

# Community Investment Program (CIP)

## Questions & Answers

**Disclaimer:** These FAQs respond to general, non-specific questions about the CIP application and award process, specifically about eligibility criteria, application questions and processes, criteria for evaluating applications, and where to send questions. In order to be fair to all potential applicants, Amtrak will not answer specific questions related to individual applications or applicants, legal matters, what counts as a “good” project, or an application’s likelihood of success. If a question is not answered here and is a general question applicable to all applicants, please contact us at [cip.bptunnel@amtrak.com](mailto:cip.bptunnel@amtrak.com).

### General Questions

#### 1. What is the CIP?

The CIP is a key component of the overall B&P Tunnel Replacement Program (Program). It is a program under which Amtrak has agreed to invest \$50 million in certain types of projects that are located along the Program alignment during the construction of the Program. When the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) approved the Program’s Preferred Alternative in March 2017, it issued a Record of Decision (ROD) outlining mitigation measures that must be implemented during design and construction of the Program. These ROD requirements included the creation of the CIP.

#### 2. What are the CIP community grant eligibility requirements?

In order to be eligible to receive CIP community grant funds, organizations must:

- Be a nonprofit organization as defined by IRS code 501(c) or a city or state government agency with eligible projects;
- Propose projects within 1/4 mile of the Program alignment (1/2 mile for transportation projects); and
- Propose a project within one of the six CIP categories: Community Development, Parks and Recreation, Open Space, Transportation, Workforce Development, and Historic Preservation.

Please see the CIP Guide on the Program website for more details on each of the CIP eligibility requirements.

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### 3. How will the \$50 million CIP funds be spent?

CIP funds will be awarded via community grants and direct investments to eligible organizations, with eligible projects in eligible locations along the Program alignment. \$5 million of the \$50 million CIP funds have been committed to fund the Baltimore Workforce Hub and \$2.75 million has been committed to fund the Historic Preservation Grant Fund for rehabilitation projects in the Midtown Edmondson and Edmondson Avenue Historic Districts. For more information on the Historic Preservation Grant Fund, please visit the [Cultural Resources Mitigation](#) page on the Program website.

### 4. Can you explain direct investments in more detail?

In instances where eligible organizations meet all of the CIP eligibility requirements but either appear to be unable to directly manage grant funds or do not have the resources or infrastructure to manage the funds or a proposed project, Amtrak may elect to perform the project and manage the funds for the organization. An organization can indicate its desire to be considered for a direct investment in its community grant application and Amtrak may also make this determination on behalf of an organization. Amtrak makes the final decision on this matter. Please note that direct investments are not for funding applications that do not meet all of the CIP eligibility requirements.

### 5. What is the purpose of the \$3.5 million for “contingency” funds in the CIP?

Amtrak has set aside a portion of the CIP funds for contingencies, which allows us to be flexible in different CIP project categories in the event of unexpected changes or needs over the construction of the Program. As a condition of the ROD, all CIP funds must be invested by the end of Program construction, including contingency funds.

### 6. Why did the CIP not launch sooner?

Amtrak has been diligently working over the past several years to ensure that the terms, conditions, requirements, and guidelines of the CIP were such that the funds were awarded in compliance with federal requirements and could do the greatest amount of good within the City of Baltimore.

### 7. How have the CIP funds been spent to date?

To date, no CIP funds have been awarded. However, Amtrak has made two required commitments for portions of the CIP funds: the Workforce Hub in Baltimore and the

Historic Preservation Grant Fund for the Midtown Edmondson and Edmondson Avenue Historic Districts, as described above.

**8. Are any CIP funds being set aside for government agency projects? Or are nonprofit organizations competing with government agencies for the same funding?**

Amtrak has a goal of awarding 75% of the CIP funds in any given award cycle to nonprofit organizations and no more than 25% of the CIP funds in any given award cycle to City of Baltimore and/or State of Maryland government agencies, including quasi-governmental entities.

**9. Is Amtrak open to including an opportunity for community input? Did Amtrak consult with community or nonprofits when designing the CIP?**

As part of the CIP application process, Amtrak requires that all applications include statements of community support. Additionally, Amtrak considered community input and comments when developing the CIP. For example, instead of Amtrak identifying projects to invest in without community involvement, Amtrak developed a competitive grant program to solicit project applications from community and state/local government organizations. In addition, Amtrak requires applicants to show community support for their project proposal to ensure widespread benefit.

