

# I-22 Corridor Strategic Development Plan



# I-22 Corridor Strategic Development Plan

## *Issues, Goals & Strategies*

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### Plan Implementation:

- ◆ Create the *I-22 Corridor Leadership Alliance* to oversee implementation of the I-22 Corridor Strategic Development Plan
    - The Alliance may include mayors, county commission chairs, school superintendents, key business and industry leaders, economic developers, and representatives from West Alabama Regional Commission, Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments (NACOLG), Alabama Power Company, Tombigbee Electric Cooperative, Beville State Community College, Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), and chambers of commerce
    - The Alliance should convene, plan, and act - bringing together regional and external resources to enhance economic development and quality of life throughout the I-22 Corridor
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### 1. Housing

- ◆ Enhance the quantity and quality of residential housing (for purchase and rental), including apartments, starter homes, condos, townhouses, etc.

#### Implementation Strategies:

1. Create a regional task force to explore opportunities and strategies for residential housing and rental housing (starter homes, townhouses, apartments, condos)
  2. Identify property for new housing and apartments; ensure that targeted property is zoned for housing development
  3. Recruit, and build relationships with, real estate developers; provide incentives for developers that align with community goals
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#### Lead:

- I-22 Corridor Leadership Alliance

#### Participants:

- City of Fayette ACE Housing Committee
- West Alabama Regional Commission
- Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments (NACOLG)
- Alabama Power Company
- Mayors
- County commission chairs
- Real estate developers
- Local banks

#### Funding:

- Federal appropriations/grants (see p. 14 for a more detailed description of federal grant opportunities)
  - US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
    - Rural Community Development Initiative Grant
    - Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant
- State appropriations / ADECA
- Local banks

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## 2. Tourism, Lodging & Retail Development

- ◆ Develop I-22 Welcome Centers that promote regional communities and attractions

#### Implementation Strategies:

1. Obtain congressional and state support for the proposed I-22 Welcome Center project near the Mississippi-Alabama border
  - Convene regional state legislators and state leaders, including Governor Ivy and ALDOT, to advocate for the I-22 Corridor Welcome Center
  - Work with Senator Shelby's office to secure additional federal funding
2. Utilize strategic I-22 exits (e.g., Nashville and Birmingham routes) as gateways to the local communities and as marketing tools for local and regional tourist sites and attractions
3. Ensure that the design of all Welcome Centers and exit gateways reflects the distinctive character of the region

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#### Lead:

- State legislators

#### Participants:

- Office of US Senators and Congressional Representatives
- ALDOT
- Mayors
- County commission chairs

#### Funding:

- Federal appropriations / grants
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
  - US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
    - American Rescue Plan Act – Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants
- Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) grants

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- ◆ Support improvements in the hospitality infrastructure, including hotels, bed and breakfasts, Airbnb, and other lodging options, as well as restaurants and entertainment

#### Implementation Strategies:

1. Recruit lodging (hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts); identify potential sites and brands that may have an interest in locating

2. Support regional training and support for persons interested in developing/hosting non-traditional lodging options, including Airbnb, VRBO (Vacation Rentals by Owners), and bed and breakfasts
3. Develop diverse retail and commercial businesses (grocery stores, restaurants, shopping, office space, etc.)

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**Lead:**

- I-22 Corridor Leadership Alliance
- Mayors

**Participants:**

- County commission chairs
- Chambers of commerce
- Real estate developers
- Northwest Alabama Economic Development Alliance (C3) / economic developers
- West Alabama Regional Commission
- NACOLG
- Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association

**Funding:**

- Federal appropriations / grants
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
  - US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
    - American Rescue Plan Act – Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants
  - US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
    - Rural Community Development Initiative Grants
- Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) grants
- State appropriations / grants
- West Alabama Regional Commission Revolving Loan Fund
- NACOLG Revolving Loan Fund

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◆ Maintain an effective tourism development and marketing program

**Implementation Strategies:**

1. Explore creation of an I-22 regional tourism program/initiative
2. Maintain an updated inventory of regional tourism destinations, including events
3. Develop an organizational structure that can effectively promote the I-22 regional tourism brand
4. Market regional tourism assets via a website, print materials, media campaigns, and other means
5. Develop wayfinding signage that provides clear directions for tourists
6. Promote outdoor recreation opportunities (e.g., fishing, hunting, hiking, biking, kayaking, wildlife watching)

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**Lead:**

- Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association
- Chambers of commerce

#### Participants:

- Mayors
- County commission chairs
- C3 / economic developers
- West Alabama Regional Commission
- NACOLG

#### Funding:

- Federal appropriations / grants
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
  - US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
    - American Rescue Plan Act – Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants
  - US Department of Agriculture, USDA
    - Rural Community Development Initiative Grants
- RC&D grants
- State appropriations / grants

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### 3. Business Development

- ◆ Develop business at I-22 exits (industry, shopping mall, specialty stores, restaurants, truck stops, etc.)

