



CENTER FOR COALFIELD JUSTICE

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Submit a Letter of Interest to the Thriving Communities Program¹

The program is designed to ensure that local governments have the tools to access federal funds for projects that serve their communities. It will pair participants with Capacity Builders who will help prepare application materials or with predevelopment activities to deploy innovative community engagement, workforce development, and clean technology strategies.

Until [December 6, 2022](#), state, local, and Tribal governments; Metropolitan Planning Organizations; transit agencies; and other political subdivisions of a state or local government can submit a letter of interest to [receive technical assistance, planning, and capacity-building support at no cost to identify, develop, and deliver transportation and community revitalization activities.](#)

Before submitting:

1. Identify your Community and Community of Practice

Community	Identify the geographic area that will receive support based upon locally understood boundaries and transportation patterns and needs. This could be the name of the town or suburb in need of basic transportation infrastructure improvements or located near a major freight facility, or it could be the specific city neighborhood(s) or area(s) of the county along a transportation corridor experiencing high rates of air pollution, or that are wanting to promote more development near transit stations, or where traffic safety and long-term community disinvestment challenges exist.
Priority may be given to communities with a disadvantaged status, verify the status of your community using the embedded links:	
Disadvantaged Community	(1) Any Tribal land or any territory or possession of the United States and (2) those census tracts (a) experiencing disproportionate effects (as defined by Executive Order 12898 (low-income and minority populations)); (b) that contain areas of persistent poverty as defined in 49 U.S.C. section 6702(a)(1); (c) that are historically disadvantaged as defined by DOT's mapping tool for Historically Disadvantaged Communities ; or (d) other Federally designated community development zones.

Communities will receive support and participate in 1 of 3 Communities of Practice:		
Main Streets	focused on tribal and rural communities and the interconnected transportation, housing, community, and economic development issues they face.	main street revitalization projects; road safety and context sensitive design solutions; rural transit and intercity passenger travel; trails and transportation alternatives; improving basic infrastructure conditions alongside economic and community revitalization strategies; climate resiliency,

¹ Program is a joint project of [the United States Department of Transportation](#) and the [United States Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

		adaptation, and decarbonization efforts including electric vehicle charging stations
Complete Neighborhoods	focused on urban and suburban communities located within metropolitan areas working to better coordinate transportation with land use, housing, and economic development	increasing accessibility to safe, accessible, affordable, and reliable transportation options and basic infrastructure; transit-oriented and walkable development strategies that mitigate risk for displacement, increase affordable housing production, and/or improve access to jobs and community facilities; transportation projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality and climate resiliency; integrating transportation and park and recreation plans to develop complete transportation networks; updating plans, policies, and zoning to facilitate stronger coordination of transportation, housing, land use, and economic development
Networked Communities	focused on those communities located near ports, airports, freight, and rail facilities to address mobility, access, environmental justice, and economic issues including leveraging their proximity to these facilities for wealth-building and economic development opportunities	projects that address environmental justice, pollution, and public health challenges; improving community access and connectivity, including for bicyclists and pedestrians; road and railroad safety and design improvements, especially at crossing points and intersections and including the integration of paths, trails, and parks into transportation networks; projects that help transition to transportation to decarbonization technologies and clean energy economies; new or extended passenger rail service

2. Identify the Lead Applicant and receive commitment from Community Partners

Every letter of interest must have a lead applicant and at least two key community partners	
Lead Applicant	must be a state, local, or Tribal government; a United States territory; a Metropolitan Planning Organization or rural transportation planning organization; a transit agency; or other political subdivision of a state or local government.
Community Partners	Those who can help with implementation and community engagement activities. Any entity eligible to be a lead applicant can fulfill this role, as well as community-based organizations, business employers or labor organizations, private sector firms or developers, educational or anchor institutions, workforce development boards, faith-based organizations, community development financial institutions, philanthropic and civic organizations, nonprofits, and community advocacy groups with ties to the focus area.

3. Prepare a needs and vision statement that makes the case for why your community should receive assistance

Each statement must be 500 words or less and contain:	
Needs Statement	Your community's key transportation, equity, environmental, health and safety, housing, and/or economic challenges and needs; technical or capacity challenges the applicant or community has faced when seeking Federal funding or delivering transportation projects, or in trying to coordinate infrastructure projects with broader community and economic development efforts; and any infrastructure projects planned or underway in your community and what challenges you face in funding or implementing the project
Vision Statement	Your community's goals that could be advanced through participation in the program; why each Community Partner was chosen and how you will all work together to achieve stated goals; and, ways in which traditionally underrepresented voices and community stakeholders will be engaged in the technical assistance, planning, and capacity building process throughout the two-year period.

4. Complete the [Letter of Interest Worksheet](#) to draft the required information

Letters of Interest must be received no later than **11:59 PM EST on December 6, 2022**. Complete [the fillable webform](#) (<https://www.transportation.gov/thriving-communities-program-letter-of-interest>) on DOT's Thriving Communities page to submit or mail your completed letter of interest to U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE W12-412 Washington, DC 20590.

For more information on the program, how to apply, and how applications are reviewed view DOT's [Call for Letters of Interest](#).