

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Maritime Administration**

**Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Maritime Administration’s Port Infrastructure
Development Program (PIDP) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 (“Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”)**

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT

ACTION: Notice of Funding Opportunity

SUMMARY: This notice solicits applications for fiscal year (FY) 2024 Port Infrastructure

Development Program (PIDP) grants. Funds for FY 2024 PIDP grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to assist in funding eligible projects for the purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. This notice announces the availability of up to \$450,000,000 in funding for grants under this program and establishes selection criteria and application requirements. All PIDP grant recipients must meet all applicable Federal requirements, including domestic content (“Buy America”) requirements. The Maritime Administration (“MARAD”) intends to amend this notice on or before February 16, 2024, with complete program requirements and application information.

DATES: Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. E.D.T. on April 30, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information concerning this notice, please contact the PIDP staff via email at *PIDPgrants@dot.gov*, or call Wade Morefield at 202–366–6025. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 202–366–3993. In addition, MARAD may post answers to questions and requests for clarifications as well as information about webinars for further information at

<https://www.maritime.dot.gov/PIDPgrants>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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Program Description

Overview

The PIDP is codified at 46 U.S.C. 54301, which establishes the port and intermodal improvement program to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, November 15, 2021) (“Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” or “BIL”) appropriated \$450 million to the PIDP for FY 2024 to make discretionary grants for eligible PIDP projects.

Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 54301(a)(5)(B), the Department of Transportation (DOT) is required to publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) no later than 90 days after the date that funds are made available for grants for a fiscal year, which is December 30, 2023. In order to comply with this requirement, this NOFO solicits applications for projects to be funded under the PIDP. It includes the funding appropriated by the BIL and may include any additional funding appropriated in FY 2024 for PIDP under the annual appropriations act. If the annual appropriations act for FY 2024 increases funding for PIDP and/or significantly alters requirements for PIDP funds, MARAD will amend this notice with guidance on any changes or additional requirements.

Additional Information

The PIDP is described in the Federal Assistance Listings under the assistance listing program title “Port Infrastructure Development Program” and assistance listing number 20.823.

Federal Award Information

Amount Available

The BIL appropriated \$450 million to be awarded by DOT for FY 2024 PIDP grants. MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024. The amended NOFO will be posted on Grants.gov and the PIDP website (<https://www.maritime.dot.gov/PIDPgrants>).

Award Size

There is no minimum PIDP award size under the BIL. Except as limited by the amount of available funding and statutory restrictions on funding identified in the BIL and 46 U.S.C. 54301, there is no maximum award size.

Restrictions on Funding

Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 54301, not more than 25 percent of the available funds (\$112.5 million) can be used to make grants for projects in any one State and 25 percent of the available funds (\$112.5 million) is reserved for small projects at small ports. MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

Eligibility Information

To be selected for a FY 2024 PIDP discretionary grant, an applicant must be an eligible applicant and the project must be an eligible project.

Eligible Applicants

An eligible applicant for a FY 2024 PIDP discretionary grant is a State¹ or political subdivision of a State or a local government, a public agency or publicly chartered authority

¹ State means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

established by one or more States, a special purpose district with a transportation function, an Indian Tribe,² a multistate or multijurisdictional group of entities described above, or a lead entity described above jointly with a private entity or group of private entities (including the owners or operators of a facility, or collection of facilities, at a port). Federal agencies are not eligible applicants for the FY 2024 PIDP.

If submitting a joint application, applicants must identify in the application the eligible lead applicant as the primary point of contact. The lead applicant, who will be the primary recipient of the award and responsible for financial administration and monitoring of the project, must be an eligible lead entity described above (i.e., not a private entity). Joint applications should include a description of the roles and responsibilities of each applicant.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the authority to carry out the project and must submit information related to an assertion with citation of authority with their application. In the case of joint applications, at least one of the eligible applicants must demonstrate this authority.

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about February 16, 2024.

Cost Sharing or Matching

This section of the notice describes cost share requirements for a FY 2024 PIDP grant award. Per 46 U.S.C. 54301(a)(8), the Federal share of the total costs of a PIDP project shall not exceed 80 percent; however, the Secretary may increase the Federal share of costs above 80 percent for: (1) a grant for a project that is located in a rural area; or (2) a grant awarded to a small project at a small port under 46 U.S.C. 54301(b).

