



DRA's Community Infrastructure Fund Workshop

www.dra.gov/programs/critical-infrastructure



Workshop Presenters

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Critical Infrastructure Programs

- Community Infrastructure Fund (**CIF**)
- States' Economic Development Assistance Program (**SEDAP**)
- Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (**PWEAA**)



Community Infrastructure Fund

1. Provides direct investment into community-based and regional projects
2. Addresses the DRA's congressionally mandated infrastructure funding categories.
3. Helps to improve the quality of life in the DRA Region.
4. Helps to boost economic opportunities in the DRA Region.



Community Infrastructure Fund

- Rolling Cycle
- Applications reviewed monthly
- Awards range:
 - \$500,000 to \$2,000,000
- Federal Chairman determines awards- discretionary



Eligibility Guidelines

- Focused on Funding Categories
- Aligned with Federal Priorities
- Consistent RDP4 Strategic Goals
- Aligned with Regional Development Plan





Funding Categories

- Basic Public Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Flood Control





Federal Priorities

- Elevate Rural Communities
- Foster True Collaboration
- Adopt Leading Practices
- Measure Outcomes
- Look To The Long Term
- Demonstration Of Increasing Access To Affordable Healthy Foods



DRA's Regional Development Plan (RDP IV)

- **Goal 1. Invest in public infrastructure**
 - Expand and invest in the resiliency of the region's public infrastructure to improve residents' quality of life and increase economic opportunity.
- **Goal 2. Nurture local workforce ecosystems**
 - Improve networks of agencies, organizations, businesses, and educational institutions providing workforce development opportunities.
- **Goal 3. Promote business growth and entrepreneurship**
 - Continue to strengthen the competitiveness of the region's employers and attract new employers to the region.
- **Goal 4. Support community placemaking and capacity-building**
 - Expand efforts to enhance sustainable and inclusive local placemaking, quality of life, and community capacity.



City of Reform, AL

New Water Well Project

MAYOR MELODY DAVIS



CREATING JOBS. BUILDING COMMUNITIES. IMPROVING LIVES.

AL-54541 Water Well Project

- DRA CIF = \$250,000 / ADEM = \$1.4m
- Essential water system improvements
- New water treatment plant / new tank / new pipelines & new well producing > 750 gallons/minute





Eligible Applicants

- Counties/parishes, cities or other local government subdivisions and municipalities
- Public or private nonprofit organizations, including special purpose districts
- Regional and economic development organizations
- Workforce boards, labor unions, community and faith-based organizations
- Colleges, trade schools, and minority-serving institutions
- Federally recognized tribes





Eligible Projects

- Applicants ***MUST*** demonstrate that they are serving eligible participants who live and work in the DRA Region.
- Projects may benefit areas beyond the DRA Region; however, only portions of the project that are within the Region are eligible for funding.
- Relocation of an entity within the DRA Region to another portion of the Region will be ineligible for funding.
- Speculative projects may be deemed ineligible for funding.

Please see the CIF Appendices for a list of eligible/ineligible projects.





Award Information

Application	Distressed Communities	Eligibility Information
Applicants may work with the LDD.	Federal law states, DRA must invest 75% in economically distressed counties/parishes & isolated areas of distress.	See NOFAs for list of eligible applicants.
Maximum 24 months Period of Performance.	Distressed list at www.dra.gov .	NOFA found at: www.dra.gov/programs/critical-infrastructure/

Technical questions can be sent to sedap.cif@dra.gov.



Matching – Cost Share

- Match not required for basic public & transportation infrastructure projects in distressed areas.
- Match of any type encouraged to ensure a competitive application.
- 10% match required:
 - In non-distressed counties/ parishes
 - For all job training/business development projects (SEDAP)
 - Sources must be non-federal, federal*, or a combination of sources.
 - **Some federal entities have specific funding limitations on federal dollars.*



Application Attachments

- Participation Agreement and/or Employer Letter(s)
- Verification of Matching Funds
- Key Staff Resumes
- Job Descriptions
- Water/sewer rate information

Please provide proof of any item claimed in the application.



Participation Agreement

Agreement Details	Jobs Report	Capital Expenditures
Guarantee outcomes <i>Please note Section 4: New Jobs + Current Employment = Full-Time, Year-Round Employees</i>	Jobs must be created 2 years from project completion	Private investments made by private firm
Track items pledged by private firm	Must be emailed once per year for 3 years	Capital expenditures must be fulfilled within 3 years from project completion
Continued reporting is required	Report must include employee's 1 st initial, last name, date of hire	Proof must be emailed (paid invoices, etc.)