**10. Is the \$50 million CIP annual or one time only? Will there be multiple rounds of funding?**

Starting with the current Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Amtrak will issue annual NOFOs until the total \$50 million of CIP funds are depleted.

**11. Is there a minimum or maximum amount for proposals?**

The minimum CIP award amount is \$1,000 and the maximum CIP award amount is \$1,000,000 per NOFO cycle.

**12. Can you apply for both CIP Community Grant and the Historic Preservation Grant funds?**

Yes, an eligible organization can apply for both a CIP community grant and historic preservation grant. Note that the latter has very specific geographic restrictions.

### 13. What is the duration of the Program's construction? Will there be opportunities for more funding once the tunnel's construction is complete?

The Program's construction will take approximately ten (10) years to complete. CIP funds will be awarded annually over the term of the Program construction until all of the CIP funds are depleted. There will not be any additional CIP funding opportunities once the construction of the Program is complete.

### 14. Are CIP funds separate from funds that are used to keep the community safe from construction impacts?

The ROD requires Amtrak to have specific plans to address impacts of the construction and to keep the community and workers safe. These plans and related costs are completely unrelated to the CIP.

### 15. What is the FRA?

FRA stands for the Federal Railroad Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation that provides oversight, safety regulation, and federal funding to Amtrak.

### 16. Are the CIP funds subject to federal budget cuts? Or have they already been set aside?

The ROD requires the establishment of the CIP, and Amtrak has received prior approval from Amtrak's executive leadership team and the FRA for the \$50 million CIP budget.

### 17. How is Amtrak informing the community about the CIP?

Amtrak is using a variety of methods to inform the community about the CIP and annual funding cycles, including but not limited to: official press release and updates on Amtrak's Program website, direct emails to our Program listservs, announcing the CIP at public meetings being held by Amtrak, Amtrak hosted information sessions, and placing paper flyers at many community locations located along the Program alignment.

### 18. How will Amtrak assess the impact of the CIP? Will this differ between different project categories?

Each project will be individually assessed based upon its ability to meet its proposed scope of work, goals, and outcomes.

## 19. Is the environmental background information on the Program available somewhere?

Yes. The public can access all environmental background information and final reports on the Program website under “[Reports and Documents.](#)”

## Eligibility Requirements

### 20. How were the six CIP project categories selected?

The CIP project categories are based on the types of community impacts identified during the environmental review process that occurred prior to the finalization of the ROD and are now included in the ROD.

### 21. How was the geographic eligibility requirement for the CIP determined?

The ROD identified geographic eligibility requirements that focused on the areas of the community most impacted by the new Program alignment.

For the Historic Preservation Grant Fund, the [Programmatic Agreement \(PA\)](#) specifies the geographic eligibility.

Note that the organization’s permanent business address does not have to be located within the CIP boundaries to be considered an eligible organization.

### 22. How can I determine the geographic eligibility of my project?

Amtrak has provided a mapping tool on the [CIP webpage](#) to use to determine geographic eligibility.

### 23. Can organizations ask in advance if they are eligible to apply?

Amtrak has provided the eligibility criteria on the [CIP website](#) and has also done so within the current NOFO. It is up to each applicant organization determine its eligibility and to provide the required documentation proving eligibility as part of its application. Amtrak will not review applications prior to submission or provide specific guidance on an individual application, including whether or not the organization is eligible to apply.

**24. My organization or group would like to apply but does not hold its own 501(c) status. Can we still apply?**

Prospective applicants without formal, legal non-profit standing seeking to obtain a community grant through the CIP that otherwise meet the CIP eligibility requirements will need to partner with an eligible organization or an entity that can submit the application.

**25. Are 501(c)(3) Community Development Organizations the only type of nonprofit organization that can apply for CIP funds?**

Any organization with valid, legal 501(c) status per IRS guidelines can apply for CIP funds. Descriptions of all 501(c) organizations can be found on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

**26. Can an organization that has received funds in one CIP funding cycle apply for additional funds in subsequent CIP funding cycles?**

Yes, as long as an organization is current with and/or has met all the requirements of the funding agreement covering the previously awarded funds, it can apply for funds in subsequent NOFO cycles. This can be for similar projects as well as different projects.

