



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 22-084

Date: July 27, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager *GC*

Re: Positioning the City of Fort Lauderdale to Capitalize on Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Background

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), was signed into law by President Joe Biden on November 15, 2021. The law authorizes \$1.2 trillion for transportation and infrastructure spending, with \$550 billion over five years toward new investments and programs. Funding from the IIJA addresses energy and power infrastructure, access to broadband internet, water infrastructure, resilience, road, bridges, and mass transit. Staff has developed a system to ensure that IIJA grants are being reviewed for compatibility with City projects and strategically pursued to capitalize on this monumental funding opportunity.

Finding Relevant Grant Opportunities

A wide array of resources are being used by the City to remain abreast of the latest grant opportunities. The City's lobbying team provides timely updates on grant opportunities which are forwarded to the applicable department contact by the Government Affairs & Economic Development Division of the City Manager's Office. Additionally, staff closely monitor the Government Finance Officers Association's funding program, IIJA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Tracker via, <https://www.gfoa.org/iija-notice-of-funding-opportunity-nofo-tracker>. This comprehensive tracker is updated periodically with formally issued announcements of funding from federal agencies or federal pass-through funding.

City staff also utilize a multitude of online resources including the City's subscriptions to GrantFinder, eCivis, and Grants.gov; GrantFinder is a real-time, searchable database of Federal, State, and corporate foundation grants, the City's eCivis subscription is a grant search tool included in the City's Florida League of Cities membership, and <https://www.grants.gov> which is the Federal e-Government's grant notification tool which houses information on over 1,000 grant programs and provides updates based on pre-selected criteria.

Current Notice of Funding Opportunities

With extensive funding opportunities on the horizon, City staff is continuously monitoring application requirements and deadlines to ensure the City is correctly positioned to apply for grant funding. Below are current notice of funding opportunities that are being monitored by staff.

PROGRAM NAME	ELIGIBLE USES	DEADLINE INFORMATION
<u>Bridge Investment Program (BIP)</u>	Competitive, discretionary funding program that focuses on existing bridges to reduce the overall number of bridges in poor condition, or in fair condition at risk of falling into poor condition.	Large Bridge Project Grant Applications due by August 9, 2022 Bridge Project Grant Applications due by September 8, 2022
<u>Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program</u>	Funding for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure.	Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on September 30, 2022
<u>Safe Streets for All Program</u>	Funding to support local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets, commonly referred to as "Vision Zero" or "Zero Death Initiative".	Applications must be submitted by September 15, 2022
<u>Marine Debris</u>	Funding is to be provided to investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris. This program envisions the global ocean and its coasts free from the impacts of marine debris.	Applications are due on September 30, 2022
<u>Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program</u>	Funding to restore community connectivity by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including mobility, access, or economic development.	Applications are due on October 13, 2022
<u>Resilient Florida – Project Implementation Grants</u>	Funding to enable counties, municipalities, and special districts to address risks of flooding or sea level rise identified in a local government vulnerability assessment.	Accepting proposals through September 1, 2022

How a Project is Selected for a Grant Opportunity

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Strategic Plan, Community Investment Plan (CIP), and Commission Annual Action Plan are taken into consideration when developing applications to request grant funding. The Public Works Department has proactively developed a matrix linking existing CIP projects with a funding umbrella to allow staff to quickly identify the projects that may fit grant criteria. Once a funding opportunity has been discovered, staff will meet to discuss the program guidelines and determine the most appropriate project that meets both the requirements of the grant and the long-range planning objectives of the City. Potential projects are analyzed and prioritized according to the needs of the community and the City's ability to competitively apply for the grant using existing funding as a match source.

The Community Investment Plan serves as the foundation for these reviews based on the needs assessments already performed by staff, with input from various City Commission appointed advisory boards/committees. The plan also helps identify projects that are shovel-ready and fully scoped.

Key assessments used to develop the FY 2023 – FY 2027 CIP requests include:

- Walkability Plan
- Bridge Master Plan
- Sidewalk Assessment
- Wastewater Master Plan
- Stormwater Master Plan
- Seawall Master Plan
- Las Olas Conceptual Design Visions
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan Comprehensive Utility Strategic Master Plan

Internal Grant Pre-Application Process

Once staff identified an opportunity for pursuit, the City's internal grant pre-application process is used to facilitate a review of the grant compliance requirements and ensure that potential match dollars and other costs to the City are identified. During the review, impacted departments are identified and asked to provide feedback on the grant application. The grant pre-application is completed by the department seeking the grant and then routed via the Office of Management and Budget.

Once the City Manager has signed off on the grant pre-application, the department has the authority to proceed with the grant application. The City's Federal lobbyist are available to provide grant application assistance including grant writing and obtaining letters of support from the City's representatives. If the grantor requires City Commission approval as part of the application process, the Department may move forward with drafting the necessary Commission Agenda Memorandum to facilitate obtaining approval.

City staff will continue to provide updates on the status of all grant applications via the Annual Grant Year in Review Memo which will be distributed in December 2022.

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