

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Maritime Administration**

**Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Maritime Administration’s Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”) and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT

**ACTION:** Notice of Funding Opportunity

**SUMMARY:** This notice solicits applications for fiscal year (FY) 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grants. Funds for FY 2023 PIDP grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to assist in funding eligible projects for the purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. This notice announces the availability of up to \$662,203,512 in funding for grants under this program and establishes selection criteria and application requirements. All PIDP grant recipients must meet all applicable Federal requirements, including domestic content (“Buy America”) requirements. The Maritime Administration (“MARAD”) intends to update this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on or about January 17, 2023 with complete program requirements and application information.

**DATES:** Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. E.D.T. on April 28, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information concerning this notice, please contact the PIDP staff via email at *PIDPgrants@dot.gov*, or call Wade Morefield at 202–366–6025. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 202–366–3993. In addition, the Department of Transportation (“Department” or “DOT”) may post

answers to questions and requests for clarifications as well as information about webinars for further information at <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/PIDPgrants>.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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### **A. Program Description**

#### **1. Overview**

The PIDP statute, codified at 46 U.S.C. 54301, establishes the port and intermodal program to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, November 15, 2021) (“Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” or “BIL”) appropriated \$450 million to the PIDP for FY 2023 to make discretionary grants for eligible PIDP projects. On December 23, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (“FY 23 Appropriations Act”) appropriated an additional \$212,203,512 for the FY 2023 PIDP. Therefore, a total of \$662,203,512 is available for the FY 2023 PIDP.

Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 54301(a)(5)(B), MARAD is required to publish a NOFO no later than 90 days after the date that amounts are made available for grants for a fiscal year, which is December 30, 2022. In order to comply with this requirement, this NOFO solicits applications

for projects to be funded under the PIDP. It includes the funding appropriated by the BIL and the funding appropriated for the PIDP under the FY 2023 Appropriations Act. MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023. The amended notice will be posted on Grants.gov and the PIDP website at <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/PIDPgrants>.

## **2. Additional Information**

The PIDP is described in the Federal Assistance Listings under the assistance listing program title “Port Infrastructure Development Program” and assistance listing number 20.823.

## **B. Federal Award Information**

### **1. Amount Available**

The BIL authorized and appropriated \$450 million to be awarded by DOT for PIDP grants. The FY 23 Appropriations Act appropriated an additional \$212,203,512 for the FY 2023 PIDP. Therefore, a total of \$662,203,512 is available for the FY 2023 PIDP.

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

### **2. Award Size**

For funding awarded under the BIL, there is no minimum award size. For all projects funded under the FY 23 Appropriations Act, the minimum PIDP award size is \$1 million. Except as limited by the amount of available funding and statutory restrictions on funding identified in section B.3, there is no maximum award size.

### **3. Restrictions on Funding**

Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 54301, not more than 25 percent of the available funds (\$165,550,878) can be used to make grants for projects in any one State and 25 percent of the available funds (\$165,550,878) is reserved for small projects at small ports. Of the reserved amount, not more than 10 percent (\$16,555,087.80) may be used to make grants for development phase activities.

Not more than 10 percent (\$49,665,263.40) of the funds not reserved for small projects at small ports may be awarded for development phase activities for large projects that do not result in construction. For funding awarded under the FY 2023 Appropriations Act, at least \$187,203,512 is reserved for grants to coastal seaports or Great Lakes ports. Additionally, to maximize flexibility for applicants and optimize the number of grants that can be awarded, MARAD will limit any single award to a small project at a small port to not more than \$11.25 million under both the BIL and the FY 2023 Appropriations Act funding. MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

#### **4. Availability of Funds**

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

### **C. Eligibility Information**

To be selected for a FY 2023 PIDP discretionary grant, an applicant must be an eligible applicant and the project must be an eligible project.

#### **1. Eligible Applicants**

An eligible applicant for a FY 2023 PIDP discretionary grant is a port authority, a commission or its subdivision or agent under existing authority, a State or political subdivision of a State or local government,<sup>1</sup> an Indian Tribe,<sup>2</sup> a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States, a special purpose district with a transportation function, a multistate or multijurisdictional group of entities, or a lead entity described above jointly with a private entity or group of private entities (including the owners or operators of a facility, or

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<sup>1</sup> State means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

<sup>2</sup> An Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), without regard to capitalization), or a consortium of Indian Tribes.

collection of facilities, at a port). Federal agencies are not eligible applicants for the FY 2023 PIDP.

If submitting a joint application, applicants must identify in the application the eligible lead applicant as the primary point of contact. The lead applicant, who will be responsible for financial administration of the project, must be an eligible lead entity described above (i.e., not a private entity). Joint applications must include a memorandum of understanding as an attachment signed by all the entities that includes a description of the roles and responsibilities of each entity.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the authority to carry out the project and must submit information related to an assertion with citation of authority with their application. In the case of joint applications, at least one of the eligible applicants must demonstrate this authority.

## **2. Cost Sharing or Matching**

This section of the notice describes cost share requirements for a FY 2023 PIDP grant award. Per 46 U.S.C. 54301(a)(8), the Federal share of the costs for which an expenditure is made under a PIDP grant may not exceed 80 percent; however, the Secretary may increase the Federal share of costs above 80 percent for: (1) a grant for a project that is located in a rural area; or (2) a grant awarded to a small project at a small port under 46 U.S.C. 54301(b).

