

April 3, 2015

MEMORANDUM

Current Grant Opportunities

For the latest information on grants, Fresno COG member agencies and partnering agencies can register for EfficientGov's GrantFinder database service. Fresno COG has subscribed to this service and is offering free membership to local agencies and partnering agencies. If you or someone from your agency is interested in signing up for this service, or if you have any questions, please contact Lindsey Chargin at 559-233-4148 ext. 205 or lindseyc@fresnocog.org.

EfficientGov offers grant writing assistance and provides real-time, comprehensive, grant information for all federal, state, foundation and corporate grants that are available to municipalities, counties and non-profit agencies. The database is updated daily with new grants as well as important updates to existing grants within the database. Additionally, the service provides for unlimited access to EfficientGov news, articles and the GrantIntel newsletter, which focuses specifically on grant funding.

If your agency has already subscribed, but a tutorial on how to search for grants is needed, EfficientGov offers a free monthly demo for all of its users. You can sign up for the next available tutorial here: <http://efficientgov.com/refresh>.

PHMSA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO COMMUNITIES (TAG)

Funding Authority:

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Pipeline & Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Deadline Details:

Applications must be submitted by 2:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on April 22, 2015.

Summary:

The purpose of this program is to obtain funding for technical assistance in the form of engineering or other scientific analysis of pipeline safety issues affecting the local community or to help promote public participation in official proceedings (excluding nonofficial proceedings) pertaining to pipeline safety issues.

STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL: AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES (AHSC)

Funding Authority:

Strategic Growth Council; California Department of Housing and Community Development

- City of Clovis
- City of Coalinga
- City of Firebaugh
- City of Fowler
- City of Fresno
- City of Huron
- City of Kerman
- City of Kingsburg
- City of Mendota
- City of Orange Cove
- City of Parlier
- City of Reedley
- City of San Joaquin
- City of Sanger
- City of Selma
- County of Fresno

Deadline Details:

Concept Proposals due February 19, 2015; Full application invitations sent March 11, 2015; Full applications due April 15, 2015

Summary: Complete grant details found at: http://www.sgc.ca.gov/s_ahscprogram.php

Amount: \$1 Million to \$15 Million (TOD); \$500k to \$8 Million (ICP)

Match: None

Eligibility: A Locality (Cities and Counties), public housing authority, redevelopment successor agency, transit agency or transit operator, Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), local Transportation Commissions, Congestion Management Agencies, Joint Powers Authority (JPA), school district, facilities district, University or Community College District.

\$120 million in cap-and-trade funding will be doled out in a competitive process through the AHSC program to cities and other public agencies. The AHSC program will provide grants and/or loans to projects intended to achieve greenhouse reductions by increasing accessibility of affordable housing, employment centers and key destinations via low-carbon transportation options like walking, biking and transit. The guidelines have identified two project types:

1. **Transit-oriented development (TOD) project** areas that improve access to public transit, biking or walking infrastructure and affordable housing or mixed-use areas, all with the aim of better connecting residents to key destinations, like schools and businesses;
2. **Integrated connectivity projects (ICP)**, which must: include a transit stop within 1/2 mile of affordable housing, be served by transit not meeting high quality standards and either two capital projects or a capital project and planning costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY GRANTS**Funding Authority:**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Deadline Details:

As of February 2014, additional funding opportunities are anticipated to open in the fall of 2014. Requests for proposals will be listed on grants.gov. To receive an email announcement of all future funding opportunities contact oed.grants@noaa.gov with the subject line "Add to ELG Mailing List".

Summary: NOAA's Office of Education advances public environmental literacy and learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through the Environmental Literacy Grants (ELG) Program. The ELG Program is a competitive grants program that supports formal and informal/non-formal education projects implemented on regional to national scales. The ELG Program's primary mission is to increase the understanding and use of environmental information to promote stewardship and increase informed decision making by U.S. educators, students, and the public, which directly contributes to [NOAA's mission](#). The ELG Program is the longest standing and most comprehensive national grants program focused on environmental literacy, and through this focus, makes a distinctive contribution to STEM education.

FAA RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Funding Authority:

Department of Transportation

Deadline Details:

This solicitation will remain open until December 31, 2019.

Summary: The FAA Research Grants Program encourages and supports innovative, advanced research of potential benefit to the long-term growth of civil aviation and Commercial Space Transportation. The pursuit of basic and applied research in scientific and engineering disciplines that have the potential to further knowledge and understanding on a broad front of emerging technologies is crucial to the realization of this goal. The intent is to encourage applied research and development to enhance technology assimilation, transfer, and development in the FAA. The Research Grants Program does not require the immediate application to Research, Engineering, and Development (R, E&D) programs, although this may occur in some cases. The agency encourages the submission of proposals that embrace the entire spectrum of physical, chemical, biological, medical, psychological, mathematical, and engineering sciences.