**27. Can you further define “community development?”**

Per the ROD, examples of community development activities include economic development projects, installation of public facilities, community centers, public services, small business assistance, homeowner assistance, community broadband Wi-Fi internet access, and others.

**28. Can an organization that has a fiscal sponsor (with 501(c)(3) status) apply and if so, who would be considered the grantee (organization or fiscal sponsor)?**

While organizations can partner with other organizations to submit a CIP application and anyone in such partnership can draft the text of the application, only an eligible non-profit organization (or other eligible organization/entity) can sign and submit an application. The eligible organization that submits the application will be considered the grantee/awardee of the CIP funds if selected, will be required to enter into the funding agreement with Amtrak, and will be held accountable to Amtrak for compliance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement.

### 29. Can submissions use multiple eligibility criteria and project categories?

On the CIP application, Amtrak asks that applicants select one project category that best describes the overall project.

### 30. Will neighborhood boundaries be considered for a scattered-site impact project so that everyone within a given neighborhood can benefit?

To be eligible for a community grant, a project must take place within the eligible geographic boundaries of the CIP. These geographic boundaries are different from City neighborhood boundaries.

### 31. Does the project have to take 18 months to complete? Could it take 1 year? Or longer than 18 months?

A project can take up to 18 months to complete, but project durations may be less. Additionally, no-cost extensions may be considered on a case-by-case basis, at the sole discretion of Amtrak.

### 32. Is my neighborhood within the eligible geographic boundaries for CIP funds?

Amtrak has provided a mapping tool on the CIP page of the Program website where prospective applicants can insert specific addresses and see if such location is within the eligible geographic boundaries.

### 33. Can individuals or businesses apply for CIP community grant funds?

No. Only eligible organizations can apply for community grants. Please review the CIP eligibility criteria for more details. Individuals and businesses can partner with an eligible organization on project proposals, but the eligible organization must submit the application, will be considered the grantee/awardee, will be required to enter into the funding agreement with Amtrak and will be held accountable to Amtrak for compliance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement.

### 34. I have [insert project idea]. Does it qualify under one of the six project categories?

Please refer to the CIP Guide for a list of examples of each CIP eligible type of project. Ultimately, it is up to the applicant to select the appropriate project category that best

describes the project described in the application and make the case for why the project is eligible per the CIP requirements.

35. My organization is located outside of the CIP eligible geographic boundaries. Would our project still be eligible? Conversely, is my organization eligible if it is located inside the geographic boundaries, but the project is not?

The eligibility requirements are that the project must be located within, and serve the residents of the communities located within the CIP eligible geographic boundaries. The organization itself can be located outside of such boundaries.

36. Is Amtrak open to funding applications for new projects or just those for existing/ongoing projects?

Organizations may submit applications for either new or existing projects, as long as the projects meet the CIP eligibility requirements. Please note that for existing projects, the scope and benefits of the project included in the application must be clearly attributable to awarded CIP funds.

## CIP Community Grants Application Process

37. When can organizations apply for funding?

Please visit the [CIP webpage](#) for updates on the annual funding cycle dates and how to sign up to be notified of upcoming CIP funding opportunities.

The current CIP funding cycle will be accepting applications between March 23 and May 22 at 5pm Eastern Time on the [Amtrak Grants Portal](#).

38. Will Amtrak provide any sort of assistance to applicants?

Yes, Amtrak hosted information sessions to walk applicants through the application process, application requirements, and submission process. Amtrak has also dedicated CIP email address ([cip.bptunnel@amtrak.com](mailto:cip.bptunnel@amtrak.com)) and Program phone number (443-423-1115) where organizations can ask general questions. Please understand that Amtrak can only answer technical questions about the application and submission process and cannot answer questions about a specific application, organization, and/or project.

The 2026 CIP Community Grants Applicant Information Sessions took place on March 23 (virtual), March 25 (in-person), and April 11 (in-person). Please visit the website for full details. You can view the recording [here](#).

**39. Will there be a paper version of the CIP application or materials that organizations can use to apply? Can a Word document version of the application be made available?**

Only complete CIP applications submitted electronically through the Amtrak Grants Portal will be considered for an award. The CIP application template on the Amtrak Grants Portal is a Microsoft Word document, and applicants may print the application from the Amtrak Grants Portal to help them prepare to submit the application online. If internet and/or computer access is a concern, Baltimore's public libraries and recreation/community centers offer free resources. Likewise, any resource materials can be printed from the CIP website.

