

TX-07 GRANTS NEWSLETTER

May 2025

This monthly newsletter is intended to provide a guide to some of the funding opportunities to help ensure our community has access to the information needed to apply for grants to address key priorities in Texas' Seventh Congressional District. President Trump's recent executive orders and actions have directed federal agencies to pause all grant programs under the *IIJA*, however, and other grant programs. This pause creates uncertainty about the timing and availability of funding for infrastructure projects, potentially impacting project planning and implementation timelines.

We want to share what we are seeing, and we also want to hear from you about the experiences you have had with grant funding and grant applications. Your insights into federal grant funding are important to us. Please take a moment to [share](#) your priorities, concerns, and how this pause on federal grants impacts you.

New Resources

- The Department of Transportation has a Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Benefit-Cost Analysis Tool for BIP applicants to use [here](#) alongside their training [video](#).
- The National Science Foundation published a webinar slide deck from the Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education Program (FIRE) webinar which you can access [here](#).

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Active Grant Opportunities

The following grants are active and available as of the publication of this newsletter.

The Inflation Reduction Act

- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**
 - Description: This program protects the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land, and protecting and restoring and enhancing wetlands on eligible land. There are two components of this program. First, Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) help private and tribal landowners, land trusts, and other entities such as state and local governments protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements. Second, Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) help private and tribal landowners protect, restore, and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.
 - Who can apply?
 - Eligible partners include Native American Tribes; State and local governments; non-governmental organizations that have farmland, rangeland, or grassland protection programs. Eligible landowners include owners of privately held land, including land that is held by Tribes and Tribal members. All landowners, including required members of landowner-legal entities, must meet adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations and must be compliant with the HEL/WC provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.
 - Deadline: Year-round

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- **NEW Safe Streets for All Program (SS4A)**
 - Description: The Safe Streets and Roads for All program provides funding for regional, local, and Tribal initiatives aimed at preventing roadway deaths and injuries. This program supports the Department of Transportation's goal of zero roadway deaths through a Safe System Approach. The DOT anticipates posting this funding opportunity soon.
 - Who can apply?
 - County, city or township governments; Special district governments; Independent school districts; Public and State controlled institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized).
 - Deadline: June 26, 2025

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- [Bridge Investment Program, Planning and Bridge Program](#)
 - Description: This grant program aims to reduce the overall number of bridges in poor condition and keep bridges in fair condition from deteriorating further. The program expands applicant eligibility which allows all levels of government to apply as direct recipients making it easier for local projects to advance the needs of the community.
 - Who can apply?
 - States and federal land management agencies; metropolitan planning organizations; local governments; and Tribal governments.
 - Deadlines:
 - Fiscal Year 2026 Planning Application Due, October 1, 2025
 - Fiscal Year 2026 Application Due, November 1, 2025

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Other Federal Grants for Diverse Needs

The following grants are active and available as of the publication of this newsletter.

- **NEW Empower to Grow (E2G) Program Manufacturing**
 - Description: This grant opportunity supports projects that provide innovative management and technical assistance to small manufacturing firms across the United States. This initiative seeks proposals that offer unique training approaches and hands-on support in key sectors like timber, energy, digital services, and automotive. Funded efforts must focus on workforce development and essential manufacturing skills, while avoiding duplication of existing SBA services.
 - Who can apply?
 - Public and State controlled institutions of higher education; Private institutions of higher education; Small businesses; Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; For profit organizations other than small businesses.
 - Deadline: May 12, 2025
- **NEW Emerging Markets Program**
 - Description: This program aims to promote exports of U.S. agricultural products to countries with emerging or developing market-oriented economies. It provides cost-share funding for technical assistance activities such as feasibility studies, market research, training, and trade workshops. These efforts aim to strengthen the potential for long-term commercial export relationships in new and growing markets.
 - Who can apply?
 - State, city and local governments; Public and State controlled institutions of higher education; Private institutions of higher education; Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; For profit organizations other than small businesses; Small businesses.
 - Deadline: June 6, 2025
- **NEW North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Standard Grants Program**
 - Description: This program supports partnerships to conserve wetlands and associated upland habitats across the United States. Projects must focus on the long-term protection, restoration, enhancement, and/or establishment of these habitats to benefit wetlands-associated migratory birds. Eligible activities support healthy wetland ecosystems and diverse bird populations, including waterfowl, shorebirds, and other migratory species.
 - Who can apply?
 - State, county, city, township, or special district governments; Independent school districts; Public and State controlled institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized) and organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments); Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS; Private institutions of higher education; Small businesses.
 - Deadline: July 10, 2025

