Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Also Known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

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Iowa League of Cities Webinar

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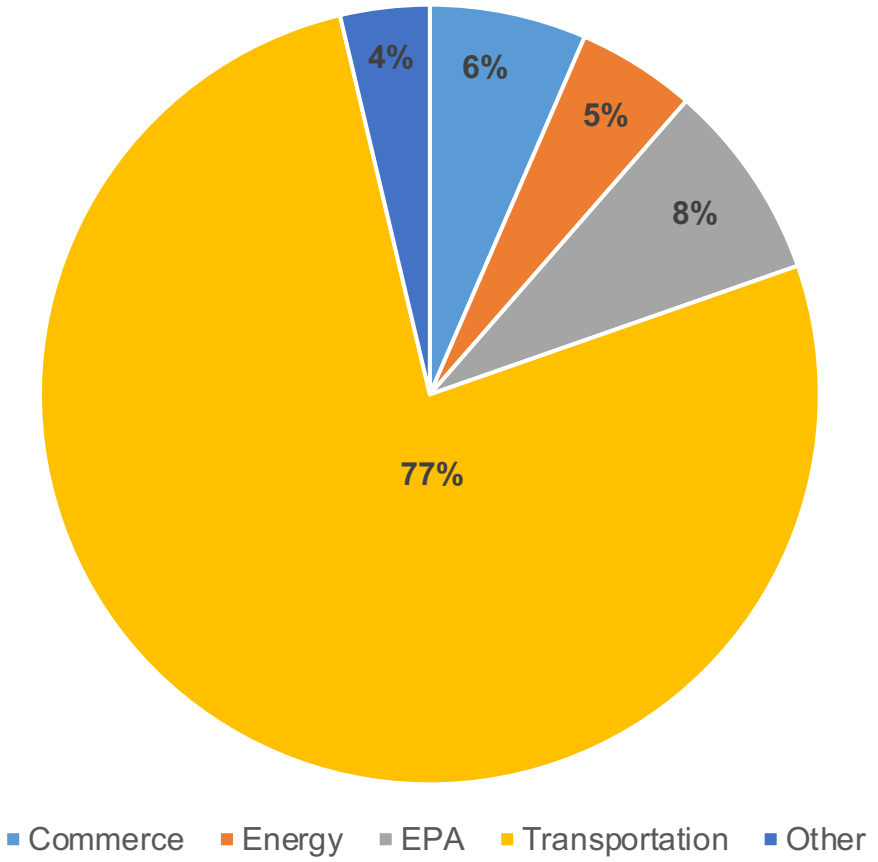
What is the IIJA/BIL?

- Passed into law by Congress in November 2021
- It authorized $1.2 trillion for roads, bridges, and water infrastructure along with investments in broadband, energy, and other improvements
- $550 billion of the $1.2 trillion are slated for “new” investments / programs
- Some funding will directly be distributed to states and remaining funding will be eligible for competitive direct grants (discretionary funding)

Agencies that Receive BIL Funding Most Applicable to Cities

- Department of Agriculture: fund existing and new USDA Rural Development programs
- Department of Commerce: Community and Economic Development programs
- Department of Energy: Electrical grid and power infrastructure
- Department of Homeland Security: FEMA programs, public safety and cybersecurity
- Department of Transportation: Highways, bridges, airports, transit, rail, others
- Environmental Protection Agency: Water infrastructure
- Other