**40. What is the difference between the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grant Administrator?**

An AOR is the designated person with legal authority to sign and submit a grant application on behalf of an organization. A Grant Administrator acts as a liaison between the organization and Amtrak and is responsible for overseeing the grant lifecycle for an organization. An AOR can be both the AOR and Grant Administrator, though the Grant Administrator does not need to be the AOR.

**41. Is the organizational chart a required attachment? Or just to describe the organization's structure?**

In the CIP Community Grants Application document, an applicant needs to describe its organizational structure. Applicants do not need a formal organizational chart as long as the structure is clearly and accurately explained in the submitted application.

**42. Is there an expiration date for community support documents?**

No, as long as the support attachment is relevant to your current project then there is no expiration date for application support attachments. However, the more current the documents are, the more helpful and persuasive they will be.

43. Will the next CIP Notice of Funding Opportunity be announced about the same timeframe annually?

Yes, it is Amtrak's intent to issue an annual NOFO around the same time each year until the CIP funds are depleted.

44. I registered on the Amtrak Grants Portal - I heard something about a separate email that needs to be sent in addition to registering?

Please refer to the [Application QuickStart Guide](#) and/or the [Grants Portal Registration how-to video](#) for information on the CIP Resources document on the CIP webpage regarding the steps to applying for the Amtrak Grants Portal.

45. Is there any reason an Amtrak Grants Portal account would not be approved for registration?

No, there is no currently known reason an account would not be approved at this time.

46. Can different organizations apply for different projects serving the same site?

Yes. Please note that each project must have its own application.

47. If we already have a SAM.gov registration & UEI number, is there anything else we need to submit to Amtrak?

Applicants can use existing, valid SAM.gov registrations and UEI numbers for their CIP application.

48. If an applicant applies for multiple projects, can they apply for the max award for each project, or is the max award capped per applicant? Is there a lifetime cap on award amounts?

Each applicant can request the maximum award of \$1,000,000 per application regardless of how many applications any one applicant submits. An applicant can only apply for legitimate budgeted costs of a project. Further, it is expected that the project an applicant submits has independent utility, meaning that the project can be implemented on its own and deliver intended benefits on its own, even if other related projects/future phases are not implemented. There is no lifetime cap on the amount any one organization can be awarded over multiple funding cycles.

**49. For the historic preservation category, does the building require individual historic recognition, or does any building within the historic district qualify? Are the buildings on official historic preservation lists the only eligible projects under that category?**

Generally, under the National Historic Preservation Act, historic properties are defined as any “prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places, including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such a property or resource.” Buildings located within the boundaries of historic districts that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places need to be contributing buildings to the historic district; typically, this means they were built within the district's period of significance and retain integrity.

**50. Where can I get help with issues registering for or using the Amtrak Grants Portal and/or the SAM.gov portal?**

Please contact [cip.bptunnel@amtrak.com](mailto:cip.bptunnel@amtrak.com) with any issues regarding the Amtrak Grants Portal. Amtrak asks that you please provide a screenshot of the issue you are facing (if applicable).

For SAM.gov, please refer to the “Help” tab at the top of the SAM.gov website for assistance. Amtrak does not own or manage the SAM.gov portal.

**51. Can more than one state agency apply?**

Yes, more than one state agency may apply for CIP funds.

**52. Can you further explain “letters of support” and to whom they should be addressed?**

Applicants are required to provide evidence of community support for their proposed project. This could include but are not limited to documents such as formal letters of support, City-approved development plans, or signed petitions. If the applicant obtains written support for their specific application, that document may be addressed directly to Amtrak. Note however that past evidence of community support for the same project is also acceptable for submission for the CIP Community Grants.

### 53. Why are application components H & I optional?

Application component H only applies to organizations that engage in lobbying activities. Application component I consists of optional supporting documents that applicants may or may not choose to include in its application.

## Award Selection and Funding Distribution Processes

### 54. How will Amtrak ensure the evaluation process is fair and transparent?

Amtrak has developed standardized, objective evaluation criteria and a score card, both of which are shared for transparency and awareness in the CIP NOFO.

