



Fiscal Year 2023 NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY & INSTRUCTIONS
Temporary Bridge Funding Program (CFDA 10.721)

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Federal Award Agency Name: U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service

Funding Opportunity Title: 2023 Temporary Bridge Funding Opportunity

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA): 10.721 -- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
Temporary Bridge Program

Request for Proposals Summary

The USDA Forest Service is announcing the availability of up to \$8 million in funding to support the establishment of temporary bridge rental programs for portable skidder bridges, bridge mats, or other temporary water crossing structures, to minimize stream bed disturbance on non-Federal land and Federal land.

Eligible applicants are State governments and Indian Tribes. Applicants must be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), which is located at <https://sam.gov/content/home>.

Executive Order 13985: “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government”: We encourage applications that can show a clear benefit to underserved/historically marginalized people, the communities where they reside, or the forest areas that they value. When applicable, it should be described in the “FY 23 Application Form - Project Narrative”.

Key Dates

Submit your application in a PDF format by **the last Friday of the month in April, August or December**, by 1700 ET to: jeffrey.c.high@usda.gov

I. Program Description

A. Legislative Authority

The grants and agreements awarded under this announcement will support the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), 2021 Section 40804(b)(5) that directs the Forest Service to provide funding for States and Indian Tribes to establish rental programs for portable skidder bridges, bridge mats, or other temporary water crossing structures, to minimize stream bed disturbance on non-Federal land and Federal land.

B. Overview

The intent of this funding opportunity is to support the establishment of temporary bridge programs with States and Indian Tribes to protect water resources and reduce water quality degradation during forestry related operations requiring temporary water resource crossings.

States: State Forestry Agencies or their equivalent forestry agency shall be the lead entity for State grants and should coordinate and collaborate with other State agencies and non-government partners that have an active interest in the use of temporary bridges. The entities should include Soil and Water Conservation Districts, State Timber Associations, State Forestry Associations, State Logger Education Programs, other State government entities, and State Recognized Tribes as appropriate. State Forestry Agencies may defer the grant recipient authority to a responsible entity within the state. A letter from the State Forester authorizing such action is required. Procurement of the timber bridges and associated contracting will be done in accordance with the procurement and contracting regulations of each individual participating state.

Indian Tribes: Indian Tribes shall be the lead entity for Tribal programs.

C. Eligible Programs

States: Each State should develop a program that utilizes one or more of the options below to maximize the needs of the State and end users.

- Loan programs – bridges are loaned at no cost to a bridge user for a specific project and returned at the end of the project.
- Rental/lease programs – bridges are rented at a predetermined fee to a bridge use participant for a project and returned at the end of the project. (It is recommended that rental fees be used for maintenance of bridges).
- Cost-share programs – bridge use participants pay a share of the bridge cost to the state and gain custody of the bridge for their use. Bridge use participants are responsible for care and maintenance of the bridge. States in conjunction with partners to determine optimum cost share match requirements.

Indian Tribes: Each Indian Tribe should develop a bridge program that best meets the interest of the Tribe.

PURCHASE OF BRIDGES. This program is excepted by OMB from certain sections of the equipment provisions found at [2 CFR 200.313](#) and [.316](#). Bridges approved for purchase under this award are available only for use as authorized. Non State government entities who purchase

Temporary Bridge Funding Program (CDFA 10.721) 2023 NOFO and Instructions

a bridge under this grant program as part of a State cost share program are exempt from federal interest for bridges with a purchase value of \$35,000 or less. Title to the bridge rests with the Recipient as long as the bridge is used for its intended purpose.

The bridge may not be used as collateral, sold, or otherwise transferred to another party without the written permission of the Forest Service.

A bridge that has gone beyond its useful life should be disposed of in a manner that is consistent with federal and state law.

PURCHASE OF BRIDGES - TRIBES. This program is excepted by OMB from certain sections of the equipment provisions found at [2 CFR 200.313](#) and [.316](#). Bridges approved for purchase under this award are available only for use as authorized. Tribes are exempt from all federal interest for bridges purchased through this grant program.

A bridge that has gone beyond its useful life should be disposed of in a manner that is consistent with federal and state law.

D. Allowable Bridge Structures

States and Indian Tribes: Bridge types will vary depending on location and terrain as well as the vehicle and weight requirements within the State. There is no requirement that temporary bridge structures be made only from wood or timber. Steel bridge structures are allowed. The following are allowable bridge types to be utilized as part of the program.

- Short and Medium Span Temporary Timber Bridge
- Short and Medium Span Temporary Steel Bridge
- Temporary Metal or Timber Roadway Mats

E. Inventory Requirements

Applicants are required as to submit an inventory plan that identifies how they will track and maintain control over all bridges purchased with federal funds under this program.

F. Eligible Expenses

States and Indian Tribes:

- Purchase cost of each bridge including delivery, freight, and other charges.
- Program administrative costs to support the grant are limited to 10% of total bridge costs.
- Training, education, and program education materials are limited to 3% of total bridge costs.
- Maintenance costs are limited to 10% of total bridge costs to support for loan and rental programs. Storage of bridges should be a collaborative effort to maximize existing locations around the state.

Note: This program is excepted from certain sections of the equipment provisions found at 2 CFR 200.313 and .316. These 2 CFR § 200 regulations are available at: [eCFR : 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart D - Property Standards](#)

Temporary Bridge Funding Program (CDFA 10.721) 2023 NOFO and Instructions

Projects must provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States pursuant to [2 CFR § 200.322](#).

