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Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program

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U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

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Disclaimer

Except for any statutes and regulations cited, the contents of this presentation do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind grant recipients in any way. This presentation is intended only to provide information and clarity on existing requirements under the law or agency policies.



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Disclaimer

General questions related to the NSFLTP NOFO can be typed into the chat pod. The questions will be addressed after the webinar ends and will be posted on the NSFLTP Website.

Any project related questions, please email them at NSFLTP-Program@dot.gov

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This is a webinar
for the Fiscal Year
(FY) 2024
NSFLTP Program
Notice of Funding
Opportunity
(NOFO)

FY24 NSFLTP NOFO

**Funding Opportunity
Number:
693JJ324NF00027**

**Posted:
July 17, 2024**

**Applications Due:
October 16, 2024**

**NOFO Link:
[https://www.grants.gov/search-results-
detail/355473](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/355473)**

**NSFLTP Website Link:
[https://highways.dot.gov/federal-
lands/programs/significant](https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/significant)**

OVERVIEW

NSFLTP Program Description

What changed from the FY 2023 NSFLTP NOFO?

How much funding is available?

What projects are eligible?

What is a Sponsorship Coordinator?

How to apply?

How will applications be reviewed?

How will recipients be announced?

What are the reporting requirements?

Where can you find more information?

Important Webpages

Questions

NSFLTP Program Description

▶ Program purpose

- To provide funding for the construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of nationally-significant projects on Federal or tribal lands.

▶ Statutory citation

- FAST Act § 1123, IIJA § 11127

▶ Eligible Applicants

- Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMA)
- Tribal governments
- States and local transportation agencies may also apply, but only if sponsored by an FLMA or tribal government.

NSFLTP Program Description

- ▶ Minimum Project Construction Cost – **\$12.5 Million**
- ▶ 50% of the available funds **must** go to tribal transportation facilities
- ▶ Not less than one eligible project from National Park Service for a unit with 3,000,000 annual visitors or more shall receive funds
- ▶ **Federal share**
 - **100%** for projects on tribal transportation facilities
 - **90%** for other projects not on tribal transportation facilities
 - Allows the use of **Federal funding** as match, including Title 23 and 49 funds
- ▶ **Funding availability**
 - Three fiscal years following the fiscal year for which the amounts are appropriated

Changes from the FY 2023 NSFLTP NOFO

Modified the
format of the
NOFO

- Improve readability.
- Most of the content remains the same.

Announce
multiple years
of funding

- FY 2024 through FY 2026

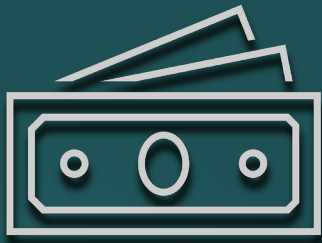
Merit criteria

- Revisions to the evaluation of the merit criteria under Section E.1.a and under Section E.1.b

Project
readiness

- It was a discretionary criterion under the FY 2023 NOFO.

FY 2024 NSFLTP funding available



\$47.74 million

in FY 2024 funding
available for award



50% or \$23.87 million

**Available for tribal
transportation facilities**

NSFLTP Project Eligibility Information

- ▶ A **single continuous project** on a Federal lands transportation facility, a Federal lands access transportation facility, or a tribal transportation facility
 - ▶ The facility is not required to be included in an inventory described in 23 U.S.C. sections 202 or 203 [FAST Act, section 1123(c)(1)];
- ▶ **NEPA must be completed**, as demonstrated through—
 - a record of decision with respect to the project;
 - a finding that the project has no significant impact; or
 - a determination that the project is categorically excluded; and
- ▶ The project must have an estimated total project cost **equal to or exceeding \$12,500,000.**

NSFLTP Eligibility Information

- ▶ Eligible activities
 - Construction related costs only
 - Design or preliminary engineering are not eligible activities/costs
 - Eligible applicants
 - FLMA
 - Tribal governments
 - States and local transportation agencies* may also apply, but the application must include documentation that an FLMA or tribe supports the project.
- *This includes States, local governments, political subdivisions of a State or local government, MPOs, and special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function, including port authorities.

