

U.S. Department of Transportation Launches Port Infrastructure Development Program

WASHINGTON

– The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) posted a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$292.7 million in discretionary grant funding through the new Port Infrastructure Development Program, the department said in a June 12 release.

“This major investment in the Port Infrastructure Development Program will help strengthen, modernize, and improve our country’s maritime systems and gateway ports,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

As the administration continues to invest in America’s infrastructure, this new program aims to support public coastal ports by improving the safety, efficiency, or reliability of goods movement into, out of, or within a port, according to the release.

Investments in port transportation infrastructure will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects located either within the boundary of a coastal

seaport, or
outside the boundary of a coastal seaport, and directly relate
to port
operations or to an intermodal connection to a port.

The department
will evaluate projects using criteria which include leveraging
federal funds,
project costs and benefits, project outcomes, project
readiness, and domestic
preference. The department will also
consider geographic diversity when selecting grant recipients.

The
Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 made available \$292.7
million for the
Port Infrastructure Development Program, including \$92.7
million for the 15
coastal seaports that handled the greatest number of loaded
foreign and
domestic twenty-foot equivalent units of containerized cargo
in 2016, as
identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
The minimum award size is \$10 million, with a federal cost
share not to
exceed 80%.

Additionally,
the Department anticipates awarding funding to at least one
project that
advances each of the following project outcomes:

- Advance technology supported safety,
design efficiency improvements.
- Improve state of good repair and
resiliency.
- Promote efficient energy trade.

- Promote manufacturing, agriculture or other forms of exports.
- For only the top 15 coastal ports, a project that supports the safe flow of agricultural and food products, free of pests and disease, domestically and internationally.

To provide technical assistance, DOT will host a series of webinars during the Port Infrastructure Development Program grant application process. Details and registration information regarding these webinars will be made available at www.transportation.gov/portgrants.

The deadline to submit an application for the Port Infrastructure Development Program is 8 p.m. EDT Sept. 22, 2019.