#### Implementation Strategies:

1. Convene a meeting of key stakeholders to discuss development strategies for I-22 exits
2. Seek federal and state funding to support exit strategies

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#### Lead:

- C3 / economic developers

#### Participants:

- Mayors
- County commission chairs
- State legislators
- Real estate developers
- West Alabama Regional Commission
- NACOLG
- Alabama Power Company
- Tombigbee Electric Cooperative
- Other utilities

#### Funding:

- Federal appropriations/grants
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
  - US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
    - American Rescue Plan Act – Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants
  - US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
    - Rural Community Development Initiative Grant
    - Rural Business Development Grant
- State appropriations

- West Alabama Regional Commission Revolving Loan Fund
- NACOLG Revolving Loan Fund
- City/county governments
- Industrial development boards (IDBs)

## ◆ Support existing business retention and expansion

### Implementation Strategies:

1. Convene meetings of C3, economic developers, and plant managers to identify needs and develop strategies (as needed)
2. Conduct educational roundtables for county business and industry leaders on relevant issues (e.g., workforce development, labor supply issues, housing, etc.)

#### Lead:

- C3 / economic developers

#### Participants:

- County business leaders
- Bevill State
- Mayors
- County commission chairs
- IDBs
- West Alabama Regional Commission
- NACOLG

#### Funding:

- Federal appropriations/grants
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
  - US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
    - Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program
    - Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program
  - US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
    - American Rescue Plan Act, Economic Adjustment Assistance
- State appropriations / ADECA
- West Alabama Regional Commission Revolving Loan Fund
- NACOLG Revolving Loan Fund
- City/county governments
- IDBs
- Private sector businesses
- Bankers

## ◆ Develop/improve industrial sites/parks (with infrastructure to accommodate business targets)

### Implementation Strategies:

1. Convene a meeting of regional mayors, C3, and economic developers to identify needs and develop strategies
2. Identify properties for future industrial development and ensure adequate supportive infrastructure (with emphasis on sites near the new 4-Lane Highway)

3. Assist challenged industrial parks and make them more attractive to prospective business
  4. Maintain a “world-class” economic development website with updated, relevant information for prospective business and industry
  5. Build strong relationships with the Alabama Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama
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**Lead:**

- C3 / economic developers

**Participants:**

- Mayors
- County commission chairs
- State legislators
- IDBs
- West Alabama Regional Commission
- NACOLG
- Alabama Power Company
- Tombigbee Electric Cooperative
- Other utilities
- Large landowners

**Funding:**

- Federal appropriations /grants
    - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
    - Appalachian Regional Commission
    - Economic Development Administration
      - American Rescue Plan Act - Economic Adjustment Assistance
    - USDA
  - State appropriations / ADECA
  - City/county governments
  - IDBs
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◆ Support small business and entrepreneurial development

**Implementation Strategies:**

1. Conduct educational roundtables for small business owners on issues of interest (e.g., downtown development, labor issues, etc.)
  2. Establish training and support programs for entrepreneurs who are interested in working from home (e-commerce, business management, etc.)
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**Lead:**

- Chambers of commerce

**Participants:**

- Small Business Development Center (University of Alabama)
- Small Business Development Center (University of North Alabama)
- C3

- Economic developers
- Mayors
- Beville State
- West Alabama Regional Commission
- NACOLG

**Funding:**

- Federal appropriations/grants
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
  - USDA
    - Rural Business Development Grants
    - Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program
    - Farmers Market Promotion Program
    - Local Food Promotion Program
  - Economic Development Administration
    - American Rescue Plan Act - Economic Adjustment Assistance
- Opportunity Alabama
- Private sector
- Cities and counties
- West Alabama Regional Commission Revolving Loan Fund
- NACOLG Revolving Loan Fund

#### 4. Communications Technology

- ◆ Upgrade communications technology (including and cellular services and provision of high-speed Internet) throughout the I-22 Corridor region

