**Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)**

**Grant Program**

**RFA# OPM-IGP-20151209-RG-TOD**

***RFA Release Date: 12/09/15***

**ADDENDUM #2**

***Addendum Date: 1/7/2016***

**Response to RFA Questions**

**Q1:** What is the dollar amount available per application?

**A1:** Refer to Section D of the RFA.

**Q2:** What is the total amount of state funding available for this program?

**A2:** This grant program is being funded through existing bond authorizations as described in Section E of the RFA. The total amount this program will be determined based on the quality and quantity of applications received, and will not exceed current authorizations.

**Q3:** Is this a reimbursement grant?

**A3:** Yes. Recipients will be expected to submit requests for payment using an approved OPM request form.

**Q4:** Is there a cost share?

**A4:** As outlined in Attachment A, Section IIB of the RFA, there is no required local match, however applicants that identify local funding sources of 10% or greater will receive an enhanced rating in this category.

**Q5:** What is the deadline for expenditure of funds?

**A5**: As per Section H(3) of the RFA, the applicant shall include a project schedule as part of the detailed project description. This schedule will be used as a baseline for OPM to establish a formal project deadline, on a project-by-project basis, and included in the contract agreement with the applicant.

**Q6:** What is the anticipated time-frame for when the funds would be awarded?

**A6:** Timing of the selection of projects to be funded is anticipated to coincide with a Bond Commission meeting, either in late winter or early spring of 2016. Once the Bond Commission has allocated the funds, OPM will work with each grant recipient to finalize the terms and conditions of their grant award(s) for approval.

**Q7:** Is this an annual grant, or are similar grant programs expected in the future?

**A7:** This is not necessarily intended to be an annual grant program. However, OPM anticipates that there will be opportunities for similar types of grant programs in the future, based on the availability of unallocated funds from existing bond authorizations and/or new bond authorizations in future fiscal years.

**Q8:** In determining the budget, are there any additional fees incurred by the State of CT that must be included as part of the project budget?

**A8:** No, there are no additional fees involved in negotiating or entering into a contract with the State under this grant program. However, please note the new statutory requirements relating to nondiscrimination, affirmative action, and the set-aside program for small contractors and minority business enterprises for municipal public works contracts as amended by the [June 2015 Special Session Public Act 15-5](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/ACT/pa/pdf/2015PA-00005-R00SB-01502SS1-PA.pdf). These new requirements may create additional costs for certain construction projects. Additional information can be found at the [CHRO website](http://www.ct.gov/chro/site/default.asp).

**Q9:** Our City is partnering with our economic development agency in the application.  Are administrative fees allowed, and if so what is the maximum percentage?

**A9**:Allowance for administrative fees will be considered on a case by case basis, relative to the nature of the proposal. Any such allowance must be in conformity with the Non-Supplanting provision of Section 16 of the General Grant Conditions in Attachment D of the RFA. This provision applies to both municipalities and COGs.

**Q10:** OPM received several questions regarding the eligibility of various local projects and OPM’s interest in funding those projects.

**A10**: It is not permissible for OPM to discuss specific project details at this time, however, all projects that meet the broad eligibility requirements in Section B of the RFA will be evaluated based on the Screening and Rating Criteria in Attachment A of the RFA.

**Q11:** Do construction projects expanding on previous state investments in TOD have priority over planning and construction projects demonstrating responsible growth through consistency with the State C & D Plan? Do construction projects have priority over planning projects?

**A11:** Priority will be given to construction projects that leverage past state investments in planning, site preparation and/or infrastructure improvements for the purposes of (1) advancing transit-oriented development, or (2) demonstrating responsible growth. The separate distinction refers to the difference in funding sources available to each type of project as identified in Section E of the RFA. At the time of award, OPM will match the project to the most appropriate funding source as reflected by the scope of work. Please note, projects intended to demonstrate responsible growth do not have to include a TOD component.

**Q12:** Can these funds be used for CEDS planning? Can they be used as match funds for obtaining a grant from the Economic Development Administration?

**A12:**  Although preference will be given to construction projects, the eligibility criteria of this program is broad enough that CEDS planning could be considered an eligible activity. However, please note that only municipalities and COGs can apply under this grant program, so any CEDS/EDD proposal would have to be in partnership with a municipality or COG.