

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program

Overview: This program funds projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail. Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. ET, June 19, 2020. See the FY 2020 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for more information.

Legislative Authority: This program was authorized in Section 11301 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, Pub. L. 114-94 (2015); 49 U.S.C. § 22907. Funding under this program was made available by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Division H, Title I, Public Law 116-94.

Funding Available for Award Under FY 2020 NOFO: \$311,772,500

Eligible Projects:

Projects eligible for funding under this grant program include, but are not limited to:

Deployment of railroad safety technology;

Capital projects, as defined in section 49 U.S.C. § 24401(2) for intercity passenger rail service, except that a project under this NOFO is not required to be in a state rail plan;

Capital projects that:

- address congestion challenges affecting rail service,
- reduce congestion and facilitate ridership growth along heavily traveled rail corridors, and/or
- improve short-line or regional railroad infrastructure;
- Highway-rail grade crossing improvement projects;
- Rail line relocation and improvement projects;
- Regional rail and corridor service development plans and environmental analyses;
- Any project necessary to enhance multimodal connections or facilitate service integration between rail service and other modes;
- The development and implementation of a safety program or institute;
- Any research that the Secretary considers necessary to advance any particular aspect of rail related capital, operations, or safety improvements; and
- Workforce development and training activities, coordinated to the extent practicable with the existing local training programs supported by the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Education.

Eligible Recipients:

- (1) State;
- (2) Group of States;
- (3) Interstate Compact;
- (4) Public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States;
- (5) Political subdivision of a State;
- (6) Amtrak or another rail carrier that provides intercity rail passenger transportation;
- (7) Class II railroad or Class III railroad or a holding company of a Class II or Class III railroad;
- (8) Any rail carrier or rail equipment manufacturer in partnership with at least one of the entities described in (1) through (5);
- (9) Transportation Research Board together with any entity with which it contracts in the development of rail-related research, including cooperative research programs;
- (10) University transportation center engaged in rail-related research; or
- (11) Non-profit labor organization representing a class or craft of employees of rail carriers or rail carrier contractors.