

Funding Opportunity: RAISE Discretionary Grant Program for Infrastructure Development

Key Highlights

- U.S. Department of Transportation's annual *Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity* (RAISE) has \$1.5 billion in funding for transportation programs.
- Eligible programs can cover a wide variety of projects, including electric vehicle infrastructure which could facilitate EV expansion in cooperative areas.
- Communities eligible for 100% federal grant share have been expanded this year to include rural and persistent poverty areas.
- Eligible applicants must be a government agency. Electric cooperatives are not eligible to apply directly, but may benefit from coordinating with their local government agencies to see how EV infrastructure may be included in projects within their areas.

What has changed?

As electric vehicle (EV) adoption increases across the country, so does the interest in expanding public charging infrastructure. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the \$1.5 billion *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity* (RAISE) discretionary grant program.

RAISE is an annual program with which state and local governments are most likely familiar. It is not focused specifically on EV infrastructure, but rather on more general infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and transportation hubs. However, in 2021, there were at least four (4) EV charging projects funded as part of bigger projects.

An important development for cooperatives is that RAISE has expanded the number of communities eligible for 100 percent federal share of funding to now include rural communities, areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities. DOT has launched a tool that will allow applicants to determine if their project location is considered as a [Historically Disadvantaged Community](#).

Applicants for RAISE grants must be government agencies. While cooperatives are not permitted to apply directly, working with your local agencies who are eligible may be beneficial so that the infrastructure needs within rural America – including EV infrastructure – are included in proposals.

Eligible applicants for RAISE grants include:

- States and the District of Columbia,
- Any territory or possession of the United States,
- A unit of local government,
- A public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more states,
- A special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority,
- A federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes; a transit agency, and
- A multi-state or multijurisdictional group of entities.

What is the impact on cooperatives?

EV infrastructure expansion is critical to support consumers' increasing interest in electric vehicles. Especially in rural areas, finding economically viable means for that infrastructure development is essential. RAISE presents an opportunity for fully federally funded infrastructure projects in cooperative service areas. It will be important for cooperatives to identify which agencies of state or local government are applying for funding and work proactively with those agencies to fund EV infrastructure within cooperatives' service territories.

What do cooperatives need to know or do about it?

Applications for this year must be submitted by **5:00 PM E.D.T. on April 14, 2022**. Cooperatives interested in electric vehicle infrastructure projects in their service territory are encouraged to work with their local governments to determine which agencies are applying for RAISE grants and how EV projects could be included. For larger multi-state EV infrastructure projects, groups of co-ops may consider collaborating to work with multiple agencies or states on applications. It may also be advantageous to applications for co-ops to identify how their projects benefit the Administration's climate and social justice goals. Details on the grant opportunity may be found here: [RAISE Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity - Press release - 2021 Funded Projects](#)

Additional Resources

- [Preparing for Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Rollouts](#)
- [Charging Infrastructure for Electric Trucks](#)
- [Market Potential for Commercial Electric Trucking](#)
- [Preparing to Plug In Your Municipal Electric Transit Bus Fleet - 10 Things To Consider](#)
- [Electric Vehicle Service Equipment Load Control Case Studies](#)
- [Residential Electric Vehicle Service Equipment \(EVSE\) Program Design for Co-ops](#)

Contact for Questions

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