**Implementation Strategies:**

1. Convene a meeting of regional and state stakeholders to gain support for technology improvements in cellular service and high-speed internet
2. Upgrade areas with poor cellular service, especially along state highways
3. Continue to expand broadband access and services

**Lead:**

- I-22 Corridor Leadership Alliance
- County commission chairs
- State legislators

**Participants:**

- Congressman Aderholt's Office
- West Alabama Regional Commission
- NACOLG
- Mayors
- Tombigbee Electric Cooperative
- ADECA
- Cell tower owners
- County Revenue Commissioner Offices

**Funding:**



- Federal appropriations/grants
  - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
  - US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
    - Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program
- State appropriations
- City/county governments

## 5. Workforce Development

- ◆ Improve the workforce training system (career tech, community college, apprenticeships, etc.)

### Implementation Strategies:

1. Strengthen workforce partnerships between community colleges and the business community
  - Coordinate community college technical training curriculums with the needs of local business and industry
  - Community colleges continue to work with local high schools to emphasize career tech, dual enrollment, Work Keys, and other programming to advance skills of high school graduates
  - Support two-year training certificate programs (HVAC, welding, health sciences, etc.)
  - Explore innovative Amazon Web Services (AWS) Academy-style training in coding, cloud services, website design, etc.
4. Support apprenticeship programs (funding for tuition/fees); start apprenticeship programs in regional high schools
5. Develop initiatives to change mindsets about technical training and manufacturing careers (target students, parents, teachers, and guidance counselors)
6. Provide training in "soft skills" (attitude, dress, interviews, resumes, work ethic) to prepare young people for employment; make "Ready to Work" program available to community college and high school students
7. Support and market adult education programs for residents who lack a high school diploma or GED
8. Support training and certification programs for incumbent workers

#### Lead:

- Beville State Community College

#### Participants:

- Wallace State Community College
- Northwest Shoals Community College
- School superintendents
- Chambers of commerce
- West AlabamaWorks! - Executive Director
- North AlabamaWorks! - Executive Director
- Alabama Office of Apprenticeship - Region 3 Program Manager
- Alabama Office of Apprenticeship - Region 1 Program Manager
- Business leaders
- C3 / economic developers
- Mayors

- County commission chair
- ACES

**Funding:**

- Federal appropriations/grants
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
  - Department of Health & Human Services
    - Community Health Worker and Paraprofessional Training Program
  - US Department of Labor
    - Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) Grant Program
    - Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC): A Grant Initiative for the Appalachian and Delta Regions
    - Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants
    - Pathway Home 3
  - US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
    - American Rescue Plan Act- Economic Adjustment Assistance
  - US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
    - Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program
- State appropriations/grants
  - Alabama Workforce Stabilization Program
- West AlabamaWorks!
- North AlabamaWorks!
- City/county governments

- ◆ Expand access to, and improve the quality of, community programs for substance abuse, mental health, childcare, etc.

**Implementation Strategies:**

1. Convene relevant stakeholders to identify needs and discuss options and strategies

**Lead:**

- I-22 Corridor Leadership Alliance

**Participants:**

- Community colleges
- School superintendents
- Chambers of commerce
- Business leaders
- C3 / economic developers
- North AlabamaWorks! - Executive Director
- West AlabamaWorks! - Executive Director
- Mayors
- County commission chairs
- ACES
- Non-profits

**Funding:**

- Federal appropriations/grants
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
    - INSPIRE Initiative

- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - Rural Community Development Initiative Grants
  - Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant
- Department of Health & Human Services
  - Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Behavioral Health Care Support
  - Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems
- US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
  - American Rescue Plan Act - Economic Adjustment Assistance
- State appropriations / ADECA
- City/county governments
- Business sector
- RC&D grants

## 6. Transportation Infrastructure

- ◆ Ensure effective financial decision making and management for regional and county infrastructure projects, including transportation

### Implementation Strategies:

1. Establish county and city capital budgets that support the financing of priority infrastructure projects

#### Lead:

- County commissioners
- Mayors

#### Participants:

- West Alabama Regional Commission
- NACOLG
- Citizens

#### Funding:

- County and municipal revenues

- ◆ Improve the highway infrastructure (streets, roads, and bridges)

### Implementation Strategies:

1. Support completion of the new 4-lane project connecting Fayette to I-22
2. Meet with ALDOT and state legislators to gain support for priority state highway projects
  - 4-lane Highway 13 through Fayette County to I-22 and I-22 to Spruce Pine
  - Develop an I-22 exit for Highway 13
  - Improve bridges on Highway 13
  - 4-lane Highway 43 from Guin to Spruce Pine (improving connection to Florence)
  - Upgrade Highway 278 to Cullman
  - Improve roads and bridges to and around Smith Lake to promote tourism
3. Pave/repave highways, roads, and streets

