

State Match Advantage for Rural Transportation (AZ SMART) Fund Program

Board Study Session
October 6, 2022

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AZ SMART Fund Overview

- Draft materials provided to Board:
 - Application Guidelines
 - Application Form
 - Draft AZ SMART Board Policy
- Program provides grants to assist rural cities/towns and counties to effectively compete for federal discretionary grants
 - Highly competitive process with roughly 10% chance of success
- State Transportation Board must approve awards
- \$50 mil grant program authorized by HB 2872 and effective September 26, 2022
- First Call For Projects (CFP) expected this fall after STB approval of AZ SMART policy, Application Guidelines and Application Form
 - Length of CFP round to be determined (3 months proposed)
 - Frequency of Board consideration to be determined (NOFOs are continually being released)

Eligible Applicants for the AZ SMART Fund Program

All Arizona cities/towns and counties are eligible *except* for those highlighted below. Unincorporated areas are represented in county applications. Eligibility may change upon release of new urbanized areas based on the 2020 decennial Census by the US Census Bureau.

JULY 1, 2021 POPULATION ESTIMATES
FOR ARIZONA'S COUNTIES, INCORPORATED PLACES AND UNINCORPORATED BALANCE OF COUNTIES

	ESTIMATE		ESTIMATE		ESTIMATE
APACHE COUNTY	66,411	MARICOPA COUNTY	4,507,419	PIMA COUNTY	1,058,318
Eagar	4,474	Apache Junction *	399	Marana *	55,174
Saint Johns	3,434	Avondale	90,755	Oro Valley	48,222
Springerville	1,724	Buckeye	101,987	Sahuarita	35,588
Unincorporated	56,779	Carefree	3,708	South Tucson	4,603
		Cave Creek	5,021	Tucson	546,061
COCHISE COUNTY	126,463	Chandler	280,189	Unincorporated	368,670
Benson	5,365	El Mirage	36,101		
Bisbee	4,968	Fountain Hills	23,906	PINAL COUNTY	439,128
Douglas	16,302	Gila Bend	1,893	Apache Junction *	38,610
Huachuca City	1,626	Gilbert	273,796	Casa Grande	56,242
Sierra Vista	45,851	Glendale	250,585	Coolidge	14,291
Tombstone	1,313	Goodyear	101,662	Eloy	16,485
Willcox	3,229	Guadalupe	5,329	Florence	25,250
Unincorporated	47,809	Litchfield Park	6,957	Hayden *	0
		Mesa	510,792	Kearny	1,741
COCONINO COUNTY	147,434	Paradise Valley	12,707	Mammoth	1,079
Flagstaff	76,960	Peoria *	195,585	Marana *	0
Fredonia	1,374	Phoenix	1,630,195	Maricopa	61,109
Page	7,618	Queen Creek *	56,321	Queen Creek *	9,954
Sedona *	2,606	Scottsdale	243,528	Superior	2,415
Tusayan	614	Surprise	149,710	Winkelman *	0
Williams	3,384	Tempe	181,548	Unincorporated	211,952
Unincorporated	54,878	Tolleson	7,309		
		Wickenburg *	6,687	SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	48,468
GILA COUNTY	53,525	Youngtown	7,060	Nogales	19,921
Globe	7,161	Unincorporated	323,689	Patagonia	807
Hayden *	512			Unincorporated	27,740

Applicant Eligibility

- Eligible: 85 cities/towns and 13 counties based on 2010 Census urbanized areas
- Ineligible: 2 counties and 6 cities/towns
 - Maricopa and Pima Counties
 - Guadalupe, Paradise Valley, Tempe, Tolleson, Youngtown, South Tucson
 - Unincorporated areas are covered in county applications
- Eligibility is subject to change with release of 2020 urbanized areas expected in Dec 2022

