



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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Interim Update - BUILD Grant (RAISE) NOFO

Today, USDOT released the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the FY'21 round of the **BUILD grant** program, now known as the **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)** program. The full NOFO, to be posted in the Federal Register soon, can be found [here](#). Applications are due **July 12, 2021**. RAISE grant award recipients will be announced by November 22, 2021. Here is a [link](#) to USDOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg's press release on the NOFO release.

As directed by the FY21 Appropriations Act, **\$1 billion will be available for this round of grants**. No more than \$30 million will be awarded to planning grants, of which \$10 million must go toward projects located in or directly benefitting areas of persistent poverty. Up to 20 percent of available funds (or \$200 million) may be used to pay the subsidy and administrative costs of projects receiving credit assistance under the TIFIA or RRIF loan programs.

As in past years, funding must be split equally between projects in urban and rural areas. The minimum award size for urban projects is \$5 million and \$1 million for rural projects, the maximum award size is \$25 million. There is no minimum for planning grants.

The FY21 Appropriations Act requires USDOT to continue using the selection criteria contained in the FY17 NOFO. USDOT has met this requirement by maintaining the same criteria but has updated some of their descriptions. The primary selection criteria are safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and state of good repair. The secondary selection criteria are partnership and innovation.

Consistent with the INFRA NOFO issued by the Biden-Harris Administration in February, the most significant changes include an increased **focus on climate change/environmental justice and racial equity**.

A more in-depth analysis of the NOFO will be sent out shortly by WSP's USAS grants team. That group will be hosting a webinar on **Thursday, April 15 at noon ET on the NOFO**. Contact Sierra Laventure-Volz for registration details.