Applicants should use the following equation when determining the cost share for their project:

² An Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), without regard to capitalization), or a consortium of Indian Tribes.

$$\frac{(PIDP\ Grant\ Request\ +\ Other\ Federal\ Funds)}{Total\ Project\ Cost} = Federal\ Cost\ Share$$

For the PIDP, Total Project Cost means the sum of future eligible Federal and non-Federal costs that have not yet been incurred. This cannot include any previously incurred costs, except for small projects at small ports, which may include certain costs incurred after grant application submittal but before announcement of project selection.

Non-Federal sources include State funds originating from programs funded by State revenue, local funds originating from State or local revenue-funded programs, or private funds. The application must demonstrate, such as through a commitment letter or other documentation included in its PIDP application, the sources of the non-Federal funds. Unless otherwise authorized by statute, funds used to satisfy the non-Federal cost-share requirements of a different Federal program may not be counted as the non-Federal share for both the FY 2024 PIDP grant award and another Federal grant program. Matching funds are subject to the same Federal requirements as awarded funds.

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about February 16, 2024.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects for FY 2024 PIDP grants shall be located either within the boundary of a port, or outside the boundary of a port and directly related to port operations or to an intermodal connection to a port. Grants may be made for capital projects that will be used to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of:

- (I) the loading and unloading of goods at the port, such as for marine terminal equipment;
- (II) the movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port, such as for highway or rail infrastructure, intermodal facilities, freight intelligent transportation systems, and digital infrastructure systems;

- (III) operational improvements, including projects to improve port resilience; or
- (IV) environmental and emissions mitigation measures; including projects for—
 - (aa) port electrification or electrification master planning;
 - (bb) harbor craft or equipment replacements or retrofits;
 - (cc) development of port or terminal microgrids;
 - (dd) provision of idling reduction infrastructure;
 - (ee) purchase of cargo handling equipment and related infrastructure;
 - (ff) worker training to support electrification technology;
 - (gg) installation of port bunkering facilities from ocean-going vessels for fuels;
 - (hh) electric vehicle charging or hydrogen refueling infrastructure for drayage and medium or heavy duty trucks and locomotives that service the port and related grid upgrades; or
- (ii) other related port activities, including charging infrastructure, electric rubber-tired gantry cranes, and anti-idling technologies.

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about February 16, 2024.

Application and Submission Information

Address to Request Application Package

Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov. Instructions for submitting applications can be found at <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/office-port-infrastructure-development/port-and-terminal-infrastructure-development/how-apply-port> along with specific instructions for the forms and attachments required for submission.

Content and Form of Application Submission

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant must: (1) be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (2) provide a valid UEI in its application; and (3) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

MARAD may not make a FY 2024 PIDP grant award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time MARAD is ready to make a PIDP grant award, MARAD may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a PIDP grant award and use that determination as a basis for making a PIDP grant award to another applicant.

Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. E.D.T. on April 30, 2024. Grants.gov attaches a time stamp to each application at the time that submission is complete. Applications with a time stamp after the deadline will not be considered. MARAD does not accept applications via mailed paper, fax machine, email, or other means. Please note that the Grants.gov registration process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.

Funding Restrictions

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

Other Submission Requirements

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

Application Review Information

Criteria

MARAD will evaluate projects that meet the purpose of the PIDP based on their alignment with the following statutory merit criteria: Achieving Safety, Efficiency, or Reliability Improvements; Supporting Economic Vitality; Leveraging Federal Funding; and Improving Port Resilience. MARAD will also consider the extent to which applications align with the selection considerations of Climate Change and Sustainability; Equity and Justice⁴⁰; and Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation, and may give priority to those projects that align well when selecting among highly rated applications. Projects will also be evaluated for project readiness.

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

Review and Selection Process

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notice

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

Reporting

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

For further information concerning this notice please contact the PIDP staff via email at *PIDPgrants@dot.gov*, or call Wade Morefield at 202–366–6025. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 202–366–3993. In addition, MARAD will post answers to questions and requests for clarifications at <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/PIDPgrants>. To ensure applicants receive accurate information about eligibility or the program, the applicant is encouraged to contact MARAD with questions directly, rather than through intermediaries or third parties.

Other Information

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or before February 16, 2024.

December 27, 2023

By Order of the Maritime Administrator