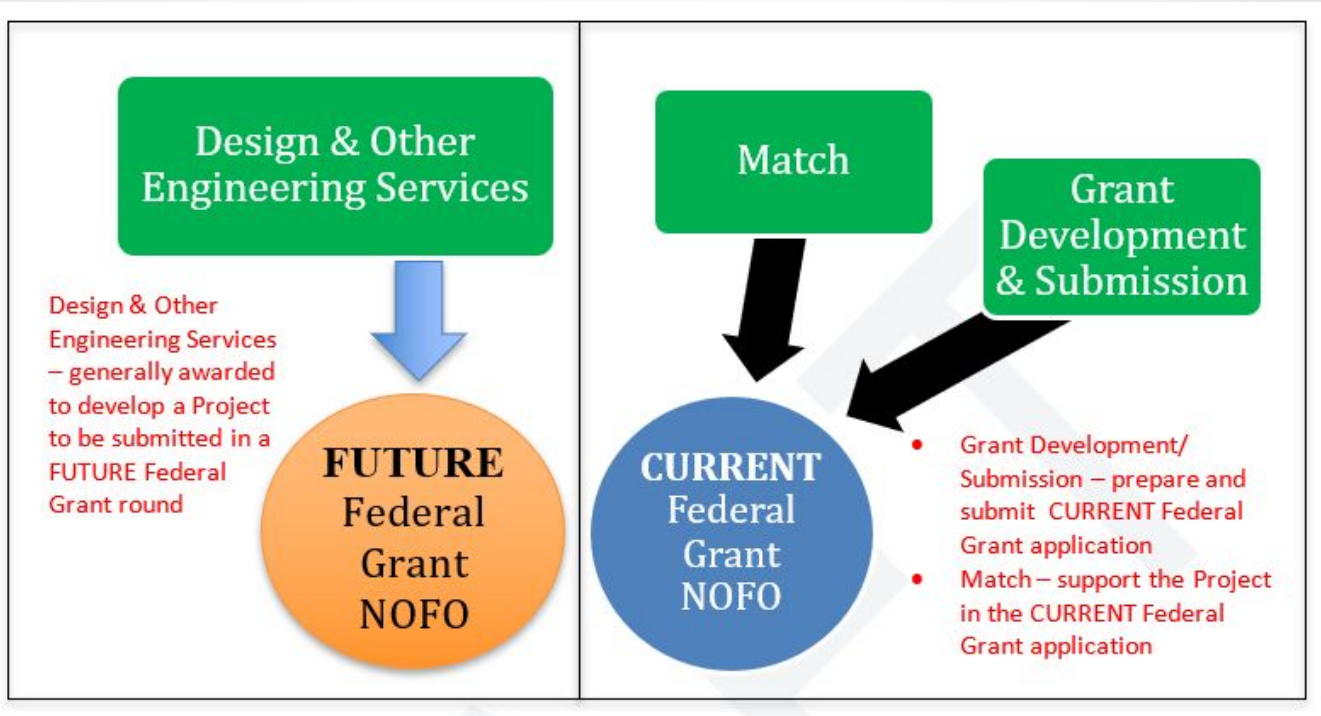
Eligible Uses

- Reimbursement of up to 50% of costs associated with developing and submitting an application for a federal grant. Limited to:
 - Counties with pop of less than 100,000 and
 - Municipalities* with pop of less than 10,000
- Match for a federal grant
- Reimbursement of design and other engineering services** expenditures that meet federal standards for projects eligible for a federal grant
- Must be used to pursue a federal DISCRETIONARY grant administered by ANY FEDERAL AGENCY for SURFACE TRANSPORTATION purposes:
 - Formula programs (HSIP, Off-system Bridge, etc.) not eligible
 - More than just USDOT/FHWA
 - Road/bridge, transit, rail are eligible

*An incorporated city or town in the state

**Includes preliminary engineering through final design related to a road, bridge, rail or transit infrastructure construction project that the Applicant intends to submit for a federal grant in a future year.

