



FY2025 TA Set-aside Updates



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Grant Program Administration Team Leader

June 26, 2024



Agenda

Timeline

Anticipate posting updates to website before August 1

Guidance & Application Updates

A few changes pending

Suballocation Approval

Recap of our agreement with FHWA

Competitive Selection

Refresh of expectations

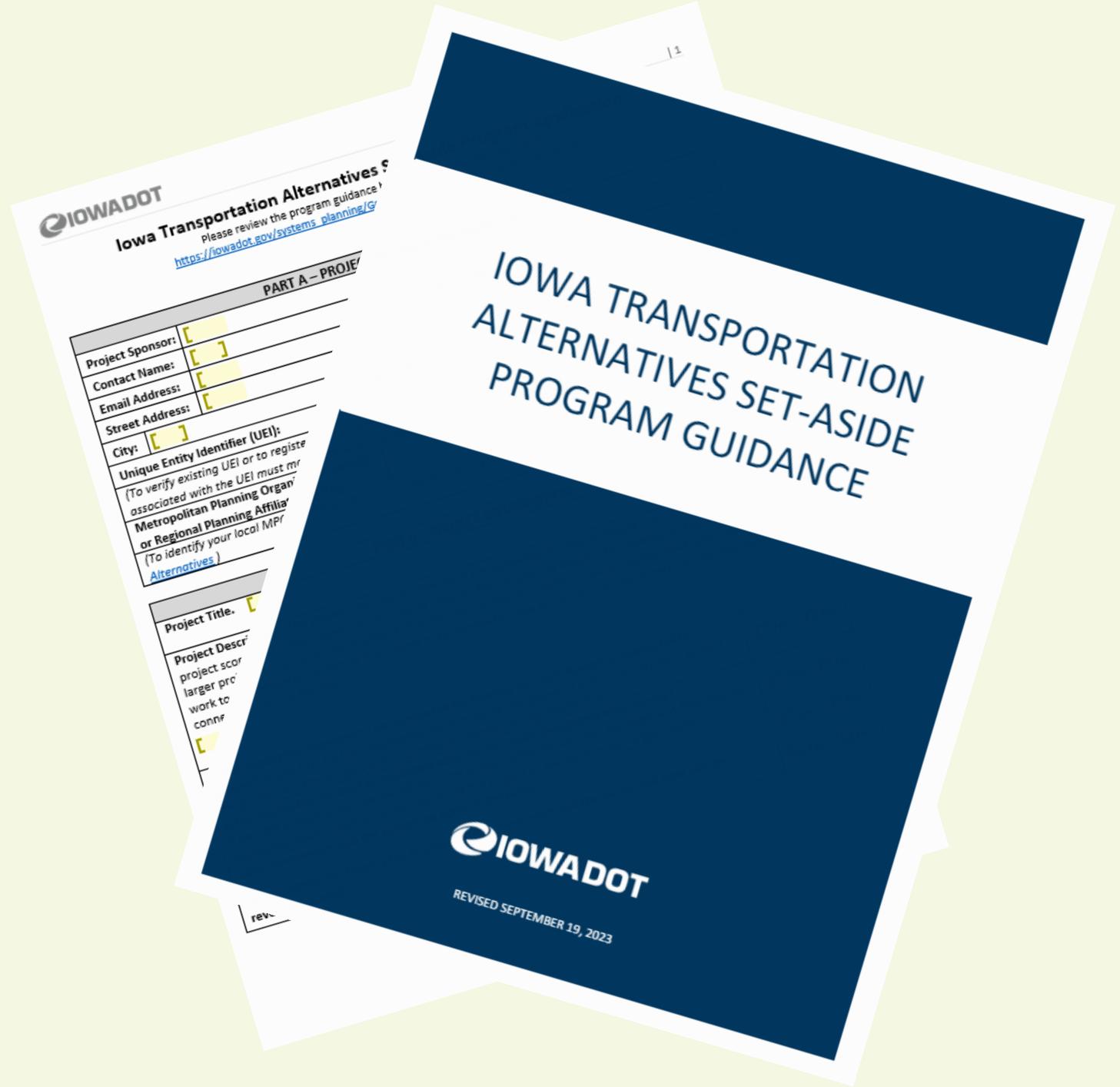
Reporting Requirements

Standardized format pending

Timeline

- Will post updates to program guidance and applications **before August 1**
- Along with NOFO for October 1, 2024, Statewide TA Set-aside program application deadline

