

# **Empowering Local Applicants for Federal Discretionary Grants**

**June 2023**



# Empowering Local Applicants



## Overview

- Common Themes Among Federal Grant Opportunities
- Types of Discretionary Grant Opportunities
- WYDOT's Stance on Federal Discretionary Grants
- Support for Local Applicants

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## Common Themes Among Federal Grant Opportunities

- More opportunities for local governments, non-profits, and non-traditional applicants
- Collaboration and partnerships between state DOTs, tribal/local governments, and stakeholders
  - Example: sharing non-federal match burden, project responsibilities, post-award responsibilities
- More merits for safety for all users, equity, and resiliency benefits and less towards capacity expansion



- Multimodal, multifaceted projects focused on community connectivity
  - Example: Multi-use pathway, bridge replacement, and wildlife underpass

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## Types of Discretionary Grant Opportunities

- Safe Streets and Roads for All:  
Local/Community projects focused on system-wide safety improvements
  - Community safety plans, crosswalk infrastructure, pathway, and access improvements
- RAISE: Flexible program for local/regional/national connectivity and safety
  - Community safety and connectivity planning/improvements, wildlife habitat connectivity, small to large infrastructure improvement
- Rural: Local/Regional connectivity and safety in rural areas
  - Rural infrastructure planning/improvement, rural safety and connectivity improvements, small to large infrastructure improvement
- Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program: Planning and infrastructure projects aimed at reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions and improving habitat connectivity
  - Wildlife underpass and overpass construction, wildlife fencing installation, safety improvements



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## WYDOT's Stance on Federal Discretionary Grants

- Federal discretionary grants provide an opportunity for extra investment in Wyoming infrastructure
- WYDOT **communicates and facilitates** rather than administers local discretionary grants



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## Support for Local Applicants

- Certain WYDOT offices manage pass-through grant programs
  - Transportation Alternatives, dust suppression, transit, Airport Improvement Program, Highway Safety Behavior Program
- WYDOT provides supporting materials and resources on its website for locals to use when applying for federal grants
- Locals may contact WYDOT with questions and requests for support
- Generally, WYDOT supports local applicants by:



- ✓ **Sharing** information about grant opportunities/resources
- ✓ **Discussing** project ideas/applications and strategies
- ✓ **Providing** letters of support
- x **Not** providing matching funds
- x **Not** writing or submitting local applications
- x **Not** administering discretionary grant funds on behalf of locals