Percentage of Overall BIL Funding by Agency for Existing Programs



New Investments / Programs in BIL

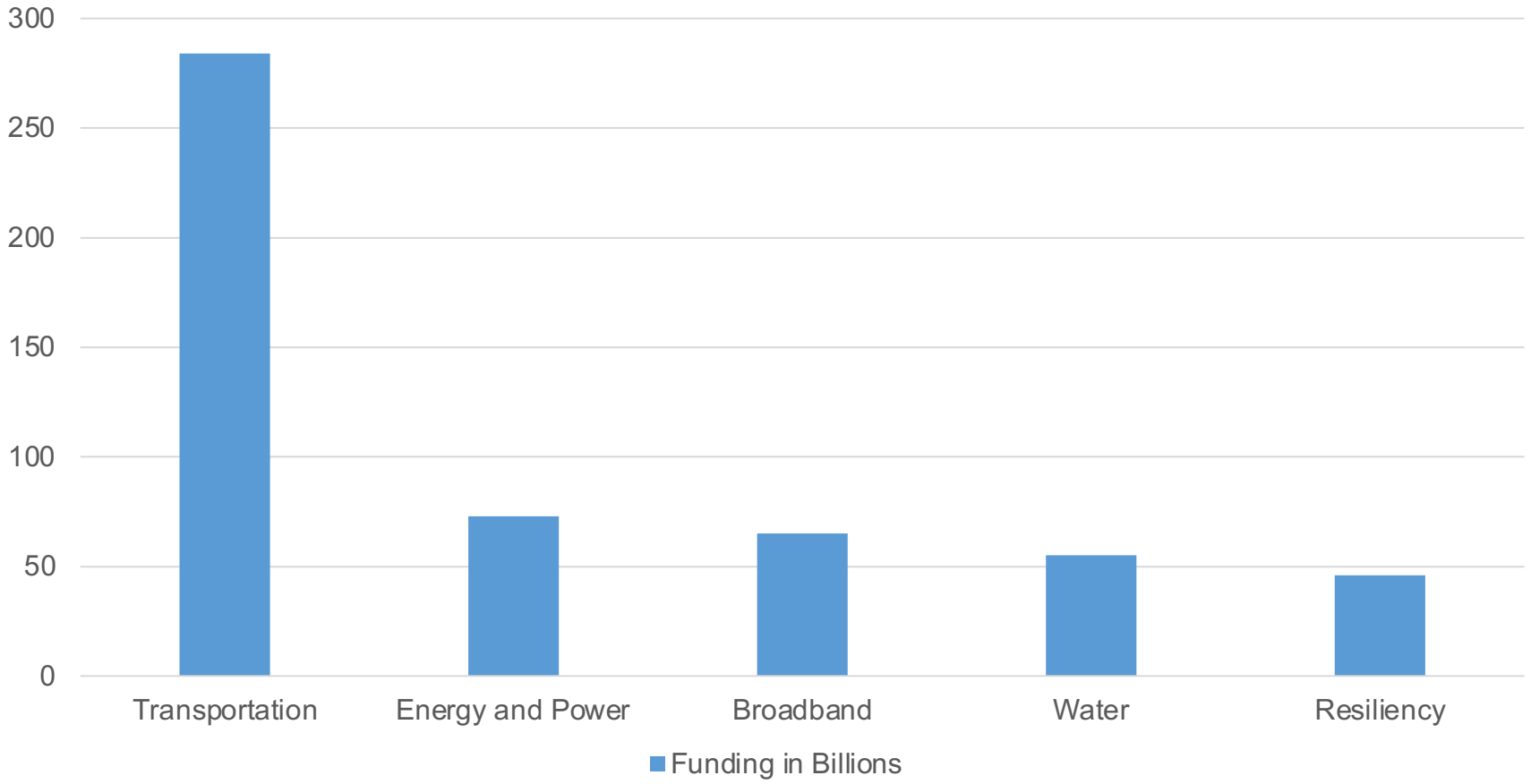
New investments in transportation include over $280 billion for:

- Bridge repair and replacement
- Airports
- Passenger and freight rail
- Public transit
- Ports and waterways
- Electrical vehicle charging stations
- Safety

New Investments / Programs in BIL

- Power and Grid: $66 billion for grid reliability and resiliency
- Broadband: $65 billion to make broadband more accessible
- Water: $55 billion, including significant funding for replacing lead pipes and service lines
- Resiliency: $47 billion for cybersecurity, waste management, and flood and fire mitigation