Guidance & Application Updates



A road project is a road project

- Sec 1.1 of the guidance mentions:
 - Multi-modal accommodations can and should be provided as part of the larger federal-aid highway project
- This will be strengthened → Ineligible
- Should not be separating out TA Set-aside eligible work that is part of a planned project to fund with TA Set-aside
- Examples
 - \$131,000 for sidewalks on a \$6.3 million project with \$3 million in STBG
 - \$151,000 for a trail alongside a \$14 million project with \$13 million of other federal-aid



How much of a scope change warrants a new application?

- Sec 3.7 mentions that excess funds or available underruns need to go back through a competitive selection for award
- This also applies if the project has significant changes – What does this mean?
- Does this require a new app/selection?
 - EX: 3,000' trail seeks to shorten 500'? **NO**
 - EX: Awarded for east end of 10-mile trail and sponsor wants to move funds to west end? **YES**



Part C – Project Costs and Matching Funds

- Worked well and allowed us to include secured match and funding gap in scoring
 - Multi-modal accommodations can and should be provided as the larger federal-aid highway project
- Those that did not fill out correctly seemed to be those with funding issues
- Will add more structure to identification of match, example to website
- Will require proof for match that is indicated as secured
 - Award letter from another organization
 - Screenshot from CIP
 - Commitment from donor



Suballocation Request Approval

3.1 SUBALLOCATION

The IIJA authorizes states to suballocate additional TA Set-Aside funds (23 U.S.C. 133(h)(2)(B)) if the state submits a plan for approval. Iowa DOT's request to suballocate was approved by FHWA on March 9, 2023. Aside from the \$5 million retained from each federal fiscal year apportionment for the Statewide TA Set-Aside program, all other TA Set-Aside funds will be suballocated to the MPOs and RPAs for award to projects of regional priority. MPOs with populations over 200,000 receive a direct suballocation via federal statute. The request to suballocate addressed the following points:

How funds will be allocated. Programming targets are provided to the MPOs and RPAs annually on a per capita basis to be used toward development of their TIPs and this information will also be used to administer a Regional TA Set-Aside program. Past performance has shown awards are then made by the MPOs and RPAs to a wide variety of communities to satisfy the required population suballocations included in the IIJA for areas under 5,000; 5,000 to 49,999; 50,000 to 200,000; and over 200,000.

How the entities will carry out a competitive process to select projects for funding. The MPOs and RPAs are required to carry out a competitive selection process as described in their TIPs. The MPOs and RPAs will also be required to provide technical assistance to applicants, provide sufficient time for preparation of applications, and include 'high need' (as defined by Iowa DOT) in their project prioritization.

The legal, financial, and technical capacity of the entities. Each MPO and RPA maintains professional staff, has a FHWA/FTA approved work program, and annually executes a Planning Joint Participation Agreement with Iowa DOT. Each agency will continue to abide by the legal, financial, and technical requirements of these agreements, maintain certification (as applicable,) and participate in regular planning reviews.

How the State will comply with the TA reporting requirements. Iowa DOT will continue to comply with annual reporting requirements because all MPOs and RPAs are required to provide details of their selection processes with every funding cycle to Iowa DOT. This process provides all of the information required for the annual TA Set-Aside report.