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- **Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education (FIRE)**
 - Description: The FIRE program supports multidisciplinary research and education focused on wildland fire. Proposals should address innovative approaches in areas like data collection, modeling, community adaptation, and infrastructure vulnerability related to wildland fire. Collaboration among diverse groups, including academics, industry, and local communities, is encouraged to advance research.
 - Who can apply?
 - Unrestricted.
 - Deadline: September 5, 2025
- **The Coastal Program**
 - Description: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program is a community-based program that helps coastal areas with technical and financial support to address complex conservation challenges of priority coastal ecosystems. The program protects at-risk species by improving habitats, enhancing connectivity for wildlife migration, and building resilient ecosystems through collaborative conservation efforts.
 - Who can apply?
 - State, county, city, township and special district governments; independent school districts; public and state controlled institutions of higher education; private institutions of higher education; public housing authorities/Tribal housing authorities; small businesses; individuals; nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Native American Tribal governments (Federally recognized); and Native American Tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized Tribal governments).
 - Deadline: September 30, 2025
- **Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW)**
 - Description: This is a voluntary program that fosters partnerships to support both communities and the conservation of fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Through cooperative agreements with private landowners, the program offers technical assistance and financial support to restore and protect vital habitats, benefiting federal trust resources.
 - Who can apply?
 - State, county, city, township, or special district governments; independent school districts; private, public and state controlled institutions of higher education; public housing authorities/Tribal housing authorities; small businesses; nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Native American Tribal governments (Federally recognized) and organizations; and individuals.
 - Deadline: September 30, 2025

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- **NEW** [The Research on Research Security Program](#)
 - Description: The program encourages interdisciplinary, evidence-based projects that foster collaboration among STEM researchers, research security experts, and practitioners, including potential international partners. Projects may explore topics such as threat identification, policy impact, human behavior, and systemic or cultural factors affecting research security.
 - Who can apply?
 - Unrestricted
 - Deadline: Unspecified
- **NEW** [Education and Broadening Participation in Earth Sciences](#)
 - Description: This grant supports a range of programs aimed at engaging diverse audiences in Earth Sciences through education, research, and professional development opportunities. It funds undergraduate and teacher research experiences, postdoctoral fellowships, and early-career faculty who integrate research with education, especially those focused on broadening participation in the geosciences.
 - Who can apply?
 - Unrestricted
 - Deadline: Unspecified

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The following grants and funding opportunities are upcoming and are not yet accepting applications. As more details become available for each of these programs, our team will be sure to include them in upcoming issues of this newsletter. *Please note that these dates are target announcement dates, and therefore subject to change. Please also note some of these programs may be subject to change due to the current Administration's Executive Orders.*