Sponsorship Coordinator

- ▶ Sponsorship Coordinator provides
 - FHWA a list of sponsored applications, including their own.
 - Enough detail to match the projects with applications.
- ▶ Each tribe and FLMA should designate one person to be Sponsorship Coordinator.

Sponsorship Coordinators list: <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/significant/list-sponsorship-coordinators>

Application and Submission Information

- ▶ All applications must be submitted in **Grants.gov**.
- ▶ Content and form of application submission
 - Standard Form 424, 424C, 424D, LLL, and key contacts
 - Tribal applicants are not required to submit SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities)
 - Cover page
 - Narrative, including a project description, location, parties involved, funding, budgeting, project risks, and a discussion of how the project addresses the criteria outlined in the NOFO
 - NEPA documentation, maps, letters of support

NOFO Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/355473>

Application Review Information, Overview

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FHWA Reviews Applications

FHWA reviews applications to ensure the materials are complete and responsive to the NOFO instructions.



Technical Review Team

Technical staff from FHWA reviews projects for eligibility and rate applications against the selection criteria described in the NOFO.



Senior Review Team

Executive leaders from FHWA decide which recommended and highly recommended applications are sent to the FHWA Administrator.



FHWA Administrator

Makes the final selections

Application Review Information, Primary Merit Criteria

▶ Primary Merit Criteria

- Applications will be evaluated against the nine criteria provided in statute and described in the NOFO:
 1. Furthers the Department's goals, including state of good repair, economic competitiveness, quality of life, and safety;
 2. Improves the condition of critical transportation facilities, including multimodal transportation facilities;
 3. Needs construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation;
 4. Has matching funds (projects with a greater percentage of matching funds rank higher than projects with a lesser percentage of matching funds);

Application Review Information, Primary Merit Criteria

Primary Merit Criteria Continues

5. Is included on or is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
6. Uses new technologies and innovations to increase project efficiency;
7. Is supported (whether for construction or for operation and maintenance) by funds other than those received under this program;
8. Spans two or more States; and
9. Serves land owned by multiple Federal agencies or Indian tribes.

Application Review Information, Primary Merit Criteria

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Rating	Description
High	Projects with 4 or more primary merit criteria rated as “Highly Responsive” or “Yes” when applicable.
Medium	Projects between 1 and 3 primary merit criteria rated as “Highly Responsive” or “Yes” when applicable, or projects with “Responsive” with 5 or more of the primary merit criteria.
Low	The project has no primary merit criteria rated as “Highly Responsive” and less than 5 of the primary merit criteria rated as “Responsive” or “Yes” when applicable.

Application Review Information, Secondary Merit Criteria

▶ Secondary Merit Criteria

- ▶ Applies only to applications on Federal lands access transportation facilities or on Federal land transportation facilities (not on tribal transportation facilities):
 1. Equity
 2. The Justice40 Initiative
 3. Climate Change and Sustainability
 4. Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation

Application Review Information, Secondary Merit Criteria

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Secondary Merit Criteria Rating	3	2	1
Equity	Highly Responsive	Responsive	Not Responsive
The Justice40 Initiative	Yes		No
Climate Change and Sustainability	Highly Responsive	Responsive	Not Responsive
Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation	Yes		No

Application Review Information, Secondary Merit Criteria

Rating	Description
High	All 3's
Medium- High	Any 3's
Medium	Any 2's AND no 3's
Low	All 1's

Application Review Information, Project Readiness

▶ **Project Readiness**

- ▶ Applies to all applications:
- ▶ FHWA will consider three aspects:
 - ▶ Environmental Review and Permitting Risk - reviews project's environmental approvals and likelihood of the necessary approval affecting project obligation.
 - ▶ Technical Assessment - reviews the applicant's capacity to successfully deliver the project in compliance with applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local requirements with DOT discretionary grant awards.
 - ▶ Financial Completeness- reviews the availability of matching funds as applicable.