New Investment / Program Funding

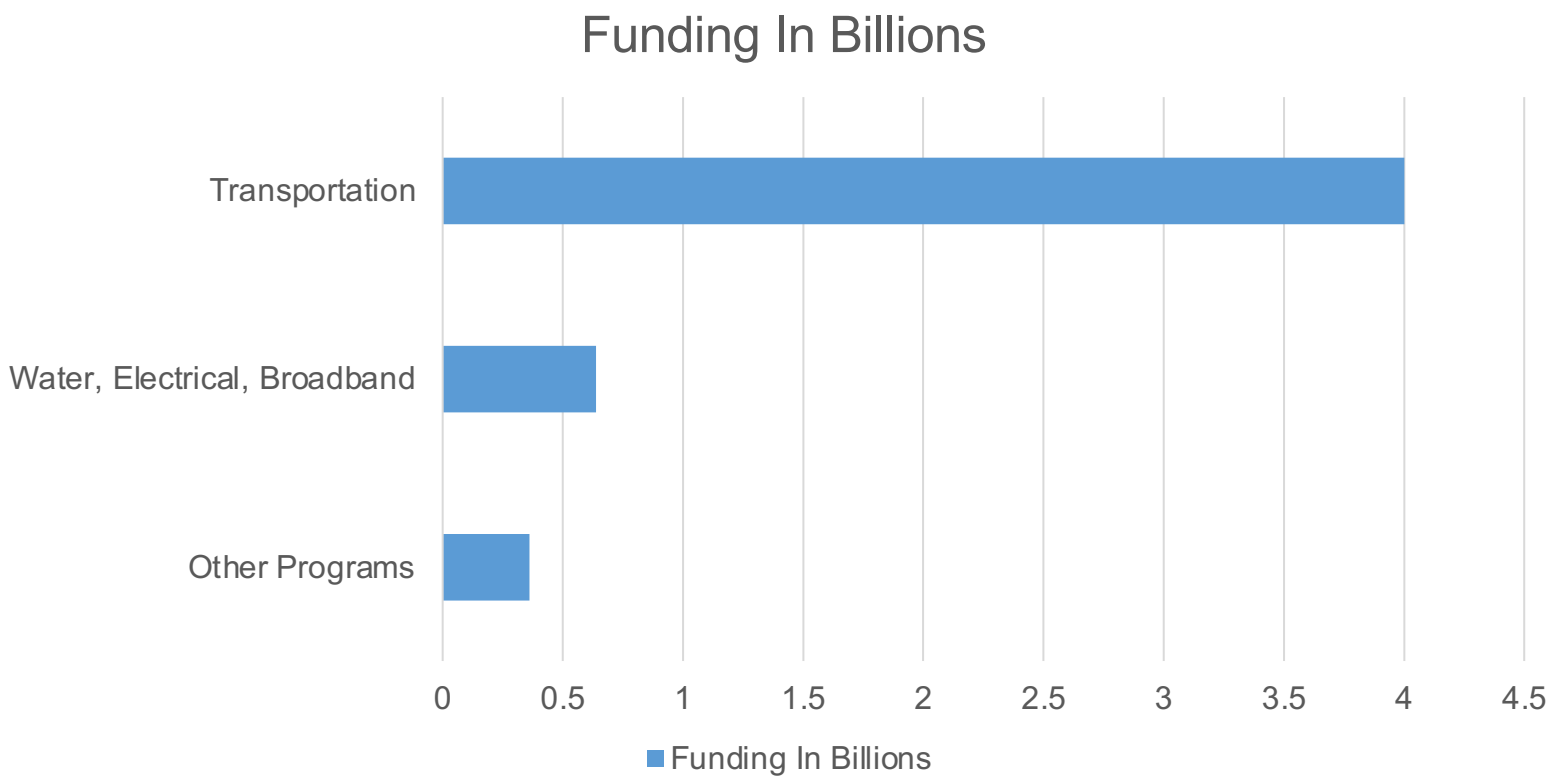


BIL Funding for Iowa

In addition to the discretionary/competitive grant funding available through a federal agency, it is expected Iowa will receive at least $5 billion in pass-through funding over 5 years. The funding will be allocated to both existing and new state programs, and will be available for:

- Transportation: highways, transit, bridges, airports, and charging stations
- Water, electrical infrastructure, and broadband infrastructure
- Housing, arts, health, and safety
- Other