The authorizing legislation that supports the Research Grants Programs covers two general categories: a) areas deemed by the Administrator to be required for the long-term growth of civil aviation; and b) areas related to research on the prevention of catastrophic failures.

These specific areas of interest may be found within the broad program areas identified in the FAA R, E&D Plan, which comprises the agency's research and development initiatives. These areas, which contribute to the FAA mission of improving aviation safety, capacity, efficiency, and security, are:

1. Capacity and Air Traffic Control Technology
2. Communications, Navigation, and Surveillance
3. Aviation Weather
4. Airports
5. Aircraft Safety Technology
6. Human Factors and Aviation Medicine
7. Environment and Energy
8. Systems Science/Operations Research
9. Commercial Space Transportation

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES ON PUBLIC LANDS

Funding Authority:

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Deadline Details:

The deadline for application submission is September 30, 2018.

Summary: This program will provide professional training, through the use of internships, mentoring, environmental education, and interpretive educational opportunities in order for young people to learn conservation and land management processes and policies as they relate to natural resources management of public lands.

SPATIAL UNCERTAINTY: DATA, MODELING, AND COMMUNICATION

Funding Authority:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

Deadline Details:

All types of non-AIDS applications must be submitted February 5, 2015; June 5, 2015; October 5, 2015 by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

All types of AIDS and AIDS-related applications must be submitted May 7, 2015; September 7, 2015; January 7, 2015 by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Summary: The goal of this program is to facilitate multidisciplinary collaborations among researchers to promote research in identifying, quantifying, and communicating spatial uncertainty in health research to improve disease control and prevention. An additional goal of this reissuance is to facilitate integration of data collection, information technology, visualization tools, statistical models, and health communication to reduce spatial uncertainty in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of disease control programs.

This program encourages a team of epidemiologists, statisticians, and experts in data visualization or health communication to attack the spatial uncertainty issue thoroughly. This program will facilitate multidisciplinary collaborations among scientists to promote research in identifying, quantifying, reducing, and communicating spatial uncertainty in health research to improve disease control and prevention. The program also facilitates integration of data collection, information technology, visualization tools, statistical models, and health communication to reduce spatial uncertainty in planning, implementing and evaluating disease control programs.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU GRANT WORKSHOPS

The U.S. Census Bureau is now offering workshops to advise grant seekers on the basics of incorporating census data into a grant proposal. For more information, or to request a workshop for your organization, call 888-806-6389, or send an email to lro.pds.list@census.gov. More information is available on their website, at www.census.gov/regions/los_angeles.

If your agency would be interested in a Fresno COG hosted workshop, please contact Lindsey Chargin at 559-233-4148 ext. 205 or lindseyc@fresnocog.org.

PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

Under the [Public Works Program](#), EDA empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment. The purpose of the program is to provide catalytic investments that will help distressed communities build, design, or engineer the critical infrastructure and facilities

necessary for the implementation of regional development strategies that advance bottom-up economic development goals. Public Works investments range from \$200,000 to \$3,000,000 with an average of \$1.4 million per EDA investment. EDA expects to award up to 150 Public Works projects. Eligible applicants include units or State and local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, district organizations of a designated Economic Development District, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, institutions of higher education, and public or private non-profit organizations and associations working in cooperation with units of State or local government. The upcoming application deadlines are **Thursday, March 12, 2015** for Funding Cycle 2 of FY 2015 and **Friday, June 12, 2015** for Funding Cycle 3 of FY 2015.

ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

EDA assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy through the [Economic Adjustment Program](#). The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base. Under Economic Adjustment, EDA administers its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program, which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business. The purpose of the program is to provide investments that support construction or non-construction activities in regions experiencing severe economic dislocations, suddenly or gradually. Communities experiencing or anticipating economic dislocations will plan and implement solutions to leverage existing regional economic advantages to support economic development and job creation. EAA investments will support activities including infrastructure, design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and capitalization or re-capitalization of Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) projects. EAA investments range from \$100,000 to \$1,250,000 with an average of approximately \$820,000 per EDA investment. EDA expects to award up to 140 EAA projects. Eligible applicants include units or State and local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, district organizations of a designated Economic Development District, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, institutions of higher education, and public or private non-profit organizations and associations working in cooperation with units of State or local government. The upcoming application deadlines are **Thursday, March 12, 2015** for Funding Cycle 2 of FY 2015 and **Friday, June 12, 2015** for Funding Cycle 3 of FY 2015.

CALIFORNIA CONSULTING RELEASES 2015 LIST OF MUNICIPAL GRANTS

On Thursday, March 12, 2015 California Consulting firm released a list it compiled of municipal grant opportunities that are coming up in 2015. There are 28 grants on the list and they range from Active Transportation to Economic Development Assistance. The list along with links to each grant can be accessed at

<https://www.californiacitynews.org/2015/03/california-consulting-releases-2015-list-municipal-grants.html>.