Application Review Information, Project Readiness

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Project Readiness	3	2	1
Environmental Review and Permitting Risk	<p>Low Risk: The project has completed, or it is highly likely that they will be able to complete environmental reviews in the time necessary to meet their project schedule.</p>	<p>Moderate Risk: The project has not secured necessary Federal permits, and it is uncertain whether they will be able to secure necessary Federal permits in the time necessary to meet their project schedule.</p>	<p>High Risk: There are known environmental, or litigation concerns associated with the project.</p>

Application Review Information, Project Readiness

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Project Readiness	3	2	1
Technical Assessment	<p>Certain: The team is confident in the applicant's capacity to deliver the project in a manner that satisfies Federal requirements.</p>	<p>Somewhat Certain/Unknown: The team is moderately confident in the applicant's capacity to deliver the project in a manner that satisfies Federal requirements.</p>	<p>Uncertain: The team is not confident in the applicant's capacity to deliver this project in a manner that satisfies Federal requirements.</p>

Application Review Information, Project Readiness

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Project Readiness	3	2	1
Financial Completeness	<p>Complete, Stable and Committed: The project's Federal and non-Federal sources are fully committed and there is demonstrated funding available to cover contingency/cost increases.</p>	<p>Partially Complete/Appears Stable and Highly Likely to be Available: Project funding is not fully committed but appears highly likely to be secured in time to meet the project's construction schedule.</p>	<p>Incomplete Funding: The project lacks full funding, or one or more Federal or non-Federal match sources are still uncertain as to whether they will be secured in time to meet the project's construction schedule.</p>

Application Review Information, Project Readiness

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Rating	Description
High	All 3's
Medium- High	Two 3's, one 2
Medium	One 3, two 2's or all 2's
Low	Any 1's

Application Review Information, Overall Application Rating

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Rating	Highly Recommended	Recommended	Not Recommended
Primary Merit Criteria	High	Medium	Low
Secondary Merit Criteria	High Medium - High	High Medium – High Medium	Low
Project Readiness	High Medium - High	High Medium – High Medium	Low

Application Review Information, Overall Application Rating

Highly Recommended

- The project **aligns extremely well** with the objectives of the criteria.

Recommended

- The project **aligns well** with the objectives of the criteria.

Not Recommended

- The project **does not align well** with objectives of the criteria or **does not align with the eligibility criteria.**

Highly Recommended and Recommended applications are sent to the FHWA Administrator.

FHWA Administrator makes the final selections

Federal Award Administration Information

- ▶ **Notification of Selection**
 - The FHWA will announce awarded projects by posting a list of selected projects at <https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/significant/>
 - Following the announcement, FHWA will call the point of contact listed in form SF-424 to initiate negotiation of a project-specific agreement.
- ▶ The selection announcement is not an authorization to start work and incur costs.
- ▶ Recipients can only do work and incur costs after a grant/project agreement is in place.

Federal Award Administration Information

▶ Reporting

- Recipients of NSFLTP Program funding are responsible for meeting reporting requirements.
 - Federal Financial Report (SF-425) on the financial condition of the project
 - Performance progress reports
 - Annual budget review and program plan to monitor the use of Federal funds and ensure accountability and financial transparency in the NSFLTP Program
 - FHWA reserves the right to request additional information, if deemed needed, to better understand the status of the project.