Expected Funding for Iowa by Category



$2.4 Billion of the Expected $5 + Billion Iowa BIL Funding Has Been Announced to Date

Purpose	Amount Allocated
Roads and bridges	$1.5 Billion
Ports and Waterways	$360.5 Million
Water	$132 Million
Resilience (flood mitigation)	$70.9 Million
Energy and Power	$62 Million
Public Transit	$60.4 Million
Airports	$51.6 Million
Electric Vehicle Charging	$18.5 Million
Clean Buses	$11.1 Million
Pollution Cleanup	$6 Million
Broadband	$5 Million

Iowa Transportation Funding

Federal-Aid Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program

- Funding for roads on federal-aid routes, bridges on any public road, and transit capital improvements
- Apply for funding through regional planning organization: iowacog.com/find-your-cog

Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Program

- Targeted toward value-added activities to provide maximum economic impact on primary and secondary roads, and some city streets
- Funding is generally limited to development of industrial, manufacturing, and other similar uses and cities partner with developer on the application

Iowa Transportation Funding

Other notable IDOT programs include, but are not limited to:

- City Bridge Program
- DOT/DNR Fund
- Airport Improvement Program
- Highway Safety Improvement Program
- State Recreational Trails Program
- Railroad Crossing Safety Program

Funding Through Iowa SRF

The Iowa State Revolving Fund (SRF) receives pass-through funding through the EPA. Funding through the SRF is available to applicants for drinking water and clean water projects. The SRF was awarded over $620 million in BIL funds to assist eligible projects, including supplemental assistance, emerging contaminants and lead service line replacement.

SRF Grants / Loan Forgiveness

The SRF considers a number of factors to determine if a community is eligible for grant funding, including:

- Project Priority: Need for the project
- Socioeconomic Score: Disadvantaged status of the community
- Household Burden: Current rates / community's ability to afford the project

Funding Programs Through IEDA

The Iowa Economic Development Authority has several programs that will receive BIL pass-through funding, which include, but are not limited to:

- Destination Iowa: Sense of place and enhance tourism
- Various Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for disadvantaged communities
- Empower Rural Iowa: Investing in, growing and connecting rural Iowa
- Low interest loan programs for nuisance properties and energy infrastructure improvements
- Many more programs which revolve around community and economic development

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Signed into law in August 2022
- Approximately $370 billion of investment (tax credits, grants, loans) in renewable / clean energy and combating climate change
- For programs eligible to cities, a direct payment can be made in lieu of tax credits

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Continued

Examples of programs/funding cities will be eligible for include:

- Renewable Energy: solar and wind
- Clean Vehicles: Electric and Hybrid
- Carbon Pollution Reduction Planning Grants
- Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants
- Other programs on the horizon related to renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Federal Grant Calendar

Typically, several federal grant opportunities are announced each month. The following tables estimate when a particular grant opens to help cities plan if they anticipate applying for funding.

Economic / Community Development / Housing Programs	Agency	Estimated Open Date
Housing-Related Hazards & Lead-Based Paint Capital Fund	HUD	January
Farmers Market Promotion Program	USDA	February
Local Food Promotion Program	USDA	February
Regional Food System Partnerships	USDA	February
Community Connect Grants	USDA	March

Federal Grant Calendar

Economic / Community Development / Housing Programs	Agency	Estimated Open Date
Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants	HUD	April
Urban and Community Forestry Program	USDA	April
Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations	NEH	April
Housing Preservation Grants	USDA	April
Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training	USDA	April
Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program	USDA	April
Our Town	NEA	May
Grants for Art Projects	NEA	May
Brownfields Job Training Grants	EPA	May
Recompete Pilot Program	EDA	June

Federal Grant Calendar

Economic / Community Development / Housing Programs	Agency	Estimated Open Date
African American Civil Rights Grant Program (AACR)	NPS	July
Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO)	HUD	July
Community Wildfire Defense Grant	USDA	July
Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants	HUD	September
Older Adult Home Modification Grant Program	HUD	September
Healthy Homes Production Grant Program	HUD	September
Brownfields Grants(Assessment, Cleanup, Multipurpose)	EPA	September
Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program	FCC	November
Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program	EPA	November
Rural Business Development Grants	USDA	November
Grants for Art Projects	NEA	December

