

2017 Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Program

RFA # RG-TOD-04122017

RFA Release Date: 4/12/2017

ADDENDUM #1

Addendum Date: 5/24/2017

The initial announcement of this grant program posted to OPM's RFP webpage incorrectly specified a *Response Due Date* of June 3, 2017. OPM's webpage has been updated to reflect the correct due date for applications of June 23, 2017.

http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=3006&Q=383284&opmNav_GID=1386

OPM response to written questions received as of 5/10/2017. Many of the questions listed here have been summarized or edited for clarity, or to eliminate references to specific applicant's proposals.

Q: Is there a required grantee match?

A: There is no required minimum match for this program. However, applications that include a match shall receive enhanced scoring for demonstrating local support for the proposal, and leveraging other investment. Enhanced scoring shall be commensurate with the proportion of the proposed match.

Q: Would the grantee be able to use an in kind match?

A: Grantees are permitted to include an in-kind match, and as explained in the previous question, those applications which include a match shall receive enhanced scoring.

Q: Would a project with no match have a chance of being funded?

A: Yes. Funding under this program shall be awarded primarily based on the degree to which the proposal satisfies the Program Objectives outlined in this RFA. While proposals which include a grantee match shall receive enhanced scoring, grantee match is only one of the criteria used in evaluating the proposals.

Q: For the purposes of this grant program, how is "responsible growth" defined?

A: Section A of the RFA refers to responsible growth in terms of consistency with the [Conservation & Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut 2013-2018](#) (C&D Plan). OPM generally determines a project to be "responsible growth" if it demonstrates consistency with the overall mission of the State C&D Plan, as further defined by the written policies of the six Growth Management Principles which form the basis of the Plan. While the term "responsible growth" has no statutory definition, it is informally defined in the [2008 REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE GROWTH TASK FORCE](#) as:

economic, social, and environmental development that uses land and resources in ways that enhance the long-term quality of life for Connecticut's current and future generations. Responsible growth supports a vibrant and resilient economy and preserves the natural resources upon both of which that quality of life depends. Responsible growth maximizes previous investments in existing infrastructure while preserving distinctive landscapes, historic structures, landmarks, and villages.

Q: What is the funding source for this grant program?

A: Bond funds for these purposes have been authorized under Section 2(a)(1) of Public Act 16-4 (May Special Session), and Sections 2(d)(3) and 32(a)(2) of Public Act 15-1 (June Special Session). Funding for this grant program was approved at the May 12, 2017 Bond Commission meeting under items 1, 4, and 13.

Q: What is the anticipated timing for grant awards?

A: As stated in Section E of the RFA, proposals shall be selected on a rolling basis at the discretion of the OPM Secretary, therefore no set time frame has been established.

Q: What is meant by “Priority may be given to applicants which have received implementation grants under CTNext’s Innovation Places program,” as stated in Section C of the RFA?

A: Applicants who have received implementation grants through the CTNext Innovation Places program may receive enhanced scoring during the selection process for this program. Applicants who have received any other grant award, CTNext or otherwise, will not receive additional scoring, but should include that information in the appropriate section of the Application Form if it is germane to this proposal.

Q: Can funding received through this program be added to, or layered on top of, applications that have received an award under the CTNext Innovation Places program?

A: Funding under this program shall be awarded based on the degree to which the proposal satisfies the Program Objectives outlined in this RFA, and is not intended to supplement or supersede funding received under other programs. However, this does not preclude OPM from awarding funding for a proposal that has already received funding from some other source(s). Such an award would be contingent on the quality of the RGTOD proposal, and would be limited to the scope of work included in the application.

Q: Alternatively, is RGTOD intended to be a “second chance” for applicants who had submitted Innovation Places implementation grants but were not awarded money?

A: This program is intended to provide funding for a broad array of eligible projects which advance State and local goals for responsible growth and/or TOD. No priority will be given to applications which were not selected under the Innovation Places program. Eligible applications for this program shall be evaluated on the degree to which they satisfy the Program Objectives outlined in this RFA, regardless if they were denied funding under CTNext.

Q: OPM received several questions regarding the eligibility of specific projects or project details.

A: It is ultimately the Applicants’ responsibility to (1) determine if a proposed project meets the overall Program Objectives and broad Eligibility Requirements in Sections B, C, and D of the RFA, and (2) provide the necessary information in the application to support this determination. While OPM is prohibited from discussing project-specific details prior to the competitive selection process, the following questions and answers provide additional guidance for several topics raised by applicants.

Q: Are applications to implement physical elements essential to TOD, such as Complete Streets, place-making, access infrastructure, or others, eligible under this program?

A: Yes, this project could be considered eligible as long as the proposal can adequately demonstrate how it satisfies the Program Objectives and Eligibility requirements as listed in Sections C & D of the RFA.

Q: Is property acquisition eligible under this program?

A: Yes, this project could be considered eligible as long as the proposal can adequately demonstrate how it satisfies the Program Objectives and Eligibility requirements as listed in Sections C & D of the RFA.

Q: Is the acquisition and operation of public transportation vehicles for the purposes of providing new and/or expanded service eligible under this program?

A: Applications for the acquisition of public transportation vehicles would be considered eligible, provided the proposal can adequately demonstrate how it satisfies the Program Objectives and Eligibility requirements as listed in Sections C & D of the RFA. Applications for operational costs are prohibited under the fourth bullet in Section D of the RFA.

Q: Would a new covered bridge project be eligible?

A: Yes, this project could be considered eligible as long as the proposal can adequately demonstrate how it satisfies the Program Objectives and Eligibility requirements as listed in Sections C & D of the RFA.

Q: Is a multi-use trail connecting an employment center with a town center, in an area served by public transit, be an eligible activity?

A: Yes, this project could be considered eligible as long as the proposal can adequately demonstrate how it satisfies the Program Objectives and Eligibility requirements as listed in Sections C & D of the RFA.

Q: Is this program intended to support affordable housing and/or workforce housing, what portion of this funding is targeted at developing affordable housing and/or workforce housing, or housing targeting low to moderate income households?

A: While the development of affordable and/or workforce housing may be eligible under this program, such projects will not receive priority consideration, and no dedicated portion of these funds will be set-aside for such projects. This primary intent of this program is to provide funding for a broad array of eligible projects which advance State and local goals for responsible growth and/or TOD.