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT GENERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY (TIGER) DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM

On April 2, 2015 the Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the **Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Transportation Investment**

Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program. DOT expects to award approximately \$500 million in total program funding as appropriated in the *Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015*.

This year, the agency will ask applicants to submit a preliminary application. The NOFA explains that *“the pre-application requires applicants to submit identifying information about their project and qualifies applicants to submit a final application. If an applicant does not submit a pre-application, a final application will not be considered.”* The pre-application deadline is **Monday, May 4, 2015** at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The final application deadline is **Friday, June 5, 2015** at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

The purpose of the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program is to fund capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure on a competitive basis to projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a region, or metropolitan area.

Eligible TIGER projects are capital projects that include, but are not limited to: (1) highway or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code (including bicycle and pedestrian related projects); (2) public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code; (3) passenger and freight rail transportation projects; (4) port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure); and (5) intermodal projects.

The Administration will maintain its focus on creating “Ladders of Opportunity” through TIGER investments again this year. The FY 2015 NOFA states *“Ladders of Opportunity projects may increase connectivity to employment, education, services and other opportunities, support workforce development, or contribute to community revitalization, particularly for disadvantaged groups: low income groups, persons with visible and hidden disabilities, elderly individuals, and minority persons and populations.”*

For projects in urban areas, the TIGER minimum grant award is \$10 million. The minimum total project cost for an urban project must be \$12.5 million to meet match requirements. For projects in rural areas, the minimum TIGER grant award is \$1 million. There are no funds for planning, preparation, or design of capital projects this year.

In accordance with the FY 2015 Appropriations Act, the NOFA states *“no more than 25 percent of the funds made available for TIGER Discretionary Grants (or \$125 million) may be awarded to projects in a single State. The FY 2015 Appropriations Act directs that not less than 20 percent of the funds provided for TIGER Discretionary Grants (or \$100 million) shall be used for projects located in rural areas.”*

The non-Federal cost share requirement is at least 20 percent; however, DOT has acknowledged that over-match can increase the competitiveness of an application as the agency seeks to leverage its resources. In past rounds, successful TIGER applications have typically had a local match ranging from 25 to 30 percent of the total project cost. Both public and private contributions will be considered for those requirements. The NOFA states:

DOT recognizes that applicants have varying abilities and resources to contribute non-Federal contributions, especially those communities that are not routinely receiving and matching Federal funds. DOT recognizes certain communities with fewer financial resources may struggle to provide cost-share that exceeds the minimum requirements and will, therefore, consider an applicant's broader fiscal constraints when evaluating non-Federal contributions. In the first six rounds, on average, projects attracted more than 3.5 matching dollars for every TIGER grant dollar.

Eligible applicants are State, local, and tribal governments including U.S. territories, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and other subdivisions of State or local governments. A joint application may be submitted by multiple States or jurisdictions with a lead applicant identified as the primary point of contact.

The Primary Selection Criteria include: Safety; State of Good Repair; Economic Competitiveness; Quality of Life; and Environmental Sustainability. The Secondary Selection Criteria include: Innovation; Partnership; and Disciplinary Integration.

All proposals must demonstrate Project Readiness through the following means: Technical Feasibility; Financial Feasibility; Project Schedule; Required Approvals; and an Assessment of Project Risks and Mitigation Strategies.

If appropriate, DOT welcomes proposals that outline project phases and demonstrate how the applicant could complete those phases incrementally, corresponding to suggested federal awards. For example, an applicant could complete the first, second, and third phase of the project with the optimal "X" federal dollars from TIGER, but the applicant would be willing to complete just the first and second phase of the project with a lesser TIGER award equal to "Y." The incremental approach is not well-suited to all project types.

DOT will host a [TIGER Program Summit](#) on **Thursday, April 16, 2015** from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the West Building Atrium of DOT Headquarters, which is located at 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC. [Registration](#) for the event is open until close of business (5:00 p.m. EDT) on **Friday, April 10, 2015**. Please email TIGERsummit@dot.gov if you plan to attend the event and require special accommodations.

DOT will also conduct a [Series of TIGER Webinars](#) on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
Topic: How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants
- Friday, April 10, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
Topic: How to Compete for Non-Traditional Applicant
- Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
Topic: How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants

- Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
Topic: Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)
- Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
Topic: How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants

The agency anticipates that these webinars will last approximately two hours.

For more information, please see the [DOT TIGER website](#), [FY 2015 NOFA](#), [TIGER Benefit-Cost Analysis \(BCA\) Resource Guide](#), [How to Apply, Pre-Application Instructions](#), the [2015 TIGER Fact Sheet](#), or [TIGER Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).