Federal Grant Calendar

Public Safety	Agency	Estimated Open Date
Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant	FEMA	Jan / February
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	FEMA	February
Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness	DOJ	February
Community Policing Development Microgrant Program	DOJ	March
COPS Hiring Program	DOJ	March
Implementing Crisis Intervention Teams	DOJ	March
Rural and Small Development Violent Crime Reduction	DOJ	April
Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership	DOJ	April
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant	DOJ	June

Federal Grant Calendar

Infrastructure and Transportation	Agency	Estimated Open Date
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant	DOE	January
Buses and Bus Facilities Program	FTA	January
Low or No Emission Vehicle Program	FTA	January
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant	DOE	January
Charing and Fueling Infrastructure Grants	FHWA	March
Safe Streets and Roads 4 All (SS4A)	USDOT	March
Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program	DOL	April
Thriving Communities Program	USDOT	April
Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program	FHWA	April

Federal Grant Calendar

Infrastructure and Transportation	Agency	Estimated Open Date
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)	FHWA	April
Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA)	DOE	May
Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant	USDOT	May
Transit-Oriented Development: Planning	FTA	May
Bridge Investment Program (BIP)	FHWA	June
Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure	NTIA	June
Rural Surface Transportation Grant	USDOT	June
Solar For All Project	EPA	June

Federal Grant Calendar

Infrastructure and Transportation	Agency	Estimated Open Date
Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)	USDOT	July
Railroad Crossing Elimination Program	FRA	July
Energy Futures Grant (EFG)	DOE	July
Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grants	EPA	August
Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program	USDOT	August
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program	FRA	September
Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program	EPA	September
Reconnect Loan and Grant Program	USDA	September

Federal Grant Calendar

Infrastructure and Transportation	Agency	Estimated Open Date
Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator	FHWA	September
Airport Terminal Program (ATP)	FAA	September
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Implementation	EPA	September
Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development	EPA	September
Solid Waste Management Grants	USDA	October
National Culvert Removal Replacement and Restoration Grant Program	FHWA	October
Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program	EPA	November
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)	UDOT	December
Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants	USDA	December

State Funding Calendar

Program	Agency	Submittal Deadline
DOT/DNR Fund (fort trails enhancement)	DOT	Year Round
Pedestrian Curb Ramp Program	DOT	Year Round
Railroad Revolving Loan and Grant Program	DOT	Year Round
Urban-State Traffic Engineering Program (U-STEP)	DOT	Year Round
Community Catalyst Building Remediation	IEDA	Year Round
Community Facilities (CDBG)	IEDA	Year Round
Destination Iowa	IEDA	Year Round
Enhance Iowa (CAT Grants)	IEDA	Quarterly
Water and Sewer Fund (CDBG)	IEDA	Quarterly
Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)	DOT	Varies, check with COG/MOP

State Funding Calendar

Program	Agency	Submittal Deadline
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program	DOT	Until funds are exhausted
Sign Replacement Program	DOT	January
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	DNR	January
Derelict Building Program	DNR	February
Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE)	DOT	February
Living Roadway Trust Fund	DOT	June
Highway – Railroad Crossing Safety Program	DOT	July
Recreational Trails	DOT	July
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	DNR	July
REAP Grants (city parks and open spaces)	DOT	August

State Funding Calendar

Program	Agency	Submittal Deadline
Traffic Safety Improvement Program	DOT	August
Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE)	DOT	September
City Bridge Program	DOT	October
Highway Safety Improvement Program	DOT	November
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	DOT	November
Comprehensive Neighborhood Planning Fund (CDBG)	IEDA	November
Downtown Revitalization Fund (CDBG)	IEDA	November
Housing – Upper Story Conversion (CDBG)	IEDA	November
Water Trail Planning	DNR	December