#### 4. Install electric vehicle-charging stations at appropriate I-22 exits

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##### Lead:

- State legislators
- ALDOT

##### Participants:

- County commission chairs
- County engineers
- Mayors
- West Alabama Regional Commission - Rural Planning Organization (RPO)
- NACOLG
- NACOLG - Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

##### Funding:

- Federal appropriations/grants
    - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
    - US Department of Transportation
      - FY2022 National Infrastructure Investments
      - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant
      - Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program
    - Economic Development Administration
      - American Rescue Plan Act - Economic Adjustment Assistance
  - State appropriations / ALDOT
  - City/county governments
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#### ◆ Develop regional public transportation strategies / services

##### Implementation Strategies:

1. Convene regional stakeholders to identify public transportation needs and explore options and strategies to assist citizens with transportation options for work, healthcare, shopping, etc.
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##### Lead:

- West Alabama Regional Commission - Rural Planning Organization (RPO)
- NACOLG - Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

##### Participants:

- City of Fayette Transportation Committee
- Mayors
- County commission chairs

##### Funding:

- Federal appropriations/grants
  - Appalachian Regional Commission
  - US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
    - Rural Community Development Initiative Grants
    - Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant
- State appropriations / ALDOT
- RC&D grants
- City/county governments

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## Priority Strategic Issues, by County

### Fayette

1. Housing
2. Communications Technology
3. Lodging, Tourism & Retail Development
4. Transportation Infrastructure
5. Business Development
6. Workforce Development

### Marion

1. Housing
2. Business Development
3. Tourism & Retail Development
4. Workforce Development
5. Community Leadership
6. Infrastructure

### Lamar

1. Community Leadership
2. Healthcare
3. Business Development
4. Workforce Development
5. Housing

### Winston

1. Lodging, Tourism & Retail Development
2. Communications Technology
3. Business Development
4. Workforce Development
5. Highway Infrastructure
6. Community Leadership

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## Federal Grant/Funding Opportunities

### Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes provisions related to federal aid for highway, transit, highway safety, motor carrier, research, hazardous materials, and rail programs. It also includes funding for broadband access, clean water, and electric grid renewal. This act included approximately \$1.2 trillion in federal spending. According to information from the US Department of Transportation, Alabama is expected to receive the following from the infrastructure law over five years:
  - \$5.8 billion in highway and bridge funds (about 32% more per year than current federal funding)
  - \$402 million to improve public transportation options across the state
  - \$142 million for airport infrastructure
  - \$128 million to reduce transportation-related emissions
  - \$79 million for the expansion of electric vehicle charging networks in the state
  - \$44 million for commercial motor vehicle safety efforts to reduce crashes
  - \$32 million for highway safety traffic programs
  - About \$146 million to “increase the resilience of its transportation system”
  - About \$100 million for broadband
  - About 782 million for the water infrastructure

### Appalachian Regional Commission

- Priorities
  1. Building Businesses
  2. Workforce Ecosystems
  3. Community Infrastructure
  4. Regional Culture and Tourism
  5. Leaders and Local Capacity
- Programs
  - ♦ [INSPIRE Initiative \(Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems\)](#)
    - ♦ Eligible applicants: State, municipalities, counties, education institutions, non-profits, local development districts, Native American tribes
    - ♦ Authorized purposes: This ARC initiative addresses the substance abuse crisis by creating or expanding a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce entry or re-entry. Successful projects could include investments in healthcare networks that support substance use disorder professionals, recovery-focused job training programs, as well as initiatives designed to coordinate, or link, recovery services and training that support the recovery ecosystem, among others.
    - ♦ Typical funding amount: Maximum award is \$500,000
  - ♦ [Construction Projects](#)
    - ♦ Roads, buildings, water systems, broadband, other brick-and-mortar projects
  - ♦ [Non-Construction Projects](#)
    - Workforce training, food systems, asset development, and other human capital initiatives
  - ♦ [ARC Revolving Loan Fund](#)