Application & Submission Information



- Submit applications at:
 - [Critical Infrastructure - Delta Regional Authority \(dra.gov\)](https://dra.gov)
 - Proceed to Funding Portal at bottom of page.
- [Delta Regional Authority - Login Screen \(communityforce.com\)](https://communityforce.com)
- Search for Grants.
- Create New Account.
- Select appropriate grant program from search menu.
- DRA staff will review for eligibility & score.
- Applications may be accepted/rejected due to content or lack of information.

Application & Submission Information Continued



- Applications will be pre-screened to determine eligibility and completeness. Staff will notify entities during the review process for additional information and/or clarifications.
- **Ensure** that the contact person on the application has **current & correct information** and **has authority to make the necessary changes** to the application.
- **Ensure** that all sections of your application are **complete** and that all your responses are placed in the **specific sections**, for that response.
- Before submitting application/proposal please print out a copy of your complete application.

Applicants encouraged to contact LDD staff and/or DRA Program Staff for application assistance.

A photograph of construction workers on a steel beam. One worker in the foreground is using a sledgehammer on the steel. Other workers are visible in the background. A dark blue box with white text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

Application Scoring Criteria

- Project Description & Alignment– **35 Points**
- Community Benefits Plan – **30 Points**
- Project Management and Team Partners – **20 Points**
- Budget, Implementation & Impact – **15 Points**



Project Description & Alignment

- Description of Project & Community Needs – **15 Points**
 - *Community/Infrastructure Challenge/Data*
- Project Design & Implementation Plans – **10 Points**
 - *Project Design/Project Goals/Results/Documentation*
- Alignment w/ Strategic Goals & Plans – **10 Points**
 - *CIF Alignment/Alignment with Local Plans/Collaboration*



Community Benefits Plan

- Evidence of Community & Employer Demand – **10 Points**
 - *Stakeholder Engagement/Feedback*
- Demonstration of Realistic and Attainable Outcomes – **10 Points**
 - *Project Activities/Timelines/Sustainability/Evaluation*
- Evidence of Community Impact & Quality of Life Improvements – **10 Points**
 - *Access to Resources/Sustainability/Overall Benefit*



Project Management & Team Partners

- Evidence of Project Team & Organizational Capacity – **10 Points**
 - *Relevant Experience/Resumes & Job Descriptions*
- Local & Regional Collaboration w/ Public & Private Partners – **5 Points**
 - *Local Development Districts/Local Partners/Letters of Support*
- Evidence of Institutional Partnerships Grounded in Collaboration – **5 Points**
 - *Inclusive Partnerships*



Budget Implementation & Impact

- Budget & Funding Request & Description of Matching Funds – **5 Points**
 - *Amount Requested/Matching Funds/Budget Narrative*
- Detailed Budget Narrative & Resource Allocation – **5 Points**
 - *Budget Narrative Forms/Leveraged Resources/Budget Categories - Resource Allocation*
- Realistic Project Timeline & Risk Management – **5 Points**
 - *Project Timeline/Roles and Responsibilities/Success Factors*

Critical Infrastructure Project Examples



- Expansion of an IDA owned building – housing a private company, committing to job creation/retention and/or capital investments.
- Water and/or sewer infrastructure improvements – benefitting area residents and/or businesses
- Road improvement – benefitting a private company, committing to job creation/retention and/or capital investments.
- All applications ***MUST*** anticipate project outcomes and be accompanied by at least one of the following:
 - Job Creation
 - Job Retention
 - Number of Households/People Served
 - Individuals Trained (SEDAP)





Grant Administration

Upon grant funding, all grant administration requirements must be followed.

Duties Include (but not limited to)
Quarterly Reporting
Pay Request Submissions
Build America, Buy America Act (The Act)
Project Signage
Participation Agreement Reporting

Please see CIF NOFA Appendices for complete grant administration duties.

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SEDAP

- Funding Cycle Opens: March
- Application Deadline: June
- Award Announcement: August – September (*anticipated*)
- Award range: \$50,000 to \$500,000
- \$16.9 Million available for FY2024
- State Allocation
- Vote by States' Governors determine awards
- Funding Categories:
 - Basic Public Infrastructure
 - Transportation Infrastructure
 - Business Development
 - Job training or employment-related education

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PWEAA

Public Works Economic Adjustment Assistance

DRA receives an annual indirect appropriation from the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) PWEAA program. The PWEAA program helps distressed communities revitalize, expand and upgrade their physical infrastructure.

- \$3,000,000 Annually
- No direct application available
- DRA staff determines if a critical infrastructure application is eligible for PWEAA funding.



THANK YOU!



SCAN ME

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