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WILDLIFE INFRASTRUCTURE AT-A-GLANCE

POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PRACTICES ON ROADSIDES AND HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROGRAM (ROADSIDE POLLINATOR PROGRAM) (23 U.S.C. § 332)

FY23 Next Steps: The [FY23 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (Notice) for the [Pollinator-Friendly Practices on Roadsides and Highway Rights-of-Way Program](#), also known as the [Roadside Pollinator Program](#), includes up to \$3 million in funding for eligible activities to benefit pollinators on roadsides and highway rights-of-way on eligible Federal-aid routes. **Applications are due by June 18, 2024.**

FY23 Next Steps: The [FY23 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (Notice) for the [Pollinator-Friendly Practices on Roadsides and Highway Rights-of-Way Program](#) (Roadside Pollinator Program) solicits applications for up to \$3 million in funding for practices and activities to benefit pollinators along roadsides and highway rights-of-way on eligible Federal-aid routes. Applications are due by 11:59 pm ET on June 18, 2024. Applications must be submitted electronically via www.grants.gov, and applicants are encouraged to (1) register in advance of the submission deadline; (2) register to receive notifications of updates/amendments, as approval of user registrations may take multiple weeks; and (3) monitor updates to the pending [Notice](#).

Key features of the Roadside Pollinator Program are described below, including:

- ❖ The total amount of program funding
- ❖ A summary of eligible wildlife-related projects and eligible funding recipients
- ❖ An overview of the process for applying for funding
- ❖ The amount of the project that can be supported by Federal funds
- ❖ Other program details of potential interest
- ❖ *Additional resources:*
 - [FY23 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
 - [Pollinator-Friendly Practices on Roadsides and Highway Rights-of-Way Program](#)
 - [Environmental Review Toolkit for Pollinators](#)

Amount: Up to \$10 million in IJA funds over FY22-26, subject to future appropriations; \$3 million available in FY23 ([Notice](#) p. 4 & n.1); individual grants may not exceed \$150,000 ([Notice](#) p. 6).

Eligible wildlife-related projects: Funding may be used to pay to implement or improve a “Pollinator Friendly Practices Plan” (Plan), including the following eligible pollinator-friendly practices and activities ([Notice](#) p. 9-10):

1. Pollinator-friendly mowing strategies that “promote early successional vegetation and limit disturbance during periods of highest use by target pollinator species on roadsides and highway rights-of-way”;
2. Implementation of integrated vegetation management plans or Pollinator-Friendly Practices Plans that “promote early successional vegetation and limit disturbance during periods of highest use by target pollinator species on roadsides and highway rights-of-way”;
3. Planting or seeding of “native, locally-appropriate grasses and wildflowers on roadsides and highway rights-of-way to enhance pollinator habitat,” including milkweed;
4. Use of techniques to protect pollinator habitat while ensuring roadway safety;
5. Investing in expert training or technical assistance on pollinator-friendly practices;
6. Use of outreach strategies to increase public support and coordination with nearby property owners and roadside managers to promote pollinator habitat;
7. Updating or improving an applicant’s existing Pollinator-Friendly Practices Plan;
8. Identifying and inventorying existing roadside pollinator habitat; and
9. Removal of non-native grasses from planting and seed mixes.

Eligible applicants: (Notice p. 8)

- State departments of transportation
- Tribes
- Federal Land Management Agencies

Process: The Roadside Pollinator Program differs from other FHWA and USDOT discretionary grant programs in three key ways: (1) FHWA is required to fund all applications deemed to be “satisfactory”; (2) applications must submit a “Pollinator Friendly Practices Plan” (Plan) that identifies all pollinator-friendly practices that the entity has implemented in the past and/or plans to implement in the future; and (3) an applicant’s total award size varies based on the number of “pollinator friendly practices” included in its Plan, and may not exceed \$150,000. Given these unique considerations, all applicants are required to use an “Application Template,” available at <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/353446> or by searching on grants.gov for Grant Opportunity Number 693JJ324NF00015 (Notice p. 1, 4).

Applications will be evaluated based on the following merit and project readiness criteria. Merit criteria include: (1) Overall Benefits to Pollinator Species and Habitats; (2) Context and Connectivity; (3) Roadside Pollinator Project Design and Methods; and (4) Maintenance and Management (Notice p. 20-24). In addition, applicants are required to provide sufficient information to allow FHWA to assess project readiness, including: (1) Environmental Review and Permitting Risk; (2) Assessment of Project Risks and Mitigation Strategies; (3) Technical Assessment; and (4) Financial Completeness (Notice p. 14-16, 24-26).

Federal-share payable: Federal funds may be used to pay for 100% of eligible project costs; no non-Federal match is required (Notice p. 8).

Additional details of potential interest:

- **Coordination:** State DOTs and Federal Land Managers must document coordination of their Plan with applicable State agencies including those with “jurisdiction over agriculture and fish and wildlife.” Applications that do not (1) include such documentation or (2) explain why it is not required, will be deemed ineligible for funding (Notice p. 10-11).
- **Consultation:** State DOTs and Federal Land Managers must document coordination of their Plan with interested or affected Tribes. Applications that do not (1) include such documentation or (2) explain why it is not required, will be deemed ineligible for funding (Notice p. 11).
- **Eligible costs:** Grant awards may not be used to purchase rights-of-way (Notice p. 11).

Information provided in this At-A-Glance summary is based on USDOT’s
[FY23 Notice of Funding Opportunity for Pollinator-Friendly Practices](#)
[on Roadsides and Highway Rights-of-Way Program](#)