

## Opportunity 1 Revitalizing Main Streets Frequently Asked Questions

### Table of Contents

<b>OPPORTUNITY 1: Large Grants</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Deadlines and Eligibility	1
1.2 Match	1
1.3 Programmatic Questions	3
1.4 Application Guidelines	4
1.5 Applicant Eligibility	4
1.6 Eligible Expense	5
1.7 Scoring	6
1.8 Timing	6
1.9 Concurrence	6

### OPPORTUNITY 1: Large Grants

#### 1. Deadlines and Eligibility

Applications due May 14, 2021 with awards announced in Summer 2021.

Only government entities (including Universities, Downtown Development Associations, Business Improvement Districts, and Councils of Government) are allowed to apply for these grant opportunities.

#### 1.2 Match

**1. What are the required matching funds?**

A 20 percent match is encouraged, but a lower match is eligible if a justification is provided. If a lower match is provided without justification, the scoring criteria shows how points will be deducted.

**2. Can these grant funds be used as a match on a federal project?**

Yes, while these are state funded grants, if used to match a federal project, these funds would also need to adhere to all federal regulations.

**3. We've already implemented a project, can those funds be used for our match requirement?**

No, the match expenses must be incurred after a contract with CDOT is executed. Documentation will be required with invoicing.

**4. If the community is receiving CARES Act funding, can these funds count toward the local match requirement?**

Yes, this funding can count toward the match for CARES Act funding.

**5. If the community is receiving other grant funding, can these funds count toward the local match requirement?**

Yes, as long as they adhere to the other grant guidelines.

**6. Can worker volunteer time be counted towards matching funds?**

Volunteer time may be counted towards matching funds using the estimated national value of volunteer time. Please report the hours worked by volunteers on the invoice in lieu of traditional staff hours, showing time worked and the value of that time.

**7. Can the value of donated materials be counted towards matching funds?**

Value on donated materials may or may not be counted towards matching funds depending on when the items were donated. If the materials were donated prior to project commencement, they would be considered ineligible for match because they would be counted as a cost previously incurred, and the grant cannot reimburse applicants for prior expenses.

**8. Can a community count design costs toward their 10% match?**

Design can constitute a match as long as the design uses state or local dollars. Please include details of the design costs in the "description of the match" in Part 2 of the application. Note that the match expenses must be incurred after a contract is executed, so the project readiness criterion could be hindered by using design expenses as the match.

**9. Can America Recovery Funds be used toward the local match requirement?**

Yes. However, the use of federal funds would introduce additional federal requirements.

## 1.3 Programmatic Questions

### **1. What is meant by 'safety infrastructure'?**

Unfortunately, in recent years Colorado has seen an increase in vehicle-caused pedestrian and cyclist fatalities. The purpose of this grant is to reverse this trend and to protect vulnerable users such as pedestrians, bikers, motorcyclists, transit users, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. Safety infrastructure therefore includes any project that:

- Reduces fatal and serious injury crashes on the transportation system, particularly among bicyclists and pedestrians
- Supports a transportation system that safely accommodates all modes of travel
- Improves transit access and bike and pedestrian safety and mobility
- Supports the development of connected urban/employment centers and multimodal corridors
- Provides safe access to opportunity and mobility for residents of all ages, incomes and abilities, including vulnerable users

### **2. Can a single jurisdiction submit multiple applications?**

No. For Grant Opportunity 1, a jurisdiction may only submit a single application. Government entities may submit an application for Grant Opportunity 2 in addition to their single Grant Opportunity 1 application.

### **3. Are there plans for continuing this funding in future?**

For now, this is a one-time opportunity.

### **4. Are these funds subject to federal funding requirements?**

No, as these are not federal funds.

### **5. Do we need to submit a concept paper to our CDOT region prior to application?**

No. However, applicants need to show evidence that they have discussed potential high-level feasibility with CDOT's regional staff in their application. If CDOT concurrence will be required for the project, the applicant must submit a [Request for CDOT Concurrence Form](#) along with the application submission on May 14. Concurrence will be determined during the review process, not before.

### **6. Can multiple local mobility improvement projects in the same area be submitted as one project?**

Yes.

## 1.4 Application Guidelines

### **1. Can applications be submitted as a Word document?**

Applicants are welcome to submit a Word document in addition to the fillable PDF. Be sure to clearly state each section in the Word doc. If using a Word doc, the application should still be completed. Write "See attached Word file" in the applicable blue PDF boxes. Please email [cdotmainstreets@state.co.us](mailto:cdotmainstreets@state.co.us) if you are having problems completing the application.

### **2. Is there a word limit for each response?**

A few question boxes state character limits, but if a limit is not stated then applicants may use as many words as they feel necessary. Please keep in mind, the review committee is reviewing up to 10 of these applications each week, so concise applications will be well-received.

### **3. The application refers to a Risk Assessment Form, where is that?**

The [Risk Assessment Form](#) is linked here - and is posted on the Program Webpage under Additional Resources. Each applicant should submit a Risk Assessment form.