## US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

### • Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant

- Eligible applicants: State government, municipal and county governments, non-profits, public housing authorities, institutions of higher education, independent school districts, federally recognized tribal governments, special district governments
- Authorized purposes: The Rural Housing Service will make grants to public bodies and private non-profit corporations to provide technical assistance and/or training with respect to essential community facilities programs. The technical assistance and/or training will help to identify and plan for community facility needs that exist in their area. Once those needs are identified, the grantee can assist in identifying public and private resources to finance those identified community facility needs.
- Typical funding amount: \$0 - \$150,000
- Announcement / Closing Date: USDA-RD-CFTAT-2022 / [5/23/2022](#)

### • Farmers Market Promotion Program

- Eligible applicants: State government, municipal and county governments, non-profits, public housing authorities, institutions of higher education, small business, for-profit organizations other than small business, independent school districts, federally recognized tribal governments, special district governments
- Authorized purposes: This program focuses on: supporting and promoting domestic direct producer-to-consumer marketing such as farmers markets, roadside stands, agritourism activities, community-supported agriculture programs, or online sales; encouraging the development of value-added agricultural products; developing marketing strategies for producers of local food and value-added products; facilitating regional food chain coordination; promoting new business opportunities and marketing strategies to reduce on-farm waste; responding to changing technology needs in indirect producer-to-consumer marketing; and covering expenses related to cost incurred in obtaining food-safety certification and improvements to food safety practices and equipment.
- Typical funding amount: \$50,000 - \$500,000
- Announcement / Closing Date: USDA-AMS-TM-LFPP-G-22-0002 / [5/16/2022](#)

### • Local Food Promotion Program

- Eligible applicants: State government, municipal and county governments, non-profits, public housing authorities, institutions of higher education, small business, for-profit organizations other than small business, independent school districts, federally recognized tribal governments
- Authorized purposes: This program focuses on: supporting the processing, aggregation, distribution, and storage of local and regional food products that are marketed locally or regionally; encouraging the development of value-added agricultural products; assisting with business development plans and feasibility studies; developing marketing strategies for producers of local food products; facilitating regional food chain coordination; promoting new business opportunities and marketing strategies to reduce on-farm waste; responding to changing technology needs in indirect producer-to-consumer marketing; and covering expenses related to cost incurred in obtaining food-safety certification and improvements to food safety practices and equipment.
- Typical funding amount: \$25,000 - \$500,000
- Announcement / Closing Date: USDA-AMS-TM-LFPP-G-22-0001 / [5/16/2022](#)

### • Rural Business Development Grants

- Eligible applicants: Municipal and county governments, state agencies, non-profits, authorities, rural cooperatives, Federally recognized tribes
- Authorized purposes: This program is designed to provide technical assistance and training for small rural businesses. Small means that the business has fewer than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue. Feasibility studies or economic impact studies may be eligible. (Example: This program can help small towns develop an economic development analysis to evaluate the area's capacity to become a recreation destination).

- ♦ Typical funding amount: \$10,000 - \$500,000
  - ♦ Announcement / Closing Date: RD-RBS-22-01-RISE / [4/19/2022](#)
- **Rural Community Development Initiative Grants**
    - ♦ Eligible applicants: Public bodies, non-profits, Federally recognized tribes
    - ♦ Authorized purposes: To improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural communities. (Example: Program funds may be used to provide technical assistance to subgrantees in strategic plan development, board training, fundraising, development of childcare facilities)
    - ♦ Typical funding amount: \$50,000 - \$250,000 (match required)
    - ♦ Announcement / Closing Date: USDA-RD-HCFP-RCDI-2022 / [4/19/2022](#)
- **Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program**
    - ♦ Eligible applicants: Non-profits, state entities, public bodies, higher education institutions, Federally recognized tribes
    - ♦ Authorized purposes: To create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters, and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas. (Example: This program may be used to build or support a business incubator facility, provide worker training to assist in the creation of new jobs, train the existing workforce with skills for higher-paying jobs).
    - ♦ Typical funding amount: \$500,000 - \$2 million
    - ♦ Announcement / Closing Date: RD-RBS-22-01-RISE / [4/19/2022](#)
- **Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)**
    - ♦ Eligible applicants: Organizations eligible to become Microenterprise Development organizations, including non-profits, Federally recognized tribes, higher education institutions
    - ♦ Authorized purposes: Microloans for microenterprise startups and growth through rural microloan revolving funds. (Example - This program can provide loans to small businesses, such as restaurants, dry cleaners, and automotive repair shops).
    - ♦ Typical funding amount: \$100,000 - \$5 million
    - ♦ Announcement / Closing Date: RD-RBS-21-01-RMAP / [6/30/2022](#)