G. Eligible Bridge Use Participants

States: Entities that engage in primary (e.g., loggers) and secondary (e.g., sawmills, pulp mills, chip mills, pellet mills, timber brokers/wood dealers, etc.) forest product operations are eligible to participate in a cost-share, rental and loan programs. Entities not engaging in primary or secondary forest product operations; but in other activities on forest lands requiring temporary water resource protection measures are eligible for rental and loan programs only. States should use their best discretion in determining Primary and Secondary Forest Product Operators.

Indian Tribes: Indian Tribes and their partners that engage in forestry operations and/or water resource protection related activities.

H. Funding Priorities and Preferences

States and Indian Tribes: It is the intent of the program to fund all application requests, however only \$8 million of funding is available in year 1. Total applications for any given calendar year cannot exceed \$300,000. Applications for funding will be excepted three times each calendar year. Beginning in 2023 applications will be due the last Friday of the month in August and December and due the last Friday of the month in April, August and December of 2024 2025, and 2026.

Preference for funding will be given to entities that:

- Do not have an active temporary bridge program.
- Describe how they will support underserved communities ([EO 13985](#))
- Demonstrate collaborative partnerships in implementing their programs.
- Demonstrate how the program will be implemented to improve water quality.
- Demonstrate an effective communication and outreach strategy.
- Demonstrate understanding of reporting requirements.
- Provide letters of commitment from collaborating partners.

II. Award Information

A. Available Funding

Funding for the program is \$40 million to be spread out over 5 years beginning in 2022. The Forest Service plans to award up to \$8 million each year for 5 years.

Project Length

Agreement length is planned to be no more than 2-3 years. Applicants who apply for and receive additional funding in subsequent years will be issued a modification.

B. Cost Sharing/Matching

Applicants are not required to provide a match.

C. Award Funding

Funding may be provided up to 30 days in advance of actual bridge purchase through a written request to the program grant manager, submittal of an SF-270, and a written approval from the grants officer. All other grant funding such as administration, materials, and maintenance costs will be a cost reimbursable expense.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are State Governments and Indian Tribes. States may defer the grant authority to another responsible entity through a letter of designation.

B. Application Requirements

An active System for Award Management (SAM) Registration is required before an agreement can be executed. All applicants must have initiated the registration process in SAM to apply for the grant and be announced for an award.

Ensure that your organization is registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), which is located at <https://sam.gov/content/home>. This process should be initiated immediately as it often takes several months. There is no charge for registering at sam.gov.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Content and Form of Application Submission

The application package should be provided in 2 parts.

Part 1: Cooperator Contact Information, Narrative, and Appendices

Part 2: Required Financial Forms

Part 1 – Application Narrative

Complete the FY 23 Application Form - Project Narrative.

Part 2 - Project Application: Required Financial Forms

The following forms need to be completed and submitted with your proposal. The forms below are located at the [Grants.gov Forms Repository website](#). If the weblinks below are not functioning, search the “Form Name” column for the appropriate form.

SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance

https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424_4_0-V4.0.pdf

SF-424A: Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs

<https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424A-V1.0.pdf>

SF-424B: Assurances for Non-Construction Programs

<https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424B-V1.1.pdf>

USDA AD-1047: Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension

https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/AD_1047-V1.0.pdf

Temporary Bridge Funding Program (CDFA 10.721) 2023 NOFO and Instructions

USDA AD–1049: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace (or USDA AD–1052 for States and State agencies) https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/AD_1049_2_0-V2.0.pdf

USDA AD–3030: Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporation Applicants: https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/AD_3030_2_0-V2.0.pdf

FS–1500–35: Certificate Regarding Lobbying Activities
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/assets/documents/forms/fs-1500-35-certification-regarding-lobbying.docx>

FS–1500–22: Financial Capability Questionnaire (see Financial Capability section)
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3834433.docx

B. Application Submission

Submit your application in a PDF format by **the last Friday of the month in April, August or December**, by 1700 ET to: jeffrey.c.high@usda.gov

For inquiries, contact Jeffrey High, USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Specialist, Washington Office; jeffrey.c.high@usda.gov

V. Application Review

A. Review and Selection Process

The Forest Service State & Private Forestry will receive, review, and track all applications. The Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations, National Association of State Foresters, American Loggers Council, Forest Resource Association, and Intertribal Timber Council will provide support to the Forest Service to recommend funding to State and Indian Tribes for year 1. The intent is to provide funding to all applicants who provide a request that meets the program goals. However, application amounts may be negotiated to a lower funding amount for year 1, with potential deferral into year 2 funding. Applicants can reapply for additional funding in subsequent years.

The review panel will make award recommendations to USDA Forest Service Leadership for final approval.

B. Timeline

- Application announced - Yearly Rolling Application Period
- Applications submitted - The last Friday of the month in April, August and December 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
- Review - Month following application submission.
- Award Announcement – Two months after application submission.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Reporting

1. Quarterly Progress Report

The Bipartisan Infrastructure requires Progress Reports to be submitted on a quarterly basis. A suggested Quarterly Progress Report can be provided by the FS program manager.

2. Quarterly Financial Report

Federal Financial Reports: SF-425 https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF425_3_0-V3.0.pdf are required. Specific requirements will be provided in the official Award letter if your proposal is selected for funding.

3. Final Progress Report

A Final Progress Report is required.

Note: If your proposal is funded, 10 percent of the Federal funds may be held by the administrator of the grant or agreement until final reporting is completed and approved.