

# Federal Funding for Resilience and Mitigation

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# Federal Funding Landscape: Major Changes

The federal funding landscape is undergoing significant and uncertain changes. New funding and policy priorities are emerging, displacing or substituting for previous federal funding focuses and strategies.

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Examples of new policies:

- Energy production, through oil, natural gas, coal, hydropower, biofuels, critical minerals, and nuclear energy
- Strengthening associated energy supply chains
- Framing new efforts for consumer choice with vehicles and appliances

# Federal Funding Landscape: Identifying Shifts

## Executive Orders

These Orders have established broader objectives and requirements for federal agencies, often with timelines for assessing previous policies and ensuring alignment with the incumbent Administration's focuses

## Secretarial Orders & Directives

Department- and agency-specific orders, directives, and memoranda provide initial insight into how Executive Orders are impacting funding program design and disbursement

## Rulemaking & Other Regulatory Guidance

Some agencies have indicated policy changes that may require subsequent guidance changes, entailing public comment periods and longer-term shifts in policy

## Congressional Legislation

Funding shifts will be present in Congress' budget development, and identifying where cuts are concentrated can provide proactive advisement of funding changes

## Grant Announcements & Agreements

Changes in NOFOs or grant agreements themselves should be monitored to prepare for surprise changes during application processes

# Language Considerations

## Avoid

- ✗ Referencing equity-focused tools such as the DOT's Equitable Transportation Community or the EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).
- ✗ Explicitly referencing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- ✗ Including electric vehicle, climate resiliency, and climate justice language.

## Consider

- ✓ Highlighting how work supports the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) definition of Areas of Persistent Poverty or Historically Disadvantaged Communities.
- ✓ Identifying communities disproportionately impacted or underserved and speaking to community benefits data that supports the need in their zip codes.
- ✓ Selecting data points that highlight benefits to mitigate future threats and risks to the area and have benefits to residents.

# Current Federal Funding for Resilience Programs

Program Name	Funding Focus	Last NOFO	Funding
<u>Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)</u>	Surface transportation infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impact through improving safety, reducing congestion, and spurring economic growth	Closed February 2025	\$488m (last NOFO)
<u>Transformational Habitats and Coastal Resilience Programs</u>	Supporting habitat restoration efforts that will help strengthen the climate resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities.	Closed April 2025	\$100m (last NOFO)
<u>Defense Community Infrastructure Program</u>	Addressing deficiencies in community infrastructure (including transportation, school, emergency response, water, wastewater, telecommunications, or utility) that supports a military installation.	Closed July 4, 2025	\$100m annually
<u>Safeguarding Tomorrow/Resilient Maryland</u>	Low-interest loans (no more than 1%) offered by MDEM to local gov'ts to finance projects that mitigate the effects of natural hazards.	FY 2024. New NOFO anticipated Fall 2025.	\$150m (national), Initial \$25m (Maryland)

# BUILD Award Takeaways

As BUILD awards are among the first to be awarded by the new administration, it is worth considering lessons to be learned from the award process.

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The BUILD NOFO was amended to:

- Remove greenhouse gas reduction, equity, and environmental justice from program goals.
- Remove language related to climate change.
- De-emphasis of partnerships with job-training programs and unions and of promotion of walking, biking, and transit-oriented development.
- Replace 'Historically Disadvantaged Community' with 'Areas of Persistent Poverty' as targets of set-aside funds.
- Remove zero-emission standards from planning requirements.

# BUILD Case Studies – Recently Announced Awardees

Recipient	Award	Project Description
South Dakota Department of Transportation	\$22,009,000	This project will replace the Belle Fourche River Bridge on US 85 in Belle Fourche. The existing seven-span steel bridge will be replaced with a new structure that includes resurfacing the roadway, four vehicular lanes, and two six-foot-wide pedestrian paths. The project will also implement safety features such as guardrails, lighting, and erosion control measures to stabilize the riverbanks.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	\$25,000,000	This project will complete the design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of flood resiliency and multimodal improvements from I-380 to the Union Pacific Railroad. The project includes an approximately 0.3-mile levee and realignment of F Avenue “up and over” the levee, with a trail along the top. Additional components include converting F Avenue from a one-way to a two-way configuration, constructing a floodwall from E Avenue to the existing levee south of I-380, a roundabout on F Avenue, a stormwater conveyance system, a railroad flood gate, and a pedestrian bridge.
Barton County, Kansas	\$239,138	This project will develop an accessible public transportation master plan for Barton, Rice, and Ellsworth Counties. Activities will include a community engagement process in each of the county's census tracts, using surveys, focus groups, and community events to assess the transportation needs in these rural counties.
Paonia, Colorado	\$1,884,901	This project will reconstruct the intersection at 5th Street and Grand Avenue, extending from 4th Street to approximately 200 feet north of the 5th Street intersection on Grand Avenue. The work will include installing sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and ADA-compliant curb ramps. Sidewalks will be extended to connect with existing sidewalks, crosswalks will be painted, and RRFB pedestrian signals will be installed. Grooved pavement will be added to alert traffic to reduced speed limits and school crossings.