Applying for Funding

Grant Lifecycle

1. Pre-award Phase: funding opportunity is announced, and an application is submitted
2. Award Phase: Award decision is made, and awardees are notified
3. Post Award Phase: Implementation, reporting, and grant closeout

Types of Grants: Competitive Grants

- Based on merit, applied for directly through an agency, and awarded through a process which requires a project budget and a proposal to apply for the grant. These grants are also known as “discretionary” funding.
- Awardees are chosen by a team of reviewers who read your grant proposal and evaluate your project to determine if it is a good fit for their funding.
- The outcome of a competitive awarding process is not predetermined and include a lot of rules and regulations to keep the awarding process fair and equitable.
- It is crucial to understand what is being asked of you in the application, and to have a very good understanding of your proposed project to make your application as competitive as possible.

Types of Grants: Pass-Through Grants

- Federal agencies issue pass-through funds to a state agency. The allotments Iowa has received through BIL are an examples of pass-through grants.
- States distribute these funds as competitive or non-competitive based on terms and authorizing legislation. For example, if it is a formula funding stream at the federal level, it will be at the state level as well (think CDBG grants).
- Applicants apply for funding through a state agency.

Types of Grants: Formula Grants

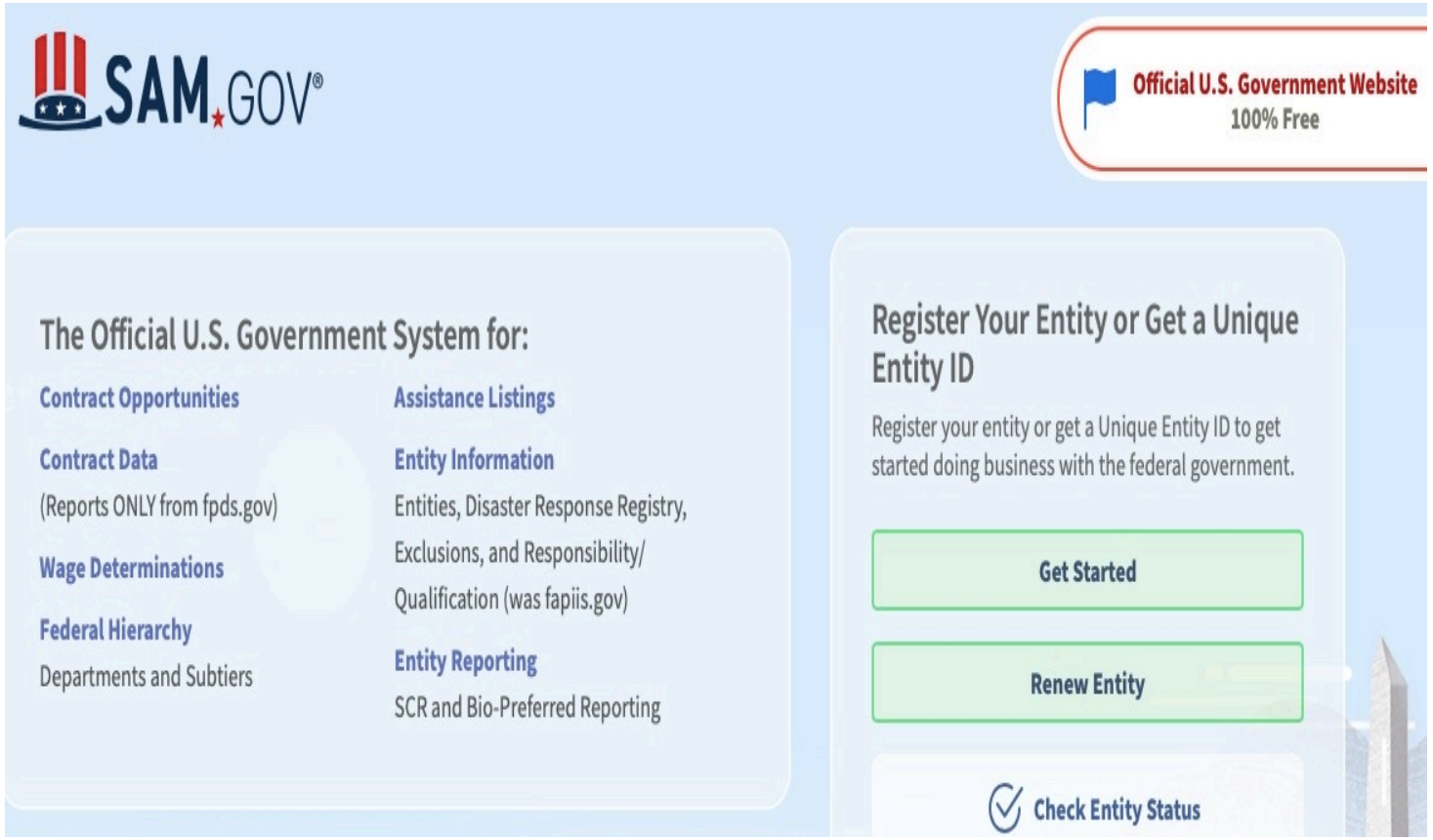
- Awardees are predetermined and funding is mathematically allocated to recipients.
- Typically, a recipient must meet certain criteria thresholds to be considered for an award. Criteria can be based on several factors such as population and a community's low to moderate or median income.
- As it relates to BIL funding, formula grants are awarded to states, and the state agency chooses which project to support at the local level that meets the criteria requirements to receive the funding.

