



# Tips on Applying for Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program Grants



## Program Requirements

- ✓ Sign up for a mandatory Pre-Application meeting with NJDOT at <https://njdotlocalaidrc.com/transportation-alternatives-set-aside-application-resources.php>. Meetings will be held from April 11-September 30, 2022.
- ✓ Ensure you have up-front approval from all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project (e.g. municipality, county, state if applicable).
- ✓ Show evidence of support from every group, such as letters of commitment or resolutions of support. Letters/resolutions must be signed and dated within one year of the solicitation date.
- ✓ Commit to local ongoing maintenance for the project.
- ✓ Provide a full time Responsible Charge who will manage the project from start to finish.

## Create a Comprehensive Program

A good grant proposal:

- ✓ Outlines all aspects of infrastructure (access, street crossings, speed reduction, etc.) and proposes a project that addresses stated barriers, problems, and safety issues. Project must be complete and usable; partial projects that cannot usefully function on their own will not be considered.
- ✓ Documents the infrastructure problems using speed studies, crash data, photos, or anything else that enhances safety and demonstrated a funding need.
- ✓ Promotes and facilitates non-motorized (active) forms of transportation.
- ✓ Benefits quality of life, public health and the environment.
- ✓ Consideration will be given to applications that provide additional benefits to vulnerable members of our communities, including low-income residents, minorities, those with limited English proficiency, persons with disabilities, children and older adults. Census data for these categories will be used to determine if a project meets the equity criteria. Information regarding equity is available through NJDOT's Local Aid Resource Center web site at: <https://www.njdotlocalaidrc.com/equity>

## Additional Information

- ✓ NJDOT provides a handbook for the TA Set-Aside Grant Program including eligible activities, eligible costs, selection criteria, application guidance and more. For more information about TA Set-Aside grants and to view the handbook visit: <https://www.njdotlocalaidrc.com/federally-funded-programs/transportation-alternatives>
- ✓ Four activities are **NOT** eligible: bike/ped safety and education programs, acquisition of scenic or historic easements/sites, scenic or historic highway programs including tourist and welcome centers, and establishment of transportation museums.
- ✓ If your application was not funded in the past, don't despair! Strengthen your application either by supporting the promotion of non-motorized travel or improving your record of relevant activities and plans.





## Grant Strategies & Tips

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) offers federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program funding to community-based transportation projects, either land or water, that expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve safety and quality of life and/or protect the environment.

- TA Set-Aside Projects must fit into one of the following 7 categories:
  1. Design and construction of on-road and off-road trails facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized transportation users
  2. Conversion and use of abandoned RR corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized transportation users
  3. Construction of scenic turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas
  4. Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities
  5. Community improvement activities specifically streetscaping and corridor landscaping
  6. Environmental mitigation to address stormwater management, control, water pollution prevention or abatement due to highway runoff
  7. Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.
- Any New Jersey county, municipality, transit agency/authority, natural resource or public land agency, tribal government, MPO serving urbanized area fewer than 200K population, and nonprofit organization partnered with any eligible entity. Nonprofit organizations are not eligible as direct grant sub-recipients for TA Set-Aside funds. NJDOT has final authority to determine the eligibility of an applicant.
- TA Set-Aside funds are provided on a reimbursement basis and NJDOT serves as a pass through. Costs incurred prior to authorization of federal aid funds are not eligible. NJDOT covers the federal 20% match.
- Construction-ready projects will be given greater consideration. Location is also important if the project addresses those who are disproportionately affected by road and safety issues and/or is located in underserved communities.
- Requested project funding should be between \$350,000 and \$1.5 million.
- Special consideration is given if projects are located within one or more of the following: designated Transit Village, municipalities or counties that have passed Complete Streets policies, Opportunity Zones and/or Targeted Urban Municipalities (TUMS).



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