# Uncertain Federal Funding for Resilience Programs

Program Name	Funding Focus	Status
Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	Hazard mitigation projects that reduce risks faced from natural hazards and disasters.	Cancelled, some funding rescinded.
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)	Plan for and strengthen surface transportation, including highways, public transportation, ports, and rail lines, to be more resilient to weather events and natural disasters.	NOFO removed. Program likely to return in some form.
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	Reducing or eliminating the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured by the National Flood Insurance Program.	NOFO removed. Status moving forward uncertain.



# Strategies to Prioritize Federal Funding Opportunities

Many state and local governments have the capacity to pursue only a few (if any) federal opportunities simultaneously. To make the best use of their capacity, government officials should:

- **Identify their priorities:** Determine what is most important to their communities, such as critical infrastructure, vulnerable populations, key assets, or goals identified through other planning processes.
- **Identify their risks:** Identify the hazards that could harm those priorities, such as fires, floods, or cyber-attacks.
- **Evaluate those risks for the highest vulnerabilities:** Weigh the likelihood and potential impact of the hazards.
- **Consider options for reducing those vulnerabilities:** Develop mitigation strategies, improve infrastructure, implement policies and procedures, or pursue other measures to reduce risk.
- **Review and pursue funding opportunities to target those risks and help advance their priorities:** Match needs to available programs.

# Moving Forward

- Many federal resilience-related programs are part of the set of infrastructure programs that are authorized on five-year cycles, and are set to be reauthorized later this year or next year.
- Early drafts emerging from Congressional committees retain a focus on resilience and mitigation.
- There are many technical assistance providers available to help support your pursuit of competitive funding!
  - *Don't hesitate to reach out! We are all here to support your municipality.*

# How MTAP Can Help Your Municipality.

# Fund Mapping Service Reminder

**The MTAP Team offers a fund mapping service to connect your envisioned projects with potential IIJA/IRA funding sources.**

- Addresses the potential lack of capacity to pair project ideas with potential funding sources.
- Please visit the [MTAP Fund Mapping Request Form](#) to submit project ideas.
- The MTAP team will fund map your project to an array of IIJA/IRA relevant funding opportunities.



# Grants Management Program

MTAP is creating resources designed to assist Maryland municipalities streamline the administration of ARPA funds and to facilitate the pursuit and management of other federal grant opportunities.

## **Navigating the Federal Grant Lifecycle: A Guide for Maryland Municipalities**

- This guide is designed to aid Maryland municipalities in understanding and engaging with federal grant programs. It outlines the three stages of the federal grant lifecycle, detailing the responsibilities of both funding agencies and applicants at each step. The guide covers aspects of the pre-award, award, and post-award phases for competitive (discretionary) and non-competitive (formula) grants.

## **Reference Guide on Key Uniform Guidance Responsibilities and Supporting Resources:**

- This document provides a high-level overview of each of the core elements of the Uniform Guidance with supporting publicly available resources. The content and resources included throughout this document provide information regarding eligible expenditures, budgetary flexibility, transparency measures, and accountability standards essential for using federal grant funds, ensuring responsible and effective use of these critical financial resources.

# Engage with MTAP

- **Complete a Project Intake Form** - we can assist your municipality in finding IIJA programs that support your project ideas.
- **Subscribe to our newsletter.**
- **Attend Office Hours**, held the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00am EST.
- **Submit a Question** on ARPA, IIJA or IRA.



**Visit our Website** by scanning the QR code

Share Feedback with MTAP at [arpa.neuadmin@maryland.gov](mailto:arpa.neuadmin@maryland.gov) – and let us know how we can help!