Types of Grants: Continuation Grants

- Awards extend beyond one year.
- Applications for continuation awards are assessed based on the availability of funds for consecutive years.
- Grant performance is vital first year of the award; maintaining compliance and meeting the objectives identified in the grant application.
- Continuation awards are normally not for infrastructure projects and provide funding to non-infrastructure programs.
- ARPA funding is an example of a continuation grant.

Applying for Federal Grants: SAM.gov Account

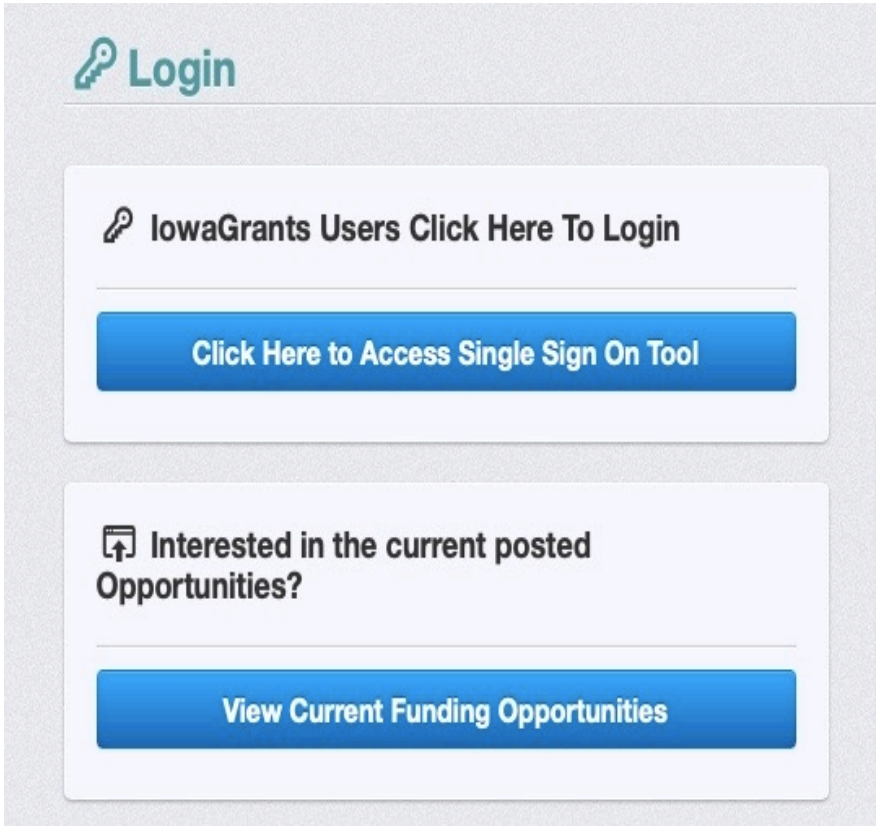
- City must be registered through SAM.gov to be eligible to apply for grants
- Registration renews annually and needs to be current
- You will need your city's SAM Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) for the application, and it can be found on the SAM.gov site.