Websites

- ▶ There are several websites mentioned in the NOFO, including
 - Grants.gov
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=343073>
 - SAM.gov
<https://sam.gov/content/home>
 - NSFLTP website
<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/significant>

Websites: Grants.gov

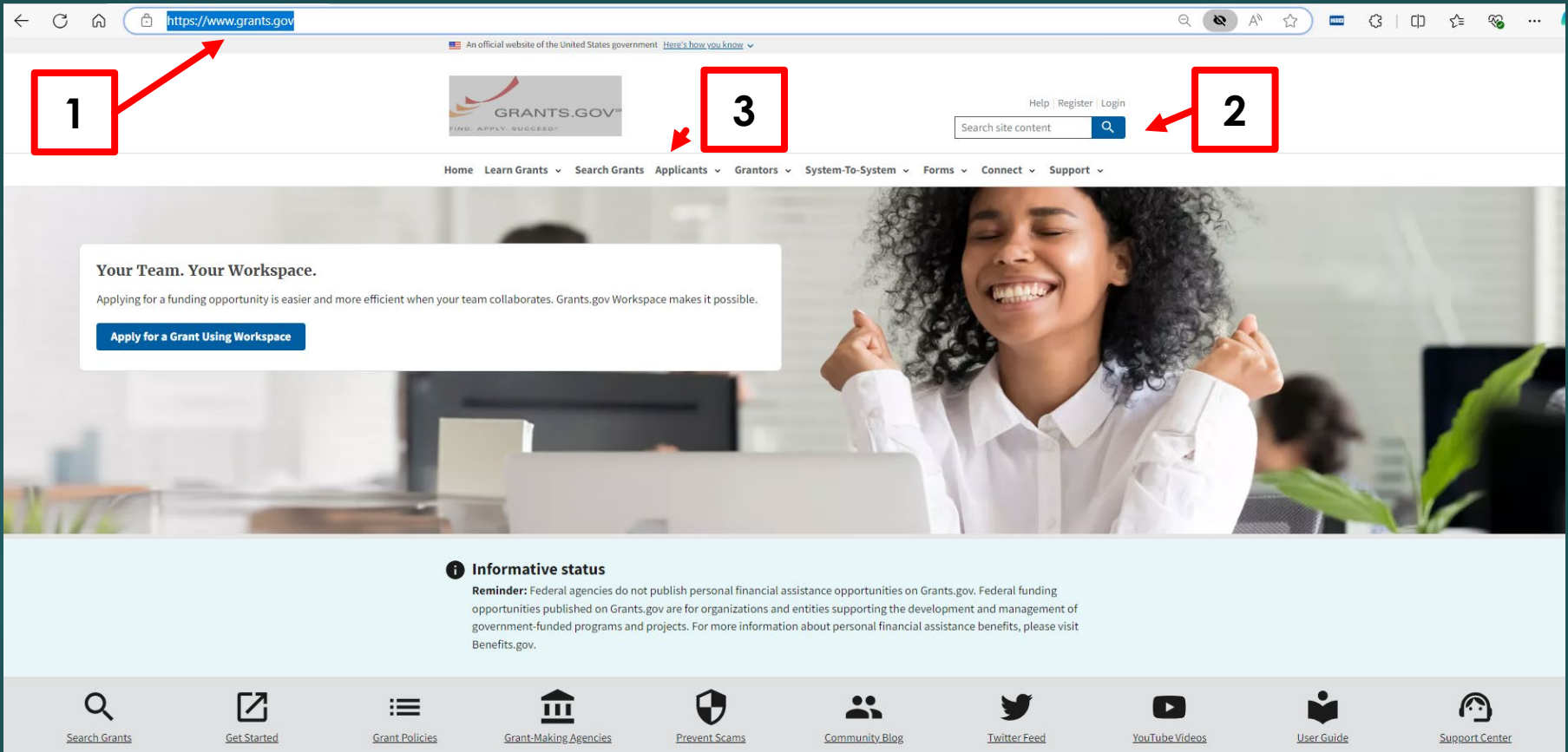
Grants.gov Applicant Overview



Video on how to register, set up a profile, and navigate grants.gov:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YomKyhX4_kg

Websites: Grants.gov



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Websites: Grants.gov 3

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov Support Center page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Grants.gov logo and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "Informative status" with a reminder about federal funding opportunities. The main content area is titled "SUPPORT CENTER" and contains several links and resources. A red box with the number "1" is placed over the "FAQs" link, and a red arrow points from it to the "FAQs" link. Another red box with the number "2" is placed over the "Find Help and Learn" link, and a red arrow points from it to the "Find Help and Learn" link.