To avoid conflicts of interest when there are competing applications between different communities and organizations, community members are not a part of the application review committee. For this same reason, none of Amtrak's outreach team will evaluate applications either. Amtrak has assembled an independent, internal review committee comprised of Amtrak employees who will review and score applications. Employees are subject matter experts in various departments and have experience with other infrastructure projects in the region. These employees are not involved in the Program. Amtrak's conflict-of-interest and ethics policies will apply at all stages of the CIP, including eligibility review, application review, and award processes.

Finally, Amtrak will announce selected awardees at the end of each application cycle. By request, Amtrak can provide written feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

### 55. How will Amtrak ensure that smaller and/or leaner organizations will not be crowded out of the CIP selection process?

Amtrak has taken several steps to make the award selection process open to the greatest variety and sizes of organizations. Amtrak's goal is to award up to 75% of all CIP funds in any given funding cycle to eligible nonprofit organizations. All qualified and complete applications that are submitted before the deadline will be judged equally, regardless of the size or type of organization, based on the same evaluation criteria and scoring system.

**56. Funds are to be spent in 18 months, but what happens if that is not possible?**

Amtrak will evaluate each application in part on the actual proposed project timeline and scope. We encourage applicants to seriously assess what can be accomplished in 18 months and prepare accordingly so the funds can be spent within that time.

**57. Awarded community grant funds must be spent within 18 months of distribution. Must organizations seeking reimbursement for such funds do so within that same period? Also, do all project activities have to occur within that same time?**

Yes, organizations seeking reimbursement for expenses incurred for eligible project activities must submit the appropriate reimbursement documentation and forms within 18 months of the execution of the funding agreement. The funding agreement will indicate the start and end period of performance dates. Awardees will also be required to submit a formal 18-month schedule and scope of work prior to the commencement of the project as part of the funding agreement.

**58. Will Amtrak provide any sort of technical support for awardees?**

Amtrak has a dedicated CIP Administrator who will provide technical assistance to CIP awardees throughout the life of the CIP grant cycle. As part of its funding role, Amtrak is responsible for monitoring the programmatic and financial activities of awardees, as Amtrak has the responsibility to monitor activities to ensure the funds are used for authorized purposes and that performance goals are met.

For those awardees needing internet access or technological support, we encourage use of local resources such as the computer labs at public libraries and community centers.

**59. When will awardees be announced?**

Amtrak is currently anticipating announcing awardees for the March 2026 NOFO in September 2026.

**60. What are the reporting expectations for awardees?**

Specific reporting is required to demonstrate accountability and transparency by showing how CIP funds are used, to assess impact and progress, to meet legal obligations and funder requirements, and to secure future funding by building trust and highlighting

success. Please note that there may be special reporting requirements/provisions imposed on select awardees.

All awardees must submit the required monthly progress reports, quarterly financial reports, and a final progress report. Specific awardee reporting requirements will be defined in the funding agreement. Amtrak will provide technical assistance for reporting throughout the term of the funding agreement.

**61. Smaller organizations have less staff to do administrative work. The awardee reporting requirements will create more paperwork and burden such organizations. Can this be reconsidered?**

Since Amtrak is ultimately responsible for the proper use of federal funds, the reporting requirements cannot be changed. Amtrak will provide technical support throughout the CIP grant lifecycle to support awardees in complying with these requirements.

**62. Will certain types of projects be given priority for funding? Will organizations located within the geographic boundaries be given any sort of preference?**

Amtrak is not giving any priority and preference to any CIP category of project or to any eligible organizations based on location. All successfully submitted applications will be evaluated the same.

**63. Can an eligible organization submit multiple applications in one grant cycle? If so, should each project fit within a different project category? Can an organization win more than one award?**

An organization can submit multiple applications for multiple different projects, but each project must have its own application and must meet the CIP requirements. Applications can be across as many or as few different project categories as desired. An organization can be awarded more than one community grant in a grant cycle.

**64. Is there a scoring rubric available to applicants?**

The scoring rubric is included in the NOFO. Please refer to Table 2: Evaluation Criteria Scoring in the NOFO.

**65. Are grants awarded on a rolling basis? How long does the review take?**

Awards will be made once for each NOFO funding cycle. Amtrak will not review applications until after the NOFO closing date. Amtrak anticipates that the review will take approximately four (4) months to complete, with award announcements occurring in September 2026.

