



REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DATA SHEET

Background

The Regional Solutions Program approaches community and economic development by recognizing the unique needs of each region in the state and working at the local level to identify priorities, solve problems, and seize opportunities to complete projects. Leveraging/aligning resources (technical assistance, capacity, as well as grants and loans) to address the highest regional priorities is necessary for sound and long-term economic growth. To grow Oregon's economy and create jobs across the state, all resources in the community – public, private, and civic – must work together to shape the future and to complete on-the-ground projects.

State resources (staff time, technical assistance, and grants/loans) are strategically aligned throughout Oregon to accomplish these goals through Regional Solutions Advisory Committees, Centers, Coordinators, and Teams. This alignment serves and supports the unique needs of each region. The regional boundaries are aligned with the 11 federally designated Economic Development Districts.

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature added a tool to the Regional Solutions toolbox, the Regional Infrastructure Fund. The Regional Infrastructure Fund provides grants and loans to local governments for Regional Solutions implementation projects including planning and design. The Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) administers the fund and rules for its administration.

Funding for 2017-19

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the Legislature authorized the issuance of lottery bonds to produce \$4 million in net proceeds for the Regional Infrastructure Fund. Lottery bond proceeds may only be used for capital construction projects. Responses to the Request for Information will be used to inform the funding application process which will begin in spring 2018.

Capital construction means the construction, modification, replacement, repair, remodeling, or renovation of a structure, or addition to a structure, that is expected to have a useful life of more than one year (ideally 20 years as bonds are repaid over the same timeframe), and includes, but is not limited to:

- Acquisition of land, or a legal interest in land, in conjunction with the capital construction of a structure.
- Acquisition, installation of machinery or equipment, furnishings, or materials that will

become an integral part of a structure.

- Activities related to the completion of capital construction, including planning; design; authorizing, issuing, carrying, or repaying interim or permanent financing; land use, and environmental impact studies; and acquisition of permits, licenses, or other services connected with the construction. If construction does not occur, repayment could be required.
- Acquisition of existing structures, or legal interests in structures, in conjunction with the capital construction. Capital construction does not include: (1) Maintenance and repairs, the need for which could be reasonably anticipated; (2) Supplies and equipment that are not intrinsic to the structure; or (3) Furnishings, unless the furnishings are acquired in connection with the acquisition, construction, remodeling, or renovation of a structure, or the repair of a structure that is required because of damage or destruction of the structure.

Program Goals

- Address regional priorities.
- Support capital projects with strong economic development impact.
- Align with, or leverage, other investments to retain and create jobs.

Eligible Projects & Applicants

Because the source of funding is bonded debt, eligible expenditures are only for capital construction as noted under funding for 2017-19. Some past examples of funded projects include industrial land development; broadband infrastructure; workforce housing; construction or renovation of water/sewer systems, docks, trails, roads, and buildings; levee modernization; infrastructure for career/technical education; and food processing and distribution.

The Regional Infrastructure Fund is managed by OBDD and provides grants and loans to local government sponsors for infrastructure projects, including planning and design. Private and non-profit entities are able to receive funds provided they have a local government sponsor as the applicant. The local sponsor will be responsible for ensuring project completion and contracting with the ultimate recipient. Local government means a city, county, authority, or entity organized under state statute or city or county charter, and includes any council of governments.

Projects funded with lottery bonds should plan to expend the funds within two years of issuance of the contract.