

Frequently Asked Questions

Opportunity 2: Small Multimodal and Economic Resiliency Grant

A. Overview

1. What is the purpose of this grant program?
 - This grant program supports downtown vitality and the built environment by encouraging economic development, supporting community access to public streets and bringing innovative uses of public spaces to life with multimodal transportation projects. The funds can be used for active transportation infrastructure improvement projects that meet the aim of the program

2. How do I submit my application?
 - Completed [applications](#) may be submitted at any time to cdotmainstreets@state.co.us.

3. What are the deadlines for grant reviews in 2024?
 - Application deadlines will be the last Wednesday of *every other month, unless the date falls on a State holiday*. Dates to note for 2024 application reviews are below:

Submission Deadline	Application Review (Week of)	Notice of Decision (Week of)
February 28, 2024	March 11	March 18
April 24, 2024	May 6	May 13
June 26, 2024	July 15	July 22
August 28, 2024	September 9	September 16
October 30, 2024	November 11	November 18
December 18, 2024	January 13, 2025	January 20, 2025

B. Applicant Eligibility

1. Who is eligible to apply?
 - Local Governments
 - Business Improvement Districts
 - Council of Governments, on behalf of a local jurisdiction and with proof of support from that local jurisdiction
 - University or College
2. Can a single entity submit multiple applications?
 - No, an entity may only submit a single application at a time.
3. What is the definition of an entity who can submit an application?
 - An individual vendor (a single entity according to the Colorado Secretary of State) can submit an individual application. For example, a City and a County can each submit individual applications, but keep in mind the committee will be looking for public support and local coordination when evaluating applications.
4. Can nonprofits partner with an applying entity? What does the partnership look like? Could this partnership submit more than one application?
 - Non-profits, other education entities, and private sector entities may partner with an eligible applicant to complete a project
 - The applicant would be the eligible entity, but the application could/should include the other local partners who would be helping to complete the project.
5. How often can an eligible entity apply for an RMS grant?
 - If an applicant has been approved for a recent award, please wait 12 months from that award approval date to submit a new application.
 - If an applicant has not been approved for a recent award, an application can be submitted at any time.

C. Funds

1. What are the required matching funds?
 - A 10% match is required of project costs up to \$277,778. For example, projects requesting the maximum award of \$250,000 must provide a local match of \$27,778 and the total project cost must be at least \$277,778. Project costs above \$277,778 are considered an overmatch.

2. Can the local match be front loaded or back loaded in the project billing?
 - No, each invoice submitted is required to contain that 10% match.
3. What is the maximum amount a single applicant can receive in CDOT RMS grant funds?
 - Applicants are allowed up to \$250,000 in CDOT RMS grant funds per project, which does not include the local match.
4. Can these grant funds be used on a federally funded project?
 - Case by case review will be conducted to determine if the addition of RMS funds to federally funded projects overseen by CDOT will benefit the project. If used to contribute to a project that contains federal funds, the RMS funds would also need to adhere to all federal regulations.
5. Are these funds subject to federal funding requirements?
 - No, these funds are provided by the State.
6. Does the entity need to fund the project and then submit for grant reimbursement?
 - Yes. Once the CDOT grant contract is executed, grantees may begin the project. All project invoices will first be submitted to the grantee entity for payment. Once the grantee entity pays the project invoices, the grantee will submit original invoices and proof of payment to CDOT with an invoice cover sheet for reimbursement.
7. If the community is receiving other State (including CDOT) or federal grant funding for the project, can those funds count toward the local match requirement?
 - Yes, federal funds and other state funding may be used as matching funds, except CDOT Safer Main Streets and other RMS grant awards. See question 4 in Section C - Funds for more information on federally funded projects.
8. We've already implemented a project, can those funds be used for our match requirement?
 - No, both project and match expenses must be incurred within the CDOT grant contract term. Documentation will be required to validate proof of work dates.
9. What are ineligible expenses?