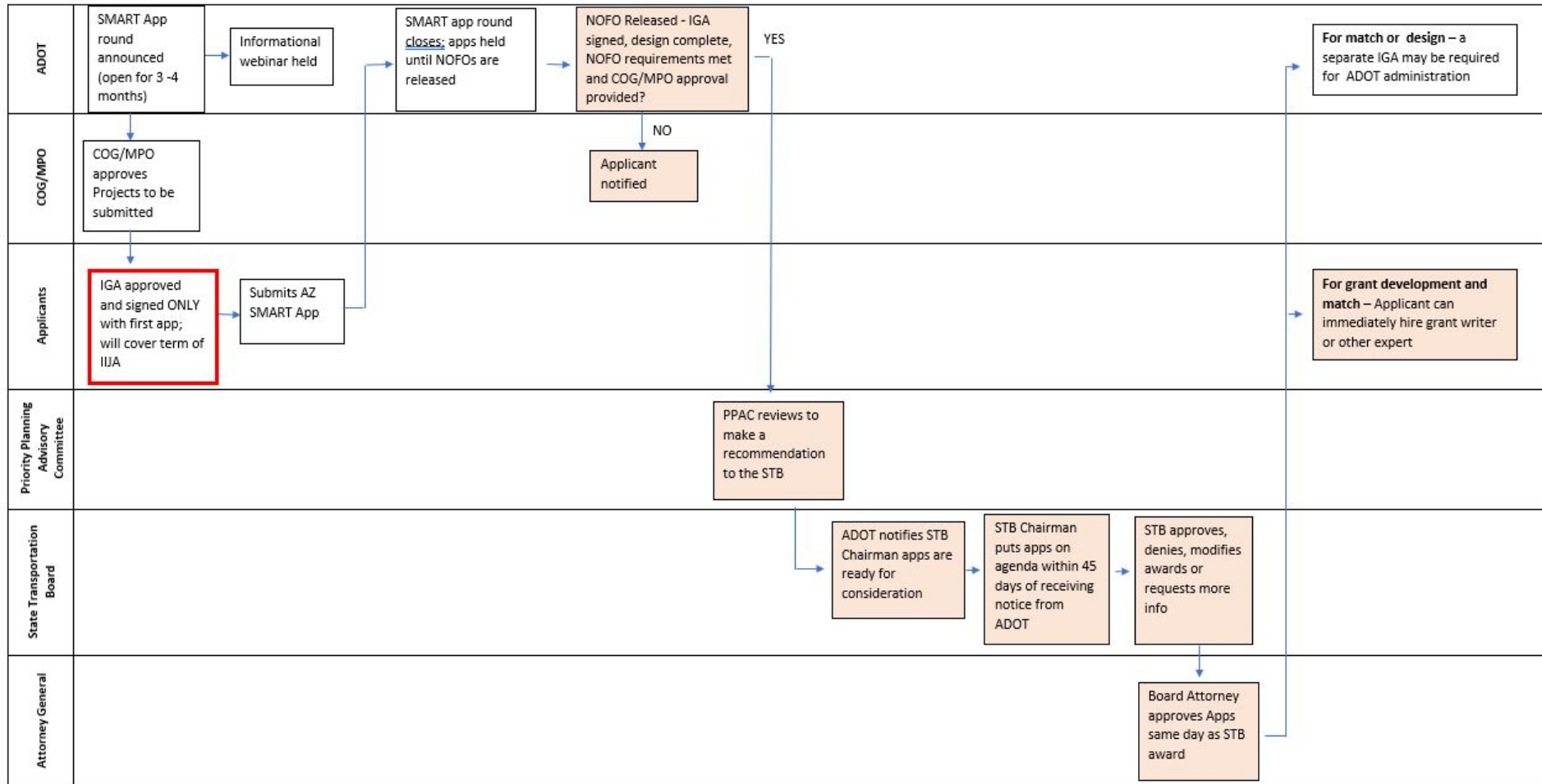
Expected Relationship Between AZ SMART Fund and Federal Grant Submission



AZ SMART Eligible Applicants & Category Amounts

<i>Eligible Applicant</i>	<i>Category Amount</i>
ADOT	\$10 mil
Counties with a population of 100,000 or more	\$10 mil
Counties with a population of less than 100,000	\$10 mil
Municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more	\$10 mil
Municipalities with a population of less than 10,000	\$10 mil

AZ SMART Fund Application Process



AZ SMART Fund Application Process, cont.

- Master IGA to be executed by Applicant only once prior to first application to AZ SMART
- Will cover the term of IJA and any extensions
- Awarded applications become Amendments to the Master IGA
- Master IGA contains all terms and conditions associated with Grant Development and Submission
 - Applicants can immediately incur grant development/submission obligations as of date of STB award
 - If NOFO deadline has passed, Applicant has agreed in Master IGA to submit in next cycle for the same grant
- Match and Design awards require separate project IGAs
- Many SMART award projects expected to be administered by ADOT