#### **USDA Grant Programs Not Currently Posted on grants.gov**

- **Business and Industry (B&I) Loan Guarantees**
  - ♦ Eligible applicants: Lenders: banks and credit unions; Borrowers: For-profit businesses, non-profits, cooperatives, public bodies, individuals, Federally recognized tribes
  - ♦ Authorized purposes: Business conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development; purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, or facilities. (Example: Lodges and hotels can use this program to upgrade facilities and improve visitor experience).
  - ♦ Typical funding amount: \$1 million - \$25 million
- **Community Connect Grants**
  - ♦ Eligible applicants: Most state and local governments, non-profits, for-profit corporations, Federally recognized tribes
  - ♦ Authorized purposes: Helps fund broadband deployment into rural communities as anchor sites for rural communities. (Example: Rural libraries can use this program to provide internet service and computer access to their residents).
  - ♦ Typical funding amount: \$50,000 - \$1 million



- **Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program**
  - Eligible applicants: Lenders: Banks and credit unions; Borrowers: Public bodies, community-based non-profit corporations, Federally recognized tribes
  - Authorized purposes: Improve, develop, or finance essential community facilities for rural communities in rural areas and cities and towns of fewer than 50,000. (Example: This program can be used to develop museums, public restrooms, and multi-use trails in recreation areas).
  - Typical funding amount: \$100,000 - \$5 million
- **Intermediary Relending Program**
  - Eligible applicants: Non-profits, cooperatives, public agencies, Federally recognized tribes
  - Authorized purposes: Provides 1% low-interest loans to local intermediaries that re-lend to businesses and for community development projects in rural communities
  - Typical funding amount: Up to \$2 million for the first financing; \$1 million at a time thereafter; total aggregate debt may not exceed \$15 million
- **Reconnect Loan and Grant Program**
  - Eligible applicants: State and local government entities, non-profits, for-profit businesses, federally recognized tribes
  - Authorized purposes: Financing to construct, maintain, improve, and expand telephone service and broadband in rural areas. (Example: Broadband e-connectivity can help individuals access wireless internet while participating in outdoor activities like hiking a trail or touring a rural community).
  - Typical funding amount: Availability may vary for 100% loan, 50% grant, or 100% grant. Given the varying closing dates for each funding type, applicants are limited to ONE application for this Funding opportunity Announcement.
- **Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program (RCDG)**
  - Eligible applicants: Non-profit organizations, institutions of higher learning
  - Authorized purposes: Provide support to centers for cooperatives. Eligible work plans can include business development, lodging development, strategic planning, trail development/maintenance, feasibility studies, marketing (Example: Non-profits can use this program to develop a business plan for a cooperative focused on recreational activities such as rock climbing, guided tours, mountain biking, and hiking).
  - Typical funding amount: Maximum is \$200,000
- **Rural eConnectivity Program**
  - Eligible applicants: Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, private institutions of higher education, special district governments, municipal governments, Native American tribal governments and organizations, State governments, non-profits, small businesses, for profit organizations other than small businesses, county governments, public housing authorities, independent school districts.
  - Authorized purposes: Provides loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas and in facilitating the expansion of broadband services and infrastructure.
  - Typical funding amount: \$100,000 – \$35 million
- **Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program**
  - Eligible applicants: Non-profit utilities, former and current Rural Utilities Service (RUS) borrowers
  - Authorized purposes: This program funds business incubators, community development assistance to non-profits and public bodies, start-up venture costs, and business expansion. (Example: This program can provide zero percent loans to utility companies that can be relented to businesses to support creating and retaining employment).
  - Typical funding amount: Grants up to \$300,000; loans up to \$1 million
- **Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Guarantees**
  - Eligible applicants: State and local government entities, non-profits, for profit business, Federally recognized tribes
  - Authorized purposes: Financing to construct, maintain, improve, and expand telephone service and broadband in rural areas. (Example: Rural broadband providers can use this program to expand services into remote and underserved areas).

