



Partnership Grants Report

Purpose

As requested by the joint explanatory statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is providing this report to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Appropriations on the status of FY 2017-2020 grant agreements and obligations from the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) and Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair (Fed-State Partnership) discretionary grant programs. This report is designed to provide an overview of the current status of obligations for each grant program and should not be considered a comprehensive report on FRA’s entire active grant portfolio.

Background

FRA extends discretionary grants to States, local governments, higher education institutions, or private organizations, depending on the statutory requirements and priorities for each program. FRA solicits eligible applicants to apply for funding through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and utilizes criteria defined by statute and by FRA leadership to select grant recipients from the applications received. Solicitations for discretionary funding programs are typically developed by the program and issued on an annual basis.

The grant lifecycle for competitive programs typically consists of four stages, summarized by the graphic below. This report provides an overview of grants in the latter three stages of the grant lifecycle, from Award (obligation) to Closeout. On the following page, the term “Unobligated” refers to projects that have been selected but have not yet entered into a signed grant agreement with FRA, and the term “Obligated” refers to projects that have completed every step of the Award process, including a signed grant agreement, and are in either the Administration or Closeout stage. “Closed” projects have successfully completed the Closeout process.



Key Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOFO Publication • Application Intake & Evaluation • Project Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification • Terms and Conditions • Budget and Statement of Work Development • Environmental Clearances* • Engineering Review* • Performance Measures* • Stakeholder Agreements* • Creating Grant Award in Grant Solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Administration • Annual Monitoring • Project Management • Review Project Deliverables • Provide Technical Assistance • Enforcement and Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grantee Notification • Final Invoice • Final Performance Report • Tracking Project Benefit Agreements
Duration	Up to 5 months	6-15 months	3+ years	90 days

**Dependent on grant program and/or project type*