



City of Homer

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Administration

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Memorandum 22-125

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

FROM: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator

DATE: July 13, 2022

SUBJECT: Budget Request for Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Grant Application Support

I. Issue: The purpose of this Memorandum is to recommend a \$125,000 appropriation from the General Fund to be used to increase the City's capacity to compete effectively for IIJA grant funds.

II. Background: New programs under the IIJA and the infusion of funds into existing state and federal programs provides the City with unprecedented opportunity to compete for grants to support large, priority infrastructure projects. IIJA authorized 350 different programs which are managed by more than a dozen federal agencies and departments.

I have been studying the various program eligibility criteria, competitiveness factors and application periods. The attached chart identifies some of the Federal and State programs where funding priorities align with Homer's capital project priorities.

These Federal grant programs are highly competitive -- requests for funds can exceed the total available Federal funds by 30 times or more. Completing a nationally competitive application is time and labor intensive, requiring responses that are data driven (to prove need and/or benefit), pre-planned (scope, partnerships, match strategies), aligned with over-arching Federal priorities (equity, resilience) and technical in nature (concept plan or engineers design, cost estimating, cost benefit analyses, environmental review, etc.)

Further, the fire hose analogy often used to describe these five IIJA years is accurate. Grant programs have a short three-month application period with submission deadlines that arrive in rapid succession. (See attached chart.)

Given the effort and technical capabilities required, many municipalities are hiring extra staff or contracting for grant support services. Staff recommends approving a \$125,000 appropriation from the General Fund to increase our capacity to handle the IIJA fire hose in a strategic way to maximize its impact on City of Homer projects. Funds will be used to issue task orders from the list of previously approved term contractors to assist staff with overall IIJA program strategy, pre-positioning projects for grant competitiveness, technical expertise and grant writing as necessary.

IIJA & State Grant Programs

■ State Grant Programs ■ Federal Grant Programs

Annual application due dates

Jan	Feb	Mar
Apr	May	June
July	Aug	Sept
Oct	Nov	Dec

State Homeland Security Grants

- Public Safety communications, etc.

RAISE

- Harbor Float Replacement
 - Up to 60% Fed funding; 20% loans
 - Req condition analysis engineering cost estimate, BCA
 - 20-40% match

National Oceans & Coastal Security

- Land acquisition for Green Infrastructure Slope Stability Program
 - Kbay NERRS Partnership

Dingle-Johnson

- Nick Dudiak Fishing Hole Accessibility
- Fish Grinding Building
- 25% match

Cyber Security Grants

- Must have cyber security plan

Rural Surface Transportation Program

- Spit Road Erosion Mitigation
 - AK DOT & USACE partnership
 - Req BCA

PROTECT Resilience Grants

- Spit Road Erosion Mitigation
- Green Infrastructure Slope Stability
 - AK DOT & USACE partnership
 - Req BCA

Airport Terminal Program

- ADA & energy efficiency improvements; emergency b/u generator
 - AK DOT partnership
 - 5% match

Port Infrastructure Development

- Capital improvements to port TBD
 - Req BCA
 - 20% match

Municipal Harbor Matching Grant

- Harbor Float Replacement
 - 50% match

Safe Streets for All

- Planning grants for Comprehensive Safety Plan – req for construction grants
- Construction grants
 - Req regional partnerships

Transportation Alternatives Grant

- Sidewalks / Safe Route to School
- 9% + match

Building Resilient Infrastructure

- Hazard mitigation TBD
- Req BCA
- 25% match

Brownfields

- HERC Clean Up/Reuse Planning
- Community Assessment Grant