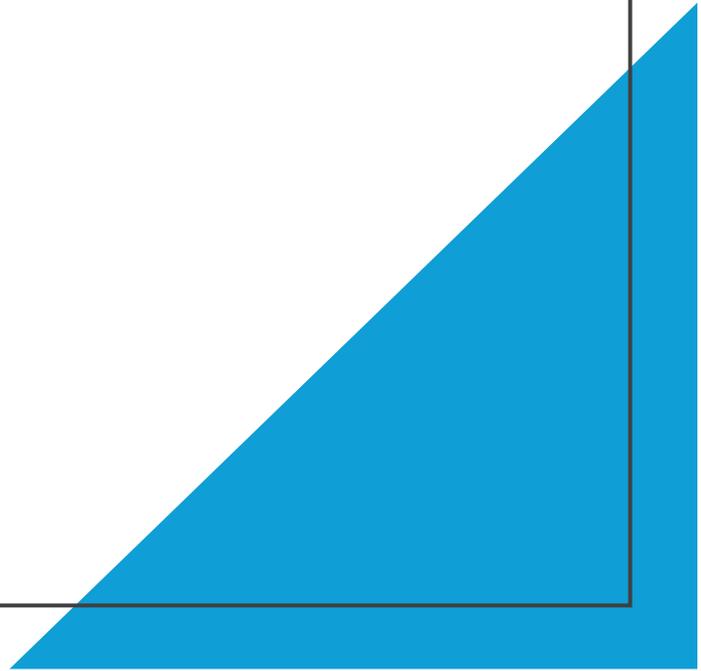
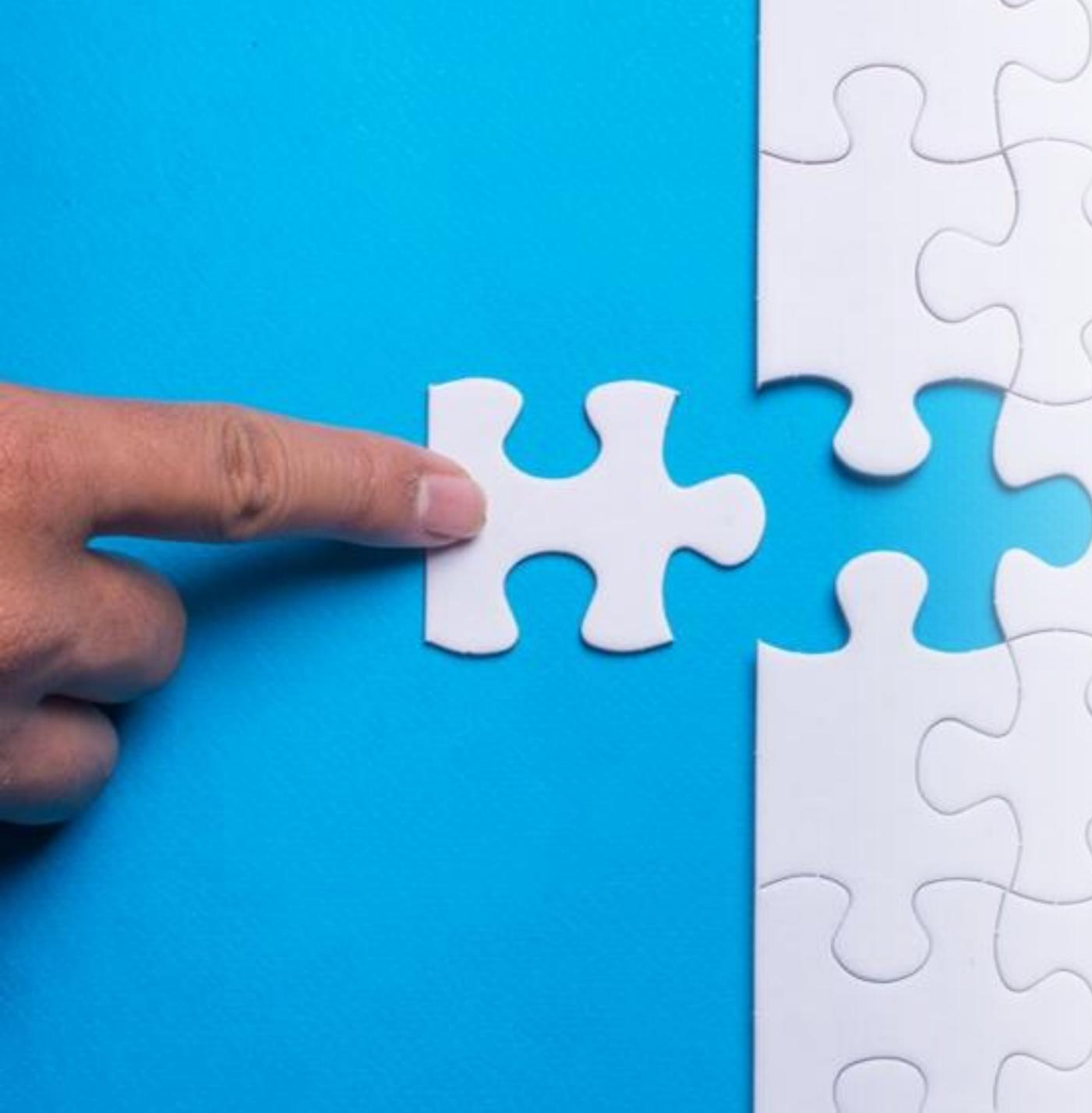