**66. How much money is being awarded in the first year? Will there be future funding cycles? Is there a chance that all \$50 million could be awarded this year?**

Amtrak intends to invest the \$50 million CIP budget over the construction of the Program, which is approximately ten (10) years. Amtrak plans to issue annual NOFO funding cycles until all CIP funds are depleted. While Amtrak desires to award roughly the same amount of funds during each NOFO funding cycle, Amtrak retains the final discretion in the total amount of awards made based on the number of applications, types, and sizes of eligible projects, amongst other factors, during a NOFO funding cycle. Amtrak will not award the entire \$50 million CIP budget amount in the first year of the CIP.

**67. Will there be an opportunity to appeal one's application score?**

Upon request, Amtrak will provide written feedback for unsuccessful applicants and encourages unsuccessful applicants to apply again in future funding cycles.

**68. How often can an awardee submit invoices for reimbursement? How long does reimbursement take?**

Typically, awardees may submit invoices for reimbursement on a monthly basis, unless other arrangements/agreements are made with Amtrak (this will be considered on a limited, per case basis) and memorialized in the funding agreement. In addition, reimbursement takes an average of sixty (60) days to process upon receipt of a reimbursement request with appropriate supporting documentation and backup.

Requests for quicker turnaround times for reimbursements will be considered on a case-by-case basis and memorialized in the funding agreement.

**69. If my organization applies, can we make sub-grantee awards?**

Federal flow-down requirements do not apply to individual CIP projects selected for award under the CIP. An organization that receives a CIP award may subcontract with other entities, though the relationship should not be considered subrecipient in nature.

70. If an applicant submits a certain budget amount and is selected as an awardee, does Amtrak reserve the right to alter the total award amount (up or down)?

Amtrak reserves the right to give partial awards in the event that a project application is selected but the project budget contains some ineligible expenses.

71. We are asked to choose the most fitting project category. Does Amtrak reserve the right to place projects in a category it views as most applicable?

If Amtrak feels strongly that a project fits in a different CIP project category than the one proposed in the application, Amtrak reserves the right to recommend a different classification and discuss such change with the applicant after the close of the NOFO and after an award decision is made.

72. Is there a match required for a grant award? For additional funding sources, will letters of commitment be necessary? Should we provide grants submitted, but not awarded?

Applicants are not required to have additional funding sources or provide letters of commitment for additional funding sources. However, an applicant may choose to include this information as a supplemental document to its application if it believes that such information would strengthen its application.

73. Are there penalties for referring to environmental justice, underserved or overburdened populations even though the designated areas are EJ communities?

Amtrak cannot provide advice on how to write your application. Please refer to the NOFO as a resource regarding the required contents of your application and what an application should include.

74. When CIP funding is awarded, does the 18-month execution period for all awardees begin on October 1st? Or can the awardee negotiate the 18-month project start date?

With respect to this current NOFO cycle, project timelines can vary but should not start before October 1, 2026. The exact start date will be agreed upon during the funding

agreement process. The earliest date a project may start is on or after the date of funding agreement execution (which will be no earlier than October 1, 2026). For existing projects, note that Amtrak funded scopes of work may also start no earlier than October 1, 2026.

**75. Will there be separate review processes based on organization or entity size?**

No. Amtrak will review all applications from all organizations and entities based on the same standardized evaluation criteria.

## Other Financial Questions

**76. If a total project is greater than \$1 million, is it better to break down the project and apply for the portion that the grant would fund?**

No. Only one application may be submitted for a project during a NOFO grant cycle. The total award for a project during a NOFO grant cycle may not exceed \$1 million. It is expected that the project an applicant submits has independent utility, meaning that the project can be implemented on its own and deliver intended benefits on its own, even if other related projects/future phases are not implemented.

**77. Do you have a list of eligible use of funds vs ineligible? Are operational funds for the current program eligible?**

An applicant may request that both operational and capital expenses be covered by a community grant as part of its application. The budget submitted should indicate the breakdown of capital and operational expenses. Further, the funding agreement executed between Amtrak and the awardee will include the approved project budget, which will define eligible activities that may be covered with CIP funds.

Prior to seeking reimbursement for project expenses incurred, awardees will be required to certify that their expenditures are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary per the approved project before seeking reimbursement from Amtrak, per the requirements included in the applicable Cost Principles (48 CFR Part 31 Subpart 31.2 or 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E).

**78. Are funds provided upfront to an organization, in tranches, or on a reimbursement basis? Is Amtrak willing to negotiate the cadence of payments?**

