



Regional Infrastructure Fund FAQ

Question: What is Regional Solutions?

Answer:

The Regional Solutions Program approaches community and economic development by recognizing the unique needs of each region in the state and working at the local level to identify priorities, solve problems, and seize opportunities to complete projects.

- Leveraging/aligning resources (technical assistance, capacity, as well as grants and loans) to address the highest regional priorities is necessary for sound and long-term economic growth. To grow Oregon's economy and create jobs across the state, all resources in the community—public, private, and civic—must work together to shape the future and to complete on-the-ground projects.
- State resources (staff time, technical assistance, and grants/loans) are strategically aligned throughout Oregon to accomplish these goals through Regional Solutions Advisory Committees, Centers, Coordinators, and Teams. This alignment serves and supports the unique needs of each region. The regional boundaries are aligned with the 11 federally designated Economic Development Districts.

Question: What is the Regional Infrastructure Fund?

Answer:

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature added a tool to the Regional Solutions toolbox, the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF). The RIF provides grants and loans to local governments for Regional Solutions implementation projects including planning and design. Business Oregon administers the fund and rules for its administration.

Question: How much funding is available for the 2017–19 Biennium?

Answer:

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the Legislature authorized the issuance of lottery bonds to produce \$4 million in net proceeds for the RIF. Those dollars are to be distributed statewide, with each of the 11 regions being allotted a minimum of 5% (\$200,000).

Question: How may Lottery Bond proceeds be used?

Answer:

Lottery bond proceeds may only be used for capital construction projects.

Question: What is capital construction?

Answer:

Capital construction means the construction, modification, replacement, repair, remodeling, or renovation of a structure, or addition to a structure, that is expected to have a useful life of more than one year (ideally 20 years as bonds are repaid over the same timeframe), and includes, but is not limited to:

- Acquisition of land, or a legal interest in land, in conjunction with the capital construction of a structure.
- Acquisition, installation of machinery or equipment, furnishings, or materials that will become an integral part of a structure.
- Activities related to the completion of capital construction, including planning; design; authorizing, issuing, carrying, or repaying interim or permanent financing; land use, and environmental impact studies; and acquisition of permits, licenses, or other services connected with the construction. If construction does not occur, repayment could be required.
- Acquisition of existing structures, or legal interests in structures, in conjunction with the capital construction.

Question: What is not included in capital construction?

Answer:

Capital construction does **not** include: (1) Maintenance and repairs, the need for which could be reasonably anticipated; (2) Supplies and equipment that are not intrinsic to the structure; or (3) Furnishings, unless the furnishings are acquired in connection with the acquisition, construction, remodeling, or renovation of a structure, or the repair of a structure that is required because of damage or destruction of the structure.

Question: What are the Goals of the Regional Infrastructure Fund program?

Answer:

Address regional priorities.

- Support capital projects with strong economic development impact.
- Align with, or leverage, other investments to retain and create jobs.

Question: What are eligible projects?

Answer:

Because the source of funding is bonded debt, eligible expenditures are only for capital construction as noted under funding for 2017–19. Some past examples of funded projects include industrial land development; broadband infrastructure; workforce housing; construction or renovation of water/sewer systems, docks, trails, roads, and buildings; levee modernization; infrastructure for career/technical education; and food processing and distribution.

Question: What are eligible applicants?

Answer:

The RIF is managed by Business Oregon and provides grants and loans to local government sponsors for infrastructure projects, including planning and design. Private and non-profit entities are able to receive funds provided they have a local government sponsor as the applicant. The local sponsor will be responsible for ensuring project completion and contracting with the ultimate recipient.

Question: What is local government?

Answer:

Local government means a city, county, authority, or entity organized under state statute or city or county charter, and includes any council of governments. Examples: entity organized under state statute or city or county charter; council of government; port; public school, including community college.

Question: Is there a time limit for expending program funds?

Answer:

Projects funded with lottery bonds should plan to expend the funds within two years of issuance of the contract.

Question: What is the selection process and timeline?

Answer:

Date	Action
April 30, 2018	Deadline for application
May 2018	Regional Solution Teams verify, review & score applications (including a feasibility review)
June–July 2018	Advisory Committees, with staff support, review applications and their assigned scores Scores inform/guide the discussion, but are not the final determinant Committees offer an opportunity for public comment Committees send their recommendations to the Grant & Loan Review Committee
August 2018	Grant and Loan Review Committee reviews and recommends projects and award amounts to the Legislature Committee designated by Business Oregon Consists of a geographically diverse, odd number of members from the Oregon Business Development Commission and the Infrastructure Finance Authority Board, as well as Must include at least 1 city representative and 1 county representative
September 2018	Regional Solutions & Business Oregon present recommendations to the Legislature
Winter 2018– Spring 2019	Business Oregon develops and finalizes loan/grant agreements for approved projects

Question: When can an awardee begin incurring expenses that could be reimbursed (“pre-award” expenses) with the award amount when it becomes available?

Answer:

Award date is September 26, 2018, but projects must wait until contract is executed to begin incurring eligible RIF-reimbursable project costs, i.e., no pre-award/pre-contract costs. If a recipient is ready to begin their project immediately (after the September 26, 2018, award date) they can work with their Business Oregon Regional Project Manager (RPM) toward a solid scope of work and budget so that their contract can be prepared as soon as possible.

Question: Can we see a template for a draft Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)?

Answer:

There are too many variables to be a meaningful document.

Question: After contract/IGA execution, how do recipients get reimbursed?

Answer:

Recipient will submit disbursement request forms along with invoices to Business Oregon.

Even if a contract is signed prior to the Spring 2019 bond sale date, the contract will clearly show Business Oregon cannot disburse anything until the agency receives the bond proceeds.

Recipients may expend their own or outside funding at any point without a contract as long as they do not expect RIF reimbursement for that portion.

Projects must have executed contracts by one month prior to date of bond sale.

Question: Will there be a “clawback” of award dollars if recipient doesn’t create jobs they claim will be created and/or retained?

Answer:

No.