

Steps you can take to start maximizing Federal funds to strive for achieving equity.

Explore current and potential funding opportunities within the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

RESOURCES:
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Step 1
Self Assessment
Current organizational capacity?
Systems and processes in place?
Existing partnerships or relationships?

Step 2
Internal Capacity Building
Build for the future!
Create centralized functionality across your organization.

Step 3
Plan, Secure, Execute
Leverage existing resources.
Apply for and secure grant opportunities. See right.

Step 4
Optimize Opportunity
Maximize ARPA and IIJA funds.
Intergovernmental coordination is key!

Step 5
Incorporate Equity
Undertake efforts now!
Avoid noncompliance.

Thinking about applying?

Not all of these elements in checklist may carry same weight or importance for your agency. Witt O'Brien's is available to help advise and provide technical assistance for your agency's grant management and administration.

<p>CONSIDER APPLYING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation grant <input type="checkbox"/> Still fits agency's mission, vision, and values <input type="checkbox"/> Already incorporated into agency's strategic plan <input type="checkbox"/> A state designated entity (SDE) is eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Realistic grant deadlines, timelines, terms and conditions, outcomes, etc. - aware of application with strong interest <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate funding amount still available - \$500K - \$1M <input type="checkbox"/> Still an appropriate funder <input type="checkbox"/> No changes in process from initial application submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Agency capacity (infrastructure, staffing, resources, etc.) - reasonable, committed <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable beyond the grant period <input type="checkbox"/> Significant to adequate administrative/indirect costs allowed <input type="checkbox"/> Match requirement - marginal to minimal in-kind investment <input type="checkbox"/> Partners - mandated but already secured 	<p>PURSUE APPLICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Formula grant <input type="checkbox"/> Fulfills agency's mission, vision, and values <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated into agency's strategic plan <input type="checkbox"/> Agency is eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Realistic grant deadlines, timelines, terms and conditions, outcomes, etc. - preparations were already in place just needed funding <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate funding amount available - >\$1M <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate funder <input type="checkbox"/> Streamlined application process <input type="checkbox"/> Agency capacity (infrastructure, staffing, resources, etc.) - robust, committed <input type="checkbox"/> Likely to yield a return on investment or cost-savings - improvement upon agency's effectiveness and/or efficiencies <input type="checkbox"/> Fully allowed administrative/indirect costs <input type="checkbox"/> No match requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Partners - none mandated
<p>TENTATIVE ABOUT APPLYING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-through grant <input type="checkbox"/> No alignment with agency's mission, vision, and values <input type="checkbox"/> No alignment to agency's strategic plan <input type="checkbox"/> Partner is eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Realistic grant deadlines, timelines, terms and conditions, outcomes, etc. - unprepared for grant <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate funding amount - <\$100K <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate funder - political, conflict of interest, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Agency capacity (infrastructure, staffing, resources, etc.) - minimal to none, speculative <input type="checkbox"/> Complex and unique application process <input type="checkbox"/> Questionable short-term potential with no long-term potential or sustainability beyond the grant period <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative/indirect costs are not allowed <input type="checkbox"/> Match requirement - significant in-kind and/or cash investment <input type="checkbox"/> Partners - mandated and difficult to secure 	<p>ENCOURAGED TO APPLY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive grant - evaluate the odds (<25%, 25-50%, >50%) <input type="checkbox"/> Matches elements of agency's mission, vision, and values <input type="checkbox"/> Considering incorporating into strategic plan <input type="checkbox"/> State is eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Realistic grant deadlines, timelines, terms and conditions, outcomes, etc. - aware of application and interested <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate funding amount available - \$100K - \$500K <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate funder - limited information available <input type="checkbox"/> Agency capacity (infrastructure, staffing, resources, etc.) - reasonable, speculative <input type="checkbox"/> Complicated but with common application process elements <input type="checkbox"/> Questionable long-term potential and sustainability beyond the grant period <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate to minimal administrative/indirect costs allowed <input type="checkbox"/> Match requirement - significant to marginal in-kind investment <input type="checkbox"/> Partners - mandated but potential exists

EXAMPLE GRANT DECISION MATRIX

Funder: Project/Expense:									Decision: Apply for grant: Y/N			
	WEIGHTED DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA										RATING	
	Low				Medium			High				
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10
Relationship with funder	No relationship			Some relationship			Well-developed relationship					
Fit with funder's purpose and priorities	Not aligned			Minimal alignment			Strategic alignment					
Alignment with Metropolitan's mission/purpose	Not aligned: low priority, limited impact			Moderate alignment: focuses on priority with limited/moderate impact			High alignment: major priority/high potential impact					
Documented community and internal need	Only anecdotal, qualitative information – little evidence of need available			Partial data set available from internal or external sources			Multiple, high quality internal and external sources demonstrating need					
Staff skills and experience	No experience or skills in area			Some experience, related skills			Extensive experience, exceptional skills					
Staff time commitment availability	No time to commit, cannot reassign staff			Limited time available			Required time commitment can be met by staff					
Reporting requirements	Extensive			Moderate			Minimal					
Length of grant term	Short term			Medium term			Long term					
Partnerships	No identified partners or collaborative agreements			Potential partners or collaborators identified			Longstanding relationships with partners/collaborators					
Potential to generate additional funding	Does not generate revenue, no future funding identified			Future funding sources identified to cover some costs			Diverse set of future funding sources identified to cover all costs					
Metropolitan's resources and capacity	Requires significant investment of resources, including administration/staff time			Requires some investment of resources			Requires minimal or no investment of resources					
Competition for grant	High			Moderate			Low					
Likelihood of success	Low			Medium			High					
Matching funds required	Significant funds required			Moderate funds required			Minimal funds required					
Ability to develop a competitive application	Do not have time to respond competitively by deadline			Reallocation of staff time but can be accomplished			Adequate staff time available to submit competitive application					
Sufficient funds to meet need	Fund insufficient to meet need/not in budget			Fund meets some of need			Fund meets total need/funds budgeted					
Need for funding	Low			Medium			High					

0-31 = **Low**, do not apply

32-63 = **Medium**, apply if matching funds available

64-80 = **High**, apply even if matching funds not available