SUPPORT CENTER

Welcome to Grants.gov Support
The Grants.gov support resources are here to help you successfully find and apply for grants. Grants.gov [Applicant Support](#) is available 24/7 (except federal holidays). Be sure to include [reporting details](#) when you call or email.

Find Help and Learn
[Grants Learning Center](#)
[Online Help](#)
[Applicant Training](#)

About the Program
[About Grants.gov](#)

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FAQs
[Frequently Asked Questions Portal](#)

Grants.gov Releases
[Notices](#)
[Maintenance Calendar](#)
[Releases](#)

Report Fraud
Call the Federal Trade Commission Fraud Hotline: 1-877-382-4357
Call HHS Fraud Hotline: 1-800-447-8477
[Learn about Grant Scams and Fraud](#)

Feedback
[Recommend Site Enhancements \(PDF\)](#)

[Return to top](#)

Direct link to grants.gov support center:
<https://www.grants.gov/support/>

Websites: Grants.gov 4

▶ Helpdesk

- 1-800-518-4726 (U.S.)
- 1-606-545-5053 (International)
- **Email: support@grants.gov**
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (excluding Federal holidays)

▶ Grants.gov Online Help:

<https://apply07.grants.gov/help/html/help/index.htm#t=GetStarted%2FGetStarted.htm>

Websites: SAM.gov

- ▶ **What's SAM.gov?** System for Award Management is the website where you register to do business with the U.S. Government
- ▶ **How do you sign up?**
 - Create a user account.
 - Register your entity to do business.
- ▶ **What if we are Tribe or Alaskan Native Village?** Yes, you must be registered in SAM.gov to receive a Federal award.

Websites: SAM.gov

- ▶ Must be registered in SAM.gov.
- ▶ Must have an UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) (replaces DUNS Number).
- ▶ These processes can take several weeks to complete. Applications should be started well before the deadline.
- ▶ Direct link to SAM:
<https://sam.gov>

Websites: SAM.gov



Video on how to register on SAM.gov:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zfr7poeQfSg>

Websites: SAM.gov

The image shows a screenshot of the SAM.gov website. At the top, the browser address bar displays "https://sam.gov/content/home". Below the address bar, a navigation menu includes "Home", "Search", "Data Bank", "Data Services", and "Help". A red box with the number "1" is placed over the "Home" link, with a red arrow pointing to the "An official website of the United States government" text in the browser's status bar. The main content area features the SAM.GOV logo, a "Sign In" button, and a badge stating "Official U.S. Government Website 100% Free". A large central panel lists various services: "Contract Opportunities", "Contract Data", "Wage Determinations", "Federal Hierarchy", "Assistance Listings", "Entity Information", and "Entity Reporting". A "View FASCSA Orders" button is also present. To the right, a "Register Your Entity or Get a Unique Entity ID" section contains "Get Started", "Renew Entity", and "Check Entity Status" buttons. A red box with the number "2" is placed over the "Get Started" button, with a red arrow pointing to the "Register Your Entity or Get a Unique Entity ID" heading. At the bottom, a search bar is labeled "Already know what you want to find?" and contains a dropdown menu with "Select Domain..." and a search input field with the text "e.g. 1606N020Q02".

Websites: NSFLTP

▶ What is the NSFLTP website?

- This website contains information specific to the NSFLTP Program.
- Program background
- Previously selected projects
- Frequently asked questions
- Link to the NOFO on Grants.gov

<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/significant>
NOFO Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/355473>



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
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Questions?

EMAIL US AT:

NSFLTP-PROGRAM@DOT.GOV