- Typical funding amount: Refer to the rules for loan and terms and conditions
- **Water and Waste Loans and Grants**
  - Eligible applicants: State and local government entities, private non-profits, Federally recognized tribes
  - Authorized purposes: Build, repair, and improve public water systems and waste collection and treatment systems in rural areas and cities and towns of fewer than 10,000
  - Typical funding amount: Long-term, low-interest loans; Grants may be available to keep user costs reasonable
  - Announcement / Closing Date: Rolling year round

## **US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA)**

- **American Rescue Plan Act, Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants**
  - Eligible applicants: State, county, city, or other political subdivision; education institutions; non-profits; District organization of an Economic Development District, Native American tribes
  - Authorized purposes: The Economic Adjustment Assistance program is EDA's most flexible program, and grants made under this program help communities plan, build, innovate, and put people back to work through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs. A wide range of technical, planning, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and public works and infrastructure projects are eligible for funding under this program.
  - Typical funding amount: \$100,000 - \$10 million
  - Announcement / Closing Date: EDA-2021-ARPAEAA / **suggested by 3/31/ 2022**

### **EDA Grant Programs Not Currently Posted on grants.gov**

- **American Rescue Plan Act, Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Grants**
  - Eligible applicants: State, county, city, or other political subdivision; education institutions; non-profits; District organization of an Economic Development District, Indian tribes
  - Authorized purposes: Competitive Grants to help communities that have been hardest hit by challenges facing the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors to invest in infrastructure, workforce, or other projects to support the recovery of the industry and economic resilience of the community in the future.

## **US Department of Health & Human Services**

- **Community Health Worker and Paraprofessional Training Program**
  - Eligible applicants: State government, municipalities, higher education, non-profits
  - Authorized purposes: To expand the public health workforce through the training of new Community Health Workers (CHWs) and paraprofessionals and extend the knowledge and skills of current CHWs and paraprofessionals. The CHWPTP aims to increase access to care, improve public health emergency response, and address the public health needs of underserved communities.
  - Announcement / Closing date: HRSA-22-124 / **4/18/2022**
- **Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Behavioral Health Care**
  - Eligible applicants: State governments, public and private non-profit entities, faith-based and community-based organizations, tribal organizations, private institutions of higher education
  - Authorized purposes: Improve access and quality of substance abuse disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services, including for opioid abuse disorder, in high-risk communities.
  - Announcement / Closing date: HRSA-22-061 / **4/19/2022**

- **Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems**
  - Eligible applicants: State government, municipal governments, county governments, special districts
  - Authorized purposes: To help public health agencies meet critical infrastructure and workforce needs. It will support strategically strengthening public health capacity and systems related to the workforce (staffing), data modernization, and physical infrastructure.
  - Typical funding amount: \$2.5 million - \$150 million
  - Announcement / Closing date: CDC-RFA-OE22-2203 / [6/13/2022](#)

#### **Department of Health and Human Services Grant Programs Not Currently Posted on grants.gov**

- **Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Behavioral Health Care Technical Assistance**
  - Eligible applicants: Public or private, profit and non-profit, entities; faith-based and community-based organizations, and tribal organizations
  - Authorized purposes: Strengthen, through technical assistance, rural organizations' capacity to develop multi-sector consortia that can plan, implement, and sustain programs that improve access to and quality of behavioral health services, including substance abuse disorder/opioid use disorder services.
  - Typical funding amount: Maximum award is \$10 million
- **Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program**
  - Eligible applicants: Public or private, non-profit, or for-profit entities, including faith-based and community-based organizations, and tribal organizations. The applicant organization must have demonstrated experience serving, or the capacity to serve, rural underserved populations; represent a network of members that include 3 or more health care providers; and shall not previously have received an award under this subsection for the same or similar project, unless the entity is proposing to expand the scope of the project or the area that will be served through the project.
  - Authorized purposes: To improve access to and continuity of maternal and obstetrics care in rural communities; develop a sustainable network approach to increase the delivery and access of preconception, prenatal, pregnancy, labor and delivery, and postpartum services; and develop a safe delivery environment.
  - Typical funding amount: Maximum award is \$1 million
- **Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program**
  - Eligible applicants: Public or private, non-profit, or for-profit entities, including faith-based and community-based organizations, and tribal organizations. The applicant organization must have demonstrated experience serving, or the capacity to serve, rural underserved populations
  - Authorized purposes: Expand public health capacity by supporting health care job development, training, and placement in rural and tribal communities. This program addresses the ongoing critical need in health care facilities for trained public health professionals serving rural communities. This is done through the establishment of networks to develop formal training/certification programs.