Applicants should use the following equation when determining the cost share for their project:

$$\frac{(PIDP\ Grant\ Request\ +\ Other\ Federal\ Funds)}{Total\ Project\ Cost} = Federal\ Cost\ Share$$

For the PIDP, Total Project Cost means the sum of future eligible Federal and Non-Federal costs that have not yet been incurred. This cannot include any previously incurred costs, except

for small projects at small ports, which may include certain costs incurred after grant application submittal but before announcement of project selection.

Non-Federal sources include State funds originating from programs funded by State revenue, local funds originating from State or local revenue-funded programs, or private funds. The application must demonstrate, such as through a commitment letter or other documentation included in its PIDP application, the sources of the non-Federal funds. Unless otherwise authorized by statute, funds used to satisfy the non-Federal cost-share requirements of a different Federal program may not be counted as the non-Federal share for both the FY 2023 PIDP grant award and another Federal grant program. Matching funds are subject to the same Federal requirements as awarded funds.

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

### **3. Eligible Projects**

Eligible projects for FY 2023 PIDP grants shall be located either within the boundary of a port, or outside the boundary of a port and directly related to port operations or to an intermodal connection to a port. Grants may be made for capital projects that will be used to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of:

- (I) the loading and unloading of goods at the port, such as for marine terminal equipment;
- (II) the movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port, such as for highway or rail infrastructure, intermodal facilities, freight intelligent transportation systems, and digital infrastructure systems;
- (III) operational improvements, including projects to improve port resilience; or
- (IV) environmental and emissions mitigation measures; including projects for—
  - (aa) port electrification or electrification master planning;

- (bb) harbor craft or equipment replacements or retrofits;
- (cc) development of port or terminal microgrids;
- (dd) provision of idling reduction infrastructure;
- (ee) purchase of cargo handling equipment and related infrastructure;
- (ff) worker training to support electrification technology;
- (gg) installation of port bunkering facilities from ocean-going vessels for fuels;
- (hh) electric vehicle charging or hydrogen refueling infrastructure for drayage and medium or heavy duty trucks and locomotives that service the port and related grid upgrades; or
- (ii) other related port activities, including charging infrastructure, electric rubber-tired gantry cranes, and anti-idling technologies.

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

#### **D. Application and Submission Information**

##### **1. Address to Request Application Package**

Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov. Instructions for submitting applications can be found at <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/office-port-infrastructure-development/port-and-terminal-infrastructure-development/how-apply-port> along with specific instructions for the forms and attachments required for submission.

##### **2. Content and Form of Application Submission**

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

##### **3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)**

Each applicant must: (1) be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (2) provide a valid UEI in its application; and (3) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with

current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

MARAD may not make a FY 2023 PIDP grant award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time MARAD is ready to make a PIDP grant award, MARAD may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a PIDP grant award and use that determination as a basis for making a PIDP grant award to another applicant.

#### **4. Submission Dates and Times**

Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. E.D.T. on April 28, 2023. Grants.gov attaches a time stamp to each application at the time that submission is complete. Applications with a time stamp after the deadline will not be considered. MARAD does not accept applications via mailed paper, fax machine, email, or other means. Please note that the Grants.gov registration process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.

#### **5. Funding Restrictions**

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

#### **6. Other Submission Requirements**

##### **a. Submission Location**

To submit an application through Grants.gov, applicants must: (1) obtain a UEI<sup>3</sup> number, (2) register with SAM at <http://www.SAM.gov>, (3) create a Grants.gov username and password, and (4) the E-Business Point of Contact (POC) at the applicant's organization must respond to the registration email from Grants.gov and login at Grants.gov to authorize the applicant as the

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<sup>3</sup> On April 4, 2022 the Federal government stopped using the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to uniquely identify entities. Entities doing business with the Federal government are now required to use a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) created in SAM.gov. If your entity is currently registered in SAM.gov, your UEI has already been assigned and is viewable in SAM.gov. This includes inactive registrations.

Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Please note that there can be more than one AOR for an organization.

Please note that the Grants.gov registration process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete and that MARAD will not consider late applications that are the result of a failure to register or comply with Grants.gov applicant requirements in a timely manner. For information and instructions on each of these processes, please see instructions at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs.html>. If applicants experience difficulties at any point during the registration or application process, please call the Grants.gov Customer Service Support Hotline at 1 (800) 518-4726.

## **E. Application Review Information**

### **1. Criteria**

The purpose of the PIDP is to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. MARAD will evaluate projects that meet the purpose of the PIDP based on their alignment with the following statutory merit criteria: Achieving Safety, Efficiency, or Reliability Improvements; Supporting Economic Vitality; Leveraging Federal Funding; and Port Resilience. MARAD will also consider the extent to which applications align with the selection considerations of Climate Change and Sustainability; Equity and Justice<sup>40</sup>; and Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation, and may give priority to those projects that align well when selecting among highly-rated applications. Projects will also be evaluated for project readiness and domestic preference compliance.

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

## **2. Review and Selection Process**

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

## **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **1. Federal Award Notice**

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

### **2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

### **3. Reporting**

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

## **G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts**

For further information concerning this notice please contact the PIDP staff via email at *PIDPgrants@dot.gov*, or call Wade Morefield at 202–366–6025. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 202–366–3993. In addition, MARAD will post answers to questions and requests for clarifications at <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/PIDPgrants>. To ensure applicants receive accurate information about eligibility or the program, the applicant is encouraged to contact MARAD with questions directly, rather than through intermediaries or third parties.

## **H. Other Information**

MARAD intends to amend this notice to provide more details on or about January 17, 2023.

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December 30, 2022

By Order of the Maritime Administrator