- Planning, design, engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, and professional surveying expenses are not allowed.
 - Work completed prior to or post contract term with CDOT is not eligible for reimbursement nor can it count toward the 10% match requirement.
 - Volunteer time is not eligible to meet the match requirements.
 - Donated materials may not count towards matching requirements.
 - Additional costs for an existing CDOT Safer Main Streets or RMS grant award
10. Are there plans for continuing this funding in future?
- Yes, funding is allocated through fiscal year 2032.
11. What is the procurement process for these grant funds?
- The use of grant awards will be in compliance with your responsible local entity procurement standards that identify appropriate procedures to ensure projects are procured through an open, equitable and competitive process.

D. Project Eligibility

1. What does 'shovel ready' mean regarding project readiness?
- 'Shovel ready' means the project can be fully constructed within 12 months. If unexpected or unforeseen changes to that schedule occur, grantees can request a time extension at least 90 days prior to the contract end date.
2. Where can projects be geographically located?
- Projects must be located in the state of Colorado. On-CDOT system and off-CDOT system projects are eligible.
 - Note: if a project impacts a CDOT right of way, a [Special Use Permit](#) is required.
3. If my project impacts a CDOT right of way, when should I submit my [Special Use Permit](#)?
- Applicants are encouraged to contact the applicable Special Use Permit representative early in the process to inform the project schedule. [Special Use Permit representatives](#) are designated for each [CDOT region](#).
 - Special Use permits do not need to be secured prior to submitting an RMS grant application. Project plans must be submitted when applying for a special use permit.

4. Do projects actually have to occur on a town's main street?
 - No, please consider 'main street' a guiding term. The project can be on a primary street that connects residents with the main economic hub(s).
5. Can multiple local mobility improvement projects in the same community be submitted as one project?
 - Yes, applicants will want to be clear in their application regarding how these improvements fall within one cohesive strategy.
6. Can applicants request funds to expand a project that was awarded?
 - Yes, if the project is broken into phases and the first phase was funded with this grant, the applicant could submit a new application once the first phase of the project is completed identifying the new scope elements.
 - Note: applicants cannot request additional funding for scope elements included in a prior project award.
7. Projects are evaluated based on a scoring system. Is there a minimum scoring requirement?
 - Projects are measured against a scoring rubric. The minimum scoring value to receive an award is an 80, which reflects strong alignment with program goals. Applications scored at 80 or above will be awarded funding if sufficient funding is available during that review cycle.
8. What are examples of project elements funded by this grant program?
 - Examples include:
 - Expand sidewalks to increase ADA accessibility, or extend current sidewalks
 - Increase walking trails throughout downtown areas
 - Add separated bicycle lanes
 - Increase street landscaping with a landscaped street buffer, street trees or planter boxes in walking areas or sidewalks
 - Add a parklet into the downtown area
 - Increase pedestrian amenities such as benches, sidewalk lighting or drinking water fountains
 - Traffic calming public art features may be included to enhance safety and encourage multimodal choices
 - a road diet that reduces or eliminates travel lanes (to make space for bike lane(s) or expanded sidewalks)
 - bike/ped specific signals at appropriate intersections
 - bike boxes where appropriate
 - reduce the speed limits to allow for safer walking and biking



- pedestrian refuge islands
 - painted bulb-outs with candle stick separators at busy intersections
 - Wayfinding signs (to ease pedestrian navigation)
9. Are trail systems eligible or must a project be oriented towards roadways?
- Yes, trail systems are eligible as long as they are in well used areas connecting to economic hubs.
10. Can we apply for grant funds to pay for a portion of a project?
- Yes, partial project funding is eligible.
11. Is programming of a project's space an eligible grant funding expense?
- No.
12. If our first project application was denied, are we eligible to submit a new application?
- Yes. Applicants may submit an application for a new project.
13. If my application is denied, may I appeal the decision?
- Yes. Applicants may appeal a grant denial decision. To exercise this opportunity, applicants must:
 - Within 14 days after receipt of the formal grant notification:
 - Email an appeal request to the Revitalizing Main Streets Grant Program at: cdotmainstreets@state.co.us.
 - Please include a letter, on official agency letterhead, with the reason why you feel your application should be re-scored for award determination.
 - Before the next following grant submission deadline, submit via email, an updated version of your application including highlighted or bolded narrative or data that validates your reason for your appeal request.
 - All appeals will be reviewed by the application review committee and re-scored.
 - An applicant may appeal a decision only once.