Federal Grants

- Gretchen Belk
- Federal Discretionary Grants Manager
- (919) 707- 4740
- gvelk@ncdot.gov



A hand is shown on the left side of the image, placing a white puzzle piece into a larger puzzle. The puzzle is set against a bright blue background. The puzzle pieces are white with a subtle shadow effect, and the hand is positioned as if it is about to fit the piece into a gap. The overall scene suggests a process of building or completing something, which aligns with the theme of the slide: how grants can help an organization.

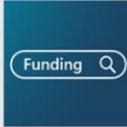
How can Grants Help your Organization?

- Grants can...
 - Fund projects without existing adequate funding
 - Enhance scope of existing project
 - Cover cost overruns
 - Support planning initiatives and early project development

Matching Projects with Funding Opportunities

- Transportation Grants Typically Follow Annual Cycle
- Programs have Specific Requirements
 - Eligibility
 - Min/Max Award Amounts
 - Deadlines
 - Merit Criteria
- Resources Available
 - Federal Agencies
 - NCDOT
 - Grants.Gov

What Do You Want to Do?

 <p>PREPARE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION Get planning tips, checklists, and information on applying for federal grants</p>	 <p>FIND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES Search grant opportunities to meet your community's transportation needs</p>
 <p>GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES Find resources to get funding and build capacity to do transportation projects</p>	 <p>LEARN ABOUT FUNDING AND MATCH Learn about USDOT grant funding, including match requirements and flexibilities</p>
 <p>ACCESS DATA AND MAPPING TOOLS Access data and mapping tools to help write a strong grant application</p>	 <p>LEARN ABOUT THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW Get information to help access BIL funding programs</p>

USDOT Grant Navigator

Understanding the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

NOFO: Formal solicitation for grant program

READ CAREFULLY:

- Due Date
- Eligibility
- Statutory Requirements
- Merit Criteria
- Match Requirements
- Application Format Requirements
- Evaluation Process
- Priority Considerations
- Reporting Requirements



Source: City of Opelousas

USDOT Grant Key Requirements

Most competitive grants require:

Selection through competitive process

Project to meet schedule deadlines

Cost-effectiveness

Matching funds

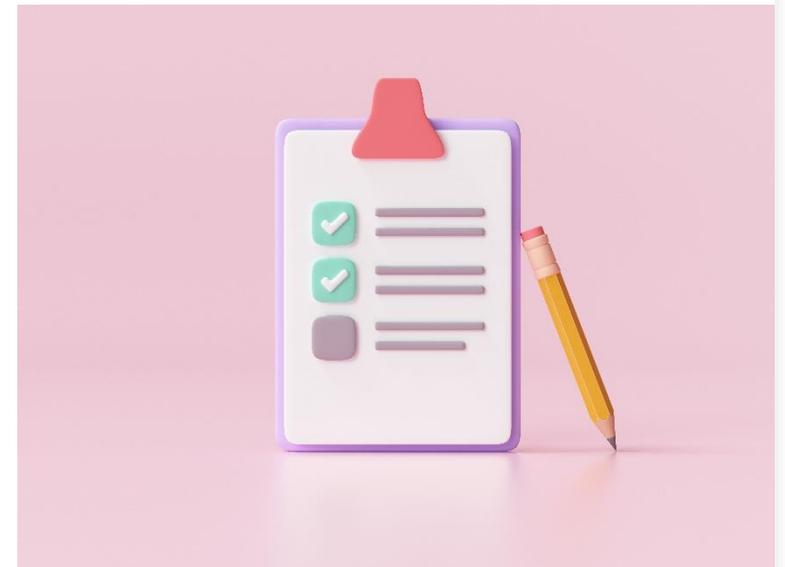
Adherence to other federal requirements

Merit Criteria

USDOT establishes Merit Criteria to rank projects

USDOT Primary Merit Criteria:

- Safety
- Climate Change, Resiliency, Sustainability
- Equity, Community Engagement, Justice40
- Workforce Development, Job Quality, Wealth Creation
- State of Good Repair
- Innovation

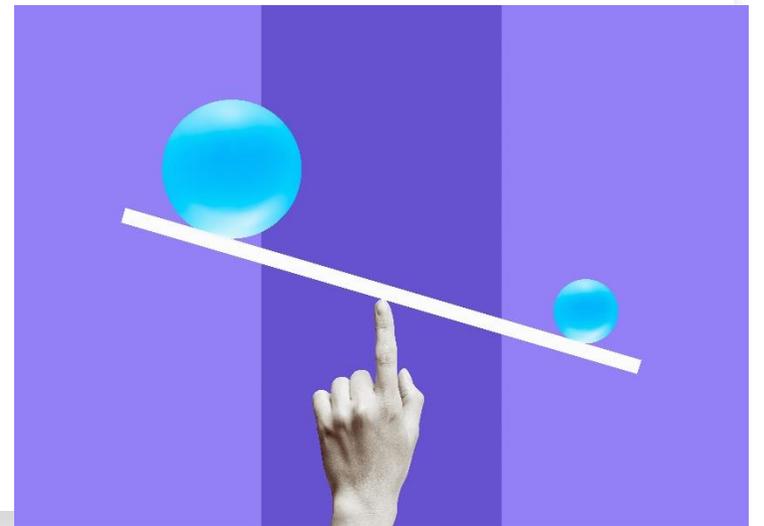


Cost Effectiveness

- Most projects are required to show that they are “cost-effective”
- Established through Benefit-Cost Analysis (completed by applicant, verified by USDOT)
- Benefit-Cost Ratio must be greater than 1.0 to be eligible for competition
- Ideally applicant can develop BCR greater than 1.25 to provide buffer for USDOT review

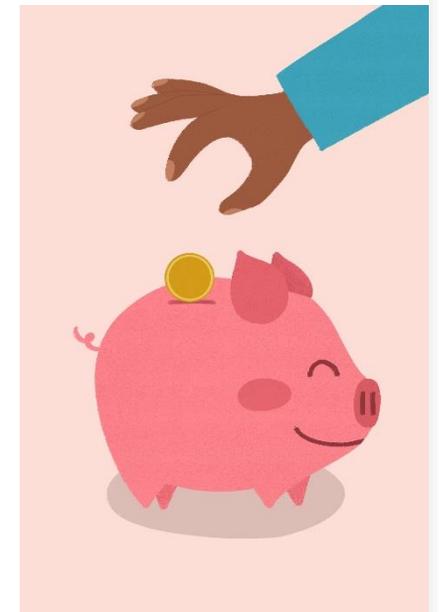
Factors Included:

- Travel time savings
- Safety
- Freight movement
- Maintenance cost savings



Matching Funds

- Most grant programs require matching funds (20% or more)
- Grant program may offer less than what you request
- Cost overages cannot be covered by grant
- Letter of Financial Commitment required at time of submittal
- Projects evaluated on “Financial Completeness”



Federal Requirements

- Must follow all traditional requirements for federally-funded projects
- Legislated obligation and expenditure deadlines
- No opportunities to get additional grant funding if over budget
- Grant agreement can take 12-18 months. Work not reimbursable until agreement signed



Key Takeaways

- Grant are a WONDERFUL opportunity to fund projects with BIG strings attached
 - Matching Funds
 - Federal Requirements
 - Strict Deadlines
- NCDOT is here to help. The sooner we can be involved, the more we can assist!
 - Contact Divisions
 - Contact Grants Office
 - Contact PMO

