



ECIA

February 02, 2026

**Subject: NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
RPA 8 Small City STBG Program**

Regional Planning Affiliation 8 (RPA 8) is now accepting applications for the RPA 8 Small City Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. STBG is a federal funding program that provides funding to states and local governments for transportation projects. RPA 8 has elected to reserve a portion of its annual STBG allocation for cities with populations under 5,000. RPA 8 will use a competitive process to select projects for funding. RPA 8 will provide technical assistance to eligible entities needing help understanding how to apply.

Available funding: Approximately \$250,000 is available for this application cycle.

Review of applications: Complete applications will be evaluated and assessed based on the following criteria:

- Economic Vitality
- System Preservation
- Safety
- Integration and Connectivity
- Local and Regional Factors

Award process: RPA Small City STBG program awards will be made by the RPA 8 Policy Board. Small City STBG awards are limited to a maximum of \$250,000.

Treatment of projects, cost reimbursement, and required match: Funds awarded through the Small City STBG program are provided to project sponsors on a reimbursement basis and are not provided as a lump sum or cash payment in advance of costs being incurred. All projects require project sponsors to pay 100 percent of project costs up front.

Projects funded by the RPA 8 Small City STBG program are typically eligible for the Iowa DOT's Federal-Aid Swap policy. For swap-eligible projects, Iowa DOT will not require local match and will reimburse funds at 100 percent up to the programmed amount.

If a project is not eligible for Swap, it will be subject to Federal-Aid rules and procedures including, among other things, Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements and other federal-aid requirements applicable to projects on federal-aid highways (e.g., Build America, Buy America, planning, environmental review, letting, etc.).

Application: The application form will be sent to eligible applicants by email and is available on the program website https://eciatrans.org/grants_rfps/small_city_stbg.php. All application components must be submitted with the form.

Complete applications are due by email to cravada@ecia.org and dfox@ecia.org before 5:00 pm CT on March 11, 2026. The email subject line shall be **Small City STBG Application – Applicant Name**. Emails greater than 20 MB will not be received. Attachments may be zip files. If sending multiple emails due to size restrictions, indicate sequence in the subject line e.g. 1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc. Applications received after the deadline will be deemed ineligible and will not be reviewed. Incomplete applications may be disqualified from consideration. RPA 8 is not responsible for any errors or delays caused by technical difficulties resulting from the emailing of applications.

You may direct any specific questions to Chandra Ravada at cravada@ecia.org and Dan Fox at dfox@ecia.org.

Additional information on the STBG program, including a list of eligible project types and details on the Iowa DOT's federal-aid swap policy, is available at the Iowa DOT website: <https://iowadot.gov/grants-programs/Federal-aid-Surface-Transportation-Block-Grant>.