Competitive Selection

3.2 COMPETITIVE PROJECT SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

All TA Set-Aside funds must be awarded through a competitive project selection process. A competitive project selection process includes:

- Providing **technical assistance to eligible entities** needing some help understanding how to apply
- Providing **sufficient time** from solicitation to deadline so that entities have time to prepare full and complete applications for funding
- Providing **clear selection criteria, weighting, scoring or qualitative selection methods** so that applicants fully understand how applications will be prioritized for funding
- Increasing **transparency and openness** so that unfunded applicants understand why their project was not selected

Iowa DOT is directly responsible to ensure a competitive project selection process is carried out. Each MPO and RPA must include a description of their Regional TA Set-Aside competitive project selection process meeting the above requirements in their TIP. Because IJJA requires that they receive a direct suballocation of funds, MPOs with populations over 200,000 are also directly responsible for a competitive project selection process **in consultation with the state.**

Standardized Reporting

3.6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Iowa DOT is required to compile annual statistics regarding project selection for submission to the FHWA per 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(7). Each MPO and RPA is required to provide the following information to the TA Set-Aside Program Manager for each application cycle it administers:

1. **Call for Applications.** The submittal to Iowa DOT must be provided prior to publication and identify the date information is to be made public. The call for applications must clearly identify how to apply and when applications are due. Every effort should be made to be transparent about the award process and identify all criteria, weighting, scoring or qualitative selection method to be applied in the review of applications and selection of projects.
2. **All applications received.** Upon the close of the application deadline, all applications must be submitted to Iowa DOT for archiving and review of eligibility. Comments will be provided. Awards should not be made until comments from Iowa DOT have been received. All eligible applications received must be considered for funding.
3. **Award Summary and Award Letters.** Following the award of projects, a summary shall be provided to Iowa DOT indicating applications awarded (and not awarded), dollar amounts awarded, and in which federal fiscal year the funds will be programmed in the TIP. Award letters (or emails) must be provided to applicants receiving an award stating, at a minimum, the project scope awarded, dollar amount awarded, any limitations on funding placed on the award by the MPO or RPA, and when the funds will be programmed to serve as an official notice of action. The Iowa DOT TA Set-Aside Program Manager must be carbon copied on this communication to the project sponsor.

Applications Received \$17,871,291.00

Cost of TA Project Applications \$7,908,328.00

Number of Selected TA Projects 5

Cost of All Selected TA Projects \$1,653,278.00

For FY 2023: https://www.iowa.dot.gov/files/qa/rdirective/naticorn4510876n4510876_n2.cfm, see column Total Reserved for TA Set-Aside.



Project	Number of Project Applications Received by	Aggregate Cost for Project Applications Received by Category	Applications percent of State	Number of Selected Projects	Aggregate Cost of Selected	Percent Aggregate Cost of	Fiscal Year Selected	Fiscal Year Anticipated to be Funded	Number of Projects Selected	2025 Project Cost (TA or RIP)	2025 Federal Funds (\$)	Match	Project Name	Recipient Project Sponsor Name	Latitude and Longitude if available	County Designated	County	Responsible Planning Organization (if available)	Original District	Project (for 2025)	Description (for 2025)	Priority/Status Description
Other	0	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00	0.00%			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										
Other	0	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00	0.00%			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										
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Other	0	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00	0.00%			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										
Other	19	\$7,908,328.00	44.25%	5	\$1,653,278.00	100.00%			5	\$1,653,278.00	\$0.00	\$0.00										
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Borrowing Ahead

3.8 BORROWING AHEAD AND UNOBLIGATED BALANCES

As mentioned in Section 3.1, MPOs and RPAs are provided TA Set-Aside funding targets four years in advance. If they choose, the MPOs and RPAs may borrow ahead from those four years in making their awards. It is important that good choices are made in selecting projects because each agency's TA Set-Aside unobligated balance accrual will be tracked quarterly. Each MPO and RPA will be limited to the accrual of a maximum of four years' worth of funding. This means if the unobligated balance exceeds a total of four years of funding, it is possible that funds may be removed and reallocated to another MPO or RPA to ensure the timely obligation of funds program wide.



After Today...

- Watch for updates to program website before August 1 & promote anticipated October 1 Statewide application deadline
- Review guidance and ensure your process meets requirements and plan to tweak as needed before next cycle
- Send Susan all reporting documentation following her directions

Questions?

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https://iowadot.gov/systems_planning/Grant-Programs/Transportation-Alternatives