AZ SMART Award Documentation Process

AZ SMART Fund

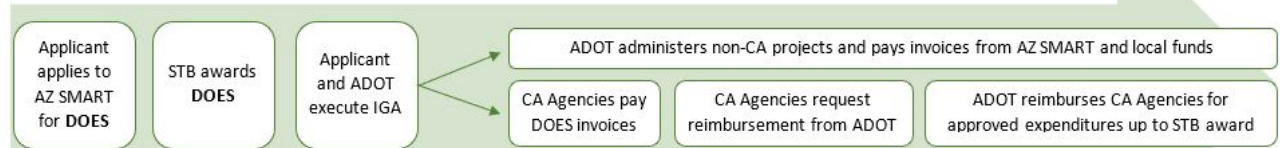
Contract and Reimbursement Processes



Grant Development & Submission (GDS) – IGA required with application contains all terms and conditions for this use



Match – if Applicant is awarded federal grant, an additional IGA with ADOT must be executed for this use



Design and Other Engineering Services (DOES) – an additional IGA with ADOT must be executed for this use

STB may give preference to Applicants that can demonstrate either or both of these features

AZ SMART Fund Application

Section 1 of 5

Arizona State Match Advantage for Rural Transportation (AZ SMART) Fund Application

Application Due Date and Time: _____, 3:00 PM Arizona Time

To ensure an administratively complete application, please respond to all questions and submit all requested documents by the Application Due Date and Time.

Applicants may submit one Project per application. Documents required to be upload or information required to complete this application include the following:

1. AZ SMART Fund IGA approved by governing board or authorized individual (required only on first application to the AZ SMART Fund program)
2. Resolution or other document demonstrating the authority of the Authorized Individual to submit this application (if not addressed in the IGA).
3. Documentation evidencing the COG/MPO approval to apply to the AZ SMART Fund
4. A specific and concise description of the Project
5. Documentation showing the Project cost estimates (scoping document, cost estimation form, etc.)

Email *

- Google Form - online submission of responses and document uploads
- Three sections to complete:
 - Applicant information
 - Project information
 - Federal grant section, including:
 - Specific federal grant being pursued
 - Amount requested from AZ SMART
 - **% of match Applicant will provide on federal grant**
 - **Other entities Applicant will partner with and their contribution to Project**

AZ SMART Board Policy

Substantive provisions proposed:

- Provide awards during term of IJA (effected 11/16/21) to well-developed applications to help maximize successful ROI
- Allocate funds in each category as follows:
 - 10% for Grant Development and Submission
 - 25% for Match
 - 65% for Design and Other Engineering Services
- Board approves Application and Guidelines for each round
- Give preference to Applications as follows:
 - Based on percentage of matching cash funds provided by Applicant;
 - Partnership with other entities to deliver the project
- Require applicants to respond within 5 business days to inquiries
- Require applicants to execute IGAs within 120 days of Board award or federal grant agreement execution
- Require all awards to be subject to federal, state and ADOT laws and policies
- Allocate interest earnings to each category on a pro rata basis

AZ SMART Fund Webpage

ADOT

Link: Still in development

- Federal grant statutes
- USDOT Policy memo on implementing BIL
- Template SMART IGA
- Cost estimating tool
- PDF copy of application
- Application Guidelines
- This slide presentation
- Recorded webinar (to be scheduled)
- FAQs

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AZ SMART Fund

Grant Coordination Group **AZ SMART Fund** Local Partner Grant Support Frequently Asked Questions

Contact Us

AZ State Match Advantage for Rural Transportation (SMART) Fund

AZ State Match Advantage for Rural Transportation (SMART) Fund Pre-Application Form and Guidelines for eligible local public agencies.

- [AZ SMART Fund Application Materials](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

About the Program

The following information is a summary only - see the Application Guidelines, FAQs and Resources pages for further details.

The AZ SMART Fund was established by the Arizona Legislature in 2022 to assist certain cities,

Additional Information

- ADOT may not be able to administer some federal grants or may need to determine if it can administer
- Timing of NOFOs and the AZ SMART Fund process may not align and applicants may miss NOFO deadlines
- Match awards voided if federal grant is not awarded
- Information and tools on website are a courtesy only - Applicant is responsible for developing cost estimate, federal grant research, etc.
- Self-administration not currently available but may be allowed in the future if necessary to accomplish Project and ADOT approves

Next Steps

- Board decision regarding allow changes in scope, schedule or budget - will require further approval of STB and/or federal agency
- Board approval of Board policy, Application and Guidelines
- Board guidance regarding materials to be provided by staff and frequency of deliberations regarding SMART fund applications
- CFP - opening and closing dates determined
- AZ SMART website goes live
- CFP announced and AZ Smart application goes live
- Informational webinar for Applicants
- CFP closes; wait for NOFOs to be released

Questions