-Paul Kohler, FHWA – Illinois Division
Doug House, Deputy Secretary, IDOT
Holly Bieneman, Office of Planning & programming, IDOT
Matt McAnarney, Federal Affairs, IDOT
Tracy Sisk, Bureau of Programming, IDOT
Brian Otten, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Brad Cole, Illinois Municipal League
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois
Donald Goad, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois

Attachments