



GRANT ALERT

October 13, 2022

National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant (Culvert AOP Program)

DEADLINE	PROGRAM NAME & LINK
<p>Monday, February 6, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST</p> <p><i>(Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting the final application; the process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.)</i></p>	<p>National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program US Department of Transportation</p>
DESCRIPTION	
<p>This discretionary grant program was authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for the purpose of providing supplemental funding for grants on a competitive basis for projects that replace, remove, and/or repair culverts or weirs that would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish. The program is also generally referred to as the Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program.</p> <p>What's New this Round? N/A. This is the first funding round for the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant program (Culvert AOP Program).</p>	
ELIGIBILITY	
<p style="text-align: center;">Applicants</p> <p>Planning Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State government • Units of local government • Indian Tribe (any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Projects</p> <p>Culvert Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects to replace, remove, or repair culverts that would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish. <p>Weir Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects to replace, remove, or repair weirs that would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects may include infrastructure to facilitate fish passage around or over the weir and/or weir improvements.

FUNDING

General

- For FY 2022, a total of \$196 million is available for the Culvert AOP Program.
- There is no minimum or maximum award size for the FY 2022 Culvert AOP Program.
 - Awards anticipated to range from \$100,000 to \$2,000,000.

Cost-Sharing

- The federal share of the Culvert AOP Program may not exceed 80% of the total cost of the project. The local share of the Culvert AOP Program is no less than 20% of eligible activity costs.
- Indian Tribes are not required to provide a cost share under the Culvert AOP Program.

APPLICATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection Criteria

The DOT will use the project selection criteria to assess how a project will advance DOT policy priorities including safety, increased resilience to climate change, equity, and advancing the state of practice in aquatic organism passage. In the case of a bundle of projects, benefits executing the projects as a bundle compared to as individual projects should be explained.

Selection Criteria:

- Conservation Benefits to Anadromous Fish
- Regional and Watershed Context
- Ecosystem Benefits
- Project Design and Delivery Methods
- Project Monitoring and Evaluation
- Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience
- Equity and Barriers to Opportunity

Project Benefits

Projects that improve fish passage for one or more of the following:

- Anadromous fish stocks listed as an endangered species or a threatened species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973;
- Anadromous fish stocks identified by NMFS or USFWS that could reasonably become listed as an endangered species or a threatened species under that section;
- Anadromous fish stocks identified by NMFS or USFWS as prey for endangered species, threatened species, or protected species, including Southern resident orcas;
- Anadromous fish stocks identified by NFMS or USFWS as climate resilient stocks;

Projects that open up more than 200 meters of upstream habitat for anadromous fish before the end of the natural habitat.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

If a grant recipient will be a State department of transportation (State DOT) or if a State DOT will serve as a pass-through to a non-State DOT entity awarded a grant, the DOT Payment System will be “Current Bill” in the Federal Management Information System (FMIS) and the start of the period of performance will begin on the date Culvert AOP Program funds are obligated in FMIS and end on the project end date in FMIS.

If a grant recipient will be a non-State DOT entity, the DOT Payment System will be “DELPHI eInvoicing” and the start of the period of performance will begin on the date of the grant agreement executed by DOT which will obligate the Culvert AOP Program and end on the period of performance that is listed in the grant agreement.

Project shall generally be up to 5 years in length.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Data Collection and Monitoring Requirements

- DOT funds may be used for data collection, monitoring and performance reporting and should be accounted for in the applicant’s budget.
- Appropriate indicators and metrics to assess project benefits will be determined with the assistance of the DOT.
 - Indicators may document changes from an established baseline such as fish passage or available habitat.
 - Other indicators or metrics may consist of monitoring or maintenance activities; including those proposed to be done after completion of project construction.
- Applicant must agree to provide the required data or access to right-of-way or adjacent stream and riparian corridors for long-term data collection to DOT or partner agencies.
- As appropriate, applicant must agree to supply any supporting design reports outlining site conditions and the constructed “as-built” plans including documented post-construction conditions specific to fish passage which will establish baseline conditions for future monitoring. Project Evaluation Plan

PENNDOT ROLE

PennDOT Emphasis

PennDOT continues to promote projects which address climate change, sustainability, and environmental justice. The Culvert AOP provides PennDOT, other state agencies, and their partners, the opportunity to continue to address these issues by completing and supporting projects which benefit anadromous fish passage through and/or around culverts and weirs. These projects lead to more robust and healthier ecosystems within the Commonwealth’s watersheds.

PennDOT Support

Transportation Federal Funding Opportunities
Resource Account:

RA-PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov.

PennDOT will consider providing support for regionally supported grant proposals as applicable. PennDOT support may include offering data and subject matter expertise as available.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is two weeks prior to the application deadline.