Applying for Federal Grants: grants.gov Account

- Most Federal grants require you to submit applications on the grants.gov site
- Register an account for your city at grants.gov
- Searching for grant opportunities on the site is easy and the search can be narrowed to eligibility for city governments

Applying for Iowa Funding: IowaGrants.gov



ID	Status	Categorical Area	Agency	Program Area	Title
32740	Posted	Community Development	Economic Development Authority	CDBG	CDBG Water/Sewer
32824	Posted	Community Development	Economic Development Authority	CDBG	CDBG Community Facilities & Services
54880	Posted	Community Development,Economic Development	Economic Development Authority	CDBG	CDBG Downtown Revitalization
60760	Posted	Community Development,Economic Development	Economic Development Authority	CDBG	CDBG Sustainable Community Demonstration

Search for Grants and Find Resources at iowaleague.org

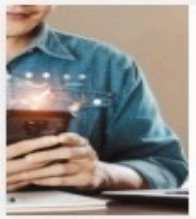
Funding Programs

Contact us with any funding questions → Register for October 25 webinar on state & federal funding →

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which provides $350 billion...

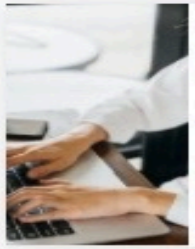
See Details →



Contact Us on Funding Questions

If you have any questions on the American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or any other state or federal...

See Details →



Federal Funding Opportunities

Funding opportunities for federal grants through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, along with funding available through Iowa agencies such as the Iowa Department...

See Details →

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), is a law that...

See Details →

SAM Registrations

SAM is the official government-wide database to register with in order to do business with the U.S. government, and the website can...

See Details →

State Funding Opportunities

Broadband Community, Economic Development and Housing Public Facilities Public Safety Transportation Opportunities Water, Sewer, Storm Sewer and Electrical Infrastructure Other Opportunities

See Details →

Upcoming Federal Funding Webinars/Training

Upcoming Webinars Past Webinars Infrastructure School Webinar series for tips on using the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) guidebook and the major areas...

See Details →

Grant Tips

Plan Ahead

- Search and prepare for the upcoming opportunity
- Review Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to understand the needed local match and if partners are needed
- Confirm grants.gov and SAM.gov accounts are up to date

More About the NOFO…

- Are you able to realistically meet all requirements and eligibility criteria? If not, the opportunity more than likely is not the right fit.
- If it appears to be the right fit, identify stakeholders and enlist the assistance of consultants, as necessary to assist with the application.

Grant Tips

About the application:

- Follow the requirements to the letter; follow word count, character count, include everything they are asking for or risk elimination.
- Attend webinars (sometimes required) if they are available.
- If it is allowed, reach out to the contact for the grant with questions. They may be able to provide information to strengthen application.

Grant Tips

Application Narrative: Be Specific and Differentiate Yourself from the Competition

- Who will it benefit; citizens and/or businesses?
- How will it improve quality of life and what are the long-term benefits to your city?
- What makes the project you are requesting funding for and your community unique?
- Use photos, statistics, records, and available documentation if allowed by the NOFO

Understand the Reporting Requirements Should You Be Awarded Funding

Almost Always, Federal Funding is Subject to the Buy America, Build America Act (BABA), Davis-Bacon Labor Standards

Helpful Resources

https://www.grants.gov/ Open federal grant opportunities

https://www.iowagrants.gov/index.do Open state grants opportunities

https://localinfrastructure.org/ News and resources about federal funding

https://iowaleague.org/resources/federal-funding/ Open federal and state funding opportunities along with other valuable resources

https://iowaleague.org/resource/contact-us-on-federal-funding-questions/ Contact the Iowa League with questions about funding for your community

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

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Mobile: (970) 222-0611

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