### **4. Our project impacts CDOT ROW, how do we get concurrence?**

You do not need CDOT Concurrence prior to submitting your application. You should discuss high-level feasibility with your regional CDOT representative, and then submit a [Request for CDOT Concurrence Form](#). If CDOT concurrence will be required for the project, the applicant must submit a [Request for CDOT Concurrence Form](#) along with the application submission on May 14. Concurrence will be determined during the review process, not before.

## 1.5 Applicant Eligibility

### **1. The guidelines for Grant Opportunity 1 state that nonprofits can partner with a governmental agency. What does the partnership look like? Could this partnership submit more than one application?**

The applicant would be the local municipality, but the application could/should include the other local partners who would be helping to complete the project. CDOT will contract with the local municipality, which will receive the funds. Please note that due to the level of funding and this being a statewide call, we are only allowing each municipality to submit one application, whether or not they are partnering with a nonprofit.. Since the local agency is the applicant, different partner(s) wouldn't qualify for a second application.

### **2. Which cities/counties in Colorado are eligible to apply?**

All of them! No jurisdiction is too small.

**3. Are federal roads, inter-state highways, and freeways eligible for this project?**

They could be, but there would be additional timing and requirements that could accompany federal infrastructure.

**4. What is the definition of a jurisdiction who can submit an application?**

An individual vendor (a single entity according to the SOS) can submit an individual application. A City and a County can each submit individual applications, but the committee will be looking for public support and coordination when making their evaluation.

**5. Are universities eligible applicants?**

Yes, universities can apply for funding as long as they can show usage and impact align with the intent of the program.

**6. Do projects actually have to occur on a town's main street?**

No, they should be in areas near or adjacent to the Main Street corridor where people work and live, while using multiple forms of transportation.

**7. Can one local entity apply for both grant opportunities?**

Yes.

**8. Can a Council of Governments apply for a multi-jurisdictional grant?**

Yes, Councils of Government (COGs) are eligible to submit one or more applications on the behalf of their respective governments. However, only one application can be submitted per local jurisdiction, so if an application is submitted by a COG that benefits a local entity or entities, that is the only application that can be submitted for that local jurisdiction. A written letter of support from the local entity should be submitted along with the application.

**9. How do I know if my project is in an Environmental Justice area?**

## 1.6 Eligible Expense

**1. Is project design an eligible expense?**

Design is an allowed expense as long as the concept is clear for the review committee to score. Project readiness is part of the scoring criteria and projects need to be fully implemented with grant funding.

**2. Is ROW acquisition an allowable expense for these grant funds?**

Yes.

**3. Is final design an allowable expense?**

Yes.

**4. Can unincorporated county roads in high-density rural areas be eligible? Are these stimulus dollars HUTF funds? If so, are "off-system" projects eligible?**

Yes, "off-system" projects are allowed on local owned streets. We want these funds to go to roads that are used by pedestrians and/or cyclists, whether in rural or urban areas.

**5. Is planning an eligible expense?**

No. Given that the purpose of this grant is to produce tangible infrastructure, planning is ineligible.

**6. Can Grant Opportunity 1 funds be used to supplement previously awarded Safer Main Streets funding?**

Yes. However, the review committee is also considering regional equity as funds are awarded, so previous Safer Main Streets awards will be taken into account while scoring.

## 1.7 Scoring

**1. Is there a minimum safety requirement?**

Safety is one of the main criteria by which Opportunity 1 applications are judged, so it would be difficult for a project that had absolutely no safety benefits to do well in the review process. Prospective applicants who do not see a definitive safety benefit to their project are advised to look at the requirements for Grant Opportunity 2, which has a different focus.

**2. There is not much safety data available for the project we are submitting. Are we still eligible to submit an application?**

While data is part of the safety score, if you are able to describe proven safety measures that will be implemented (in Part 2), this can also help improve your safety score. Clearly define the safety need in the Part 2, even if there are fewer crashes on record.

## 1.8 Timing

**1. Given that the application period starts April 7th, will it be first-come, first-served or will all applications be reviewed together after the window closes on 5/14?**

For Opportunity 1, the submission window is from April 7 to May 14, then all applications will be reviewed when the window closes. We hope to make awards in July after the committee reviews and makes their recommendation.

**2. Is there a deadline for spending Grant Opportunity 1 funds?**

Generally, we are looking for the funds to be spent as quickly as possible, and projects to be completed within 6 months to a year will have an advantage in scoring. Funds must be spent by June 2024.

**3. How long will it take for these projects to be contracted?**

These grant funds will be awarded through an IGA, which can typically take 4-6 months to execute.

## 1.9 Concurrence

**1. Do concurrence and risk evaluation documents need to be submitted ahead of time?**

These two forms ([Risk Assessment Form](#) and [Request for CDOT Concurrence Form](#)) should be submitted along with the Application. The Request for CDOT Concurrence form is only needed on projects that impact CDOT ROW. Concurrence will be granted after applications are submitted in tandem with the review process.