#### **US Department of Labor**

- **Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) Grant Program**
  - Eligible applicants: State government, municipal and county governments, non-profits, institutions of higher education, recognized tribal governments
  - Authorized purposes: This grant program builds on the Department's previous and ongoing efforts to expand and modernize Registered Apprenticeship (RA) through expanding the number of programs and apprentices, diversifying the industries that utilize RA, and increasing access to and completion of RA programs for unrepresented populations and underserved communities.
  - Typical funding amount: \$1 million - \$8 million
  - Announcement / Closing Date: FOA-ETA-22-06 / [4/25/2022](#)

- **Pathway Home 3**
  - Eligible applicants: State, county, municipal governments; public higher education institutions; Native American tribal governments, for profit organizations other than small businesses
  - Authorized purposes: This grant initiative supports occupational training aligned with their career and educational goals, and provides funding for services, such as case management, legal assistance, and transportation that support participants' participation and success. The goals of the grant include providing individuals incarcerated in state correctional facilities or local or county jails with workforce services prior to release and to continue services after release by transitioning the participants into reentry programs in the communities to which they will return.
  - Typical funding amount: Maximum award is \$4 million
  - Announcement / Post date: FOA-ETA-22-04 / [4/19/2022](#)
- **Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants**
  - Eligible applicants: Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
  - Authorized purposes: The program will build the capacity of community colleges to collaborate with employers and the public workforce development system to meet local and regional labor market demand for a skilled workforce. The program seeks to: (1) Increase the capacity and responsiveness of community colleges to address the skill development needs of employers and dislocated and unemployed workers, incumbent workers, and new entrants to the workforce; (2) Offer this spectrum of workers and other individuals accelerated career pathways that enable them to gain skills and transition from unemployment to (re)employment quickly; and (3) Address the new challenges associated with the COVID-19 health crisis that necessitate social distancing practices and expanding online and technology-enabled learning and migrating services to a virtual environment.
  - Typical funding amount: \$1.5 million - \$5 million
  - Announcement / Post date: FOA-ETA-22-02 / Estimated Post Date – [6/2/2022](#)
- **Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC): A Grant Initiative for the Appalachian and Delta Regions**
  - Eligible applicants: Independent school districts, public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, private institutions of higher education, state, city or township governments, Native American tribal governments or organizations, Non-profits, special district governments, county governments.
  - Authorized purposes: The WORC Initiative provides grant funds to improve access to good jobs, as well as help communities and workers plan for, and recover from, economic transitions, by implementing innovative approaches to address the economic and workforce-related impacts within each of the regions; providing enhanced training and support activities to eligible individuals; supporting workforce development activities that prepare eligible participants for good jobs in high-demand occupations aligned with a state, regional, or community economic development strategy; and in the Appalachian region, helping to address the impacts of the opioid crisis.
  - Typical funding amount: \$150,000 - \$1.5 million
  - Announcement / Post date: FOA-ETA-22-13 / Estimated Post Date – [6/8/2022](#)

## **US Department of Transportation**

- **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant**
  - Eligible applicants: Any public entity, including municipalities, counties, port authorities, tribal governments, MPOs, or others (in contrast to traditional Federal programs which provide funding to very specific groups of applicants - mostly State DOTs and transit agencies).
  - Authorized purposes: For road, rail, transit, and port projects that have a significant local or regional impact. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs.
  - Typical funding amount: \$1 million - \$25 million
  - Announcement / Closing date: DTOS59-22-RA-RAISE / [4/14/2022](#)

- **Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program**

- ♦ **Eligible applicants:** State, regional transportation planning organization, unit of local government, tribal government or consortium of tribal governments, multijurisdictional group of entities above
- ♦ **Authorized purposes:** To improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure (highway, bridge, and tunnel projects) in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life.
- ♦ **Typical funding amount:** \$0 - \$300 million
- ♦ **Announcement / Closing date:** RSTGP-22-RURAL-22 / **5/23/2022**

**Department of Transportation Grant Programs Not Currently Posted on grants.gov**

- **Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP)**

- ♦ **Eligible applicants:** Communities or a consortia of communities
- ♦ **Authorized purposes:** The grant program designed to help small communities address air service and airfare issues. SCASDP's eligibility criteria provide a grant applicant the opportunity to self-identify its air service deficiencies and propose an appropriate solution. SCASDP can involve, among others, revenue guarantees, financial assistance for marketing programs, start-up costs and studies. The program is limited to a maximum of 40 grant awards, with a maximum of four grants per State, in each year the program is funded.
- ♦ **Typical funding amount:** There are no limits on the amounts of individual awards, and the amounts awarded will vary depending upon the features and merits of the proposals selected. In past years, the Department's individual grant sizes have ranged from \$20,000 to nearly \$1.6 million.