

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program Review of Fiscal Year 24 Funded Projects

Objective

This document provides a high-level review of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) [Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\) Grant Program](#) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. The purpose of RCP Program is to advance community-centered transportation connection projects, with a priority for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities; improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation; foster equitable development and restoration; and provide technical assistance to further these goals.

Program Summary

As established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), projects funded by the RCP Program advance community-centered transportation connection projects.

Application Deadline	Applications must be submitted by September 30, 2024, by 11:59 PM ET . Applications are submitted through the Capital Construction and Community Planning Application Portals.
Funding Overview	For 2024, <ul style="list-style-type: none">» \$457,000,000 is available for Capital Construction Grants» \$150,000,000 is available for Community Planning Grants» Maximum Award: \$100,000,000.
Eligible Uses	<p>Capital Construction Grants fund both reconnecting-focused projects and smaller projects focused on reducing environmental harm and improving access in disadvantaged communities. Projects may address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removal of a dividing facility• Enhance community connectivity• Improved access by building or improving Complete Streets. <p>Community Planning Grants fund planning activities to support future construction projects and allow for innovative community planning to address localized transportation challenges. Projects may address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community engagement activities• Planning studies to assess the feasibility of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing eligible facility to

	<p>reconnect communities (for example: mobility, safety, environmental and public health impacts etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptual or preliminary engineering or design • Other needs including land-use and zoning reform, transit-oriented development, housing supply, among others.
Cost Sharing Requirements	<p>RCP requires fund matching as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Community Planning Grants: 80% RCP funds and 20% local match. » Capital Construction Grants: 50% RCP funds and 50% local match. Other Federal funds may be used to bring the total Federal share up to a maximum of 80% of the total cost of the project.
Priority Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Equity and Justice40 (i.e., will benefit economically disadvantaged communities) » Access » Facility Suitability » Community Engagement, and Community-based Stewardship, Management, and Partnerships » Equitable Development » Climate Change Mitigation and/or Adaptation and Resilience » Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity » Planning Integration

FY24 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program NOFO is open

NOFO is currently open. Applications must be submitted by September 30, 2024, by 11:59 PM ET. Applications are submitted through the [Capital Construction](#) and [Community Planning](#) Application Portals.

If you have additional questions on this program, please submit a question [here](#).

FY23 and FY22 National-Level Summary

DOT's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant Program [awarded 132 communities](#) with a total of \$3.3 billion in fiscal year 2023 to plan or construct transportation projects, including some RCP projects.

For fiscal year 2022, DOT awarded 45 communities a total of \$185 million for the **Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program** for capital construction and planning.

Table 1 National vs. Maryland Award Data, RCP FY2022

National Level Data

Maryland Award Data

Average Capital Construction Award: \$23,024,167	Average Maryland Capital Construction Award: N/A
Average Planning Award: \$1,207,436	Average Planning and Demonstration Award: \$2,000,000
Total Awarded Funding (RCP): \$185,235,000	Total Maryland Funding: \$2,000,000

Summary of Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program Awards Won in Maryland

For the FY 23 RCN Program funding cycle, one grant applicant in Maryland received one RCP Program award of \$800,000¹:

- » One Implementation project awarded to a Local Government
- » [Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods \(RCN\) Grant Program FY23 Awards Factsheet](#)

Table 1. Local- and County-Level Grant Awards, FY2023

Local/County Recipient	Project Type	Awarded Funding	Project Description
Aberdeen	Planning	\$800,000	Aberdeen Transit Oriented – Station Square Improvements Project, to create engineering and design plans, conduct an environmental feasibility study, and establish right-of-way needs for future improvements to restore connectivity to the multi-modal transportation services for the community.

For the FY 22 RCP Program funding cycle, one grant applicant in Maryland received an RCP Program award, for a total of \$2,000,000, including:

- » One Implementation projects awarded to a Local Government²
- » [Reconnecting Communities FY22 Awards | US Department of Transportation Fact Sheet](#)

¹ [Reconnecting Communities FY23 Awards | US Department of Transportation](#)

² [Reconnecting Communities FY22 Awards | US Department of Transportation](#)

Table 2. Local- and County-Level Grant Awards, FY2022

Local/County Recipient	Project Type	Awarded Funding	Project Description
Baltimore	Planning	\$2,000,000	Project to study the possibility of removing, retrofitting, or modifying the impacts caused by the construction of US 40/Franklin-Mulberry Expressway. The project seeks to reconnect historically Black communities that were divided due to the construction of this highway in 1975, thereby addressing inequities and improving safety, access, opportunity, and innovation in West Baltimore.