

RCN

RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

Next opportunity anticipated Fall 2024.

ADMINISTERED BY: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT)

The Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) program oversees the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) and Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) programs. RCN aims to advance community-centered connections, with a priority for transportation projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, by improving access to daily needs, fostering equitable development and restoration, and reconnecting communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity. **The FY 2023 awards are expected to be announced in late February 2024. It's currently unclear if any NAE funds will remain for this cycle. If available, these funds will be combined with the RCP funds in the FY 2024 NOFO.**



EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

ACCESS

FACILITY SUITABILITY

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Class I railroads are not eligible applicants under the RCN program; however, they may partner with eligible applicants – as Project Partners – to pursue funding for projects.

RCP – Capital Construction Grants: Owner(s) of the eligible facility proposed in the project for which all necessary feasibility studies and other planning activities have been completed or a partnership between a facility owner and any eligible RCP Community Planning Grant applicant

RCP – Community Planning Grants: State, unit of local government, Tribal government, Metropolitan Planning Organization, or a non-profit organization

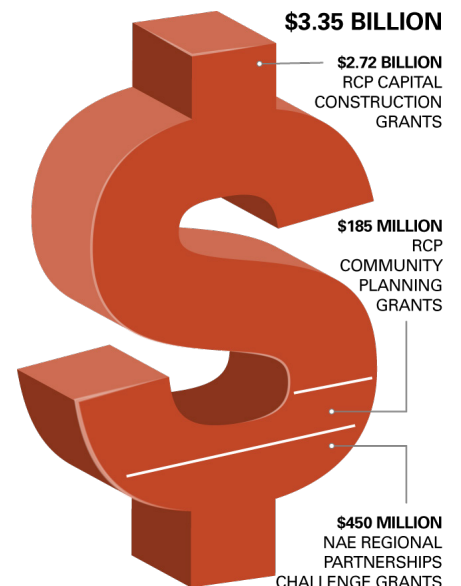
NAE – Community Planning, Capital Construction, and Regional Partnership Challenge Grants: State or territory, unit of local government, political subdivision of a state, Tribal government, special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, Metropolitan Planning Organization, or a non-profit organization or institution of higher education that has entered a partnership with an eligible entity and is applying for a grant for planning and capacity building activities in disadvantaged communities



BNSF PII

BNSF Railway's Public Infrastructure and Investment (PII) team is committed to building strong partnerships that maximize the impact of funding opportunities. As Project Partners, we can collaborate to help secure funding that drives positive change and progress for communities where we work, live, and play.

RCN



RCP CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION GRANTS

\$2.72 Billion

This category supports eligible construction activities.

- Preliminary and detailed design phases, accompanied by environmental studies and pre-construction activities
- Permitting processes, such as the NEPA completion, and actions concerning the removal, retrofit, or mitigation of eligible facilities
- Replacement of qualifying structures with new ones, ensuring community benefits, and addressing potential impacts

**Funding Split
\$2.72 Billion**

Project Min: \$5M with RCP funds
Project Max: N/A
Funding Ceiling: \$2.72B
Funding Floor: N/A

RCP COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANTS

\$185 Million

This category supports eligible public engagement, feasibility studies, and other planning activities.

- Public participation through activities like community visioning, focusing on localized input for project plans
- Assessment and initial planning studies concerning the modification or mitigation of existing infrastructure to reconnect communities
- Advanced planning for construction projects, including preliminary engineering and environmental reviews, alongside technical assistance and other preparatory transportation planning tasks

**Funding Split
\$185 Million**

Project Min: N/A
Project Max: \$2M with RCP funds
Funding Ceiling: \$185M
Funding Floor: N/A

NAE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE GRANTS

\$450 Million

This category supports regional collaboration and innovation on the eligible activities under Community Planning or Capital Construction Grants. USDOT anticipates awarding three to five Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants.

- Community Planning and Capital Construction Grants require partnerships between a minimum of two eligible entities
- Addressing persistent regional issues related to equitable access and mobility
- The proposed project should handle regional issues, including land use, zoning, and transportation, as well as other related transportation activities

**Funding Split
\$450 Million**

Project Min: N/A
Project Max: None with NAE funds
Funding Ceiling: \$450M
Funding Floor: N/A

Questions to ask yourself about the project:

How many applications can be submitted?

A lead applicant can submit up to 3 applications for RCP Community Planning, 2 for RCP Capital Construction, and 1 for NAE Regional Challenge Grants.

Is a Benefit-Cost Analysis required?

Yes, a BCA is required for the RCP Capital Construction Grant, but not for the RCP Community Planning Grant and NAE Regional Challenge Grants.

What is the Project Cost Share?

It is 20% for RCP Community Planning Grants, 20% to 50% for RCP Capital Construction Grants, and 20% for NAE Regional Challenge Grants. Projects in a disadvantaged or underserved community do not require a local match.



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