Upcoming Notices and Funding Opportunities

- Reducing Truck Emissions at Port Facilities
 - Description: The Department of Transportation (DOT) will provide funding to reduce truck idling and emissions at ports, including through the advancement of port electrification. The DOT anticipates this new funding opportunity will be available for application through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to be released in Spring of 2025.
- Electric Drive Vehicle Battery Improving Economics, Recovery and Reuse, and State of Health
 - Description: The Electric Drive Vehicle Battery Recycling and Second-Life Applications Program focuses on the research, development, and demonstration of second life uses for electric vehicle batteries after they have powered electric vehicles, as well as technologies and processes for their recycling and final disposal. The Department of Energy anticipates posting this funding opportunity soon.
- All Stations Accessibility Program
 - Description: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will provide funding to assist in the financing of capital projects to repair, improve, modify, retrofit, or relocate facility infrastructure to make all public areas of the station accessible to people with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs. The FTA anticipates posting this funding opportunity in Spring of 2025.
- Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Grants; Low or No Emissions (Bus) Grants
 - Description: The FTA seeks to provide funding to state and local governments to purchase, lease, replace, or rehabilitate zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, as well as to acquire, construct, or lease supporting facilities. These programs support technological advancements and innovations to modernize transit systems, including modifications for low or no-emission vehicles and infrastructure. The FTA anticipates posting this funding opportunity in Spring of 2025.
- Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization (NGDISM)
 - Description: Through the NGDISM grant, the Department of Transportation (DOT) will provide funding to repair, rehabilitate, or replace natural gas distribution pipeline systems or portions thereof, or to acquire equipment to either reduce incidents and fatalities or avoid economic losses. This program aims to reduce the risk profile of existing pipeline systems with pipes prone to leakage of methane, create related well-paying jobs, promote economic growth, and benefit disadvantaged rural communities with the safe provision of natural gas. The DOT anticipates posting this funding opportunity in Spring of 2025.

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- National Digital Newspaper Program
 - Description: This program creates a national digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1690 and 1963 from all 56 states and U.S. jurisdictions. The Library of Congress (LOC) maintains this freely accessible, searchable online database. The National Endowment for the Humanities anticipates posting this funding opportunity in Fall of 2025.
- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)
 - The purpose of the CRISI Program is to invest in a wide range of projects within the United States to improve railroad safety, efficiency, and reliability; mitigate congestion at both intercity passenger rail and freight rail chokepoints to support more efficient travel and goods movement; enhance multi-modal connections; and lead to new or substantially improved Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation corridors. The FTA anticipates posting this funding opportunity in Spring of 2025
- National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP)
 - This program provides training and technical assistance focused on behavioral health and delivers high-impact T/TA to help health centers deliver comprehensive health services, address emergent public health issues and needs as they relate to behavioral health care, improve operational effectiveness, efficiency, and quality, and reduce health disparities. HRSA anticipates posting this notice of funding opportunity in Spring 2025.
- Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (NEC)
 - The FSP Program offers federal funding to improve U.S. passenger rail infrastructure, addressing State of Good Repair backlogs, enhancing performance, and expanding intercity rail services, including privately operated services. It prioritizes sustaining long-distance routes to maintain national connectivity. The FTA anticipates posting this funding opportunity in Spring of 2025
- **NEW** Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) Technical Assistance Grant Program
 - This program aims to provide technical assistance to employers and labor unions to increase women's participation in apprenticeable and nontraditional occupations (A/NTO). It supports the development of training programs, resources, and support services that prepare and retain women in industries such as manufacturing, construction, technology, and transportation. The Department of Labor anticipates posting this funding opportunity soon.
- **NEW** Advanced Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies to Drive National Decarbonization
 - This funding opportunity aims to advance development and demonstration of clean hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, particularly in hard-to-decarbonize sectors like heavy-duty transportation and industrial applications and to enable long duration energy storage for a clean electric grid. The Department of Energy anticipates posting their deadlines soon.

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General Resources

- [Grants.gov](#): This is the most complete list of federal grant opportunities. It is searchable and updated frequently.
- [Department of Transportation Competitive Grant Funding Matrix](#): Look through program descriptions on the chart to identify programs for which you have relevant projects.
- [Department of Transportation Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Program Guide](#): Search by keyword to identify relevant programs that will open throughout the next five years.
- [Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations Funding Opportunity Exchange](#): OCED has a number of funding opportunities for clean energy projects through the IRA and IIJA, and this page has a funding matrix with grant information.
- [Department of Labor Grants](#): DOL has a grant platform to connect, protect, train, support, and empower workers and job seekers.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Grants Manager, Grace Kuperman, at Grace.Kuperman@mail.house.gov or (713) 353-8680.

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

2004 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2571

HOUSTON OFFICE

3700 Buffalo Speedway
Suite 610
Houston, TX 77098
Phone: (713) 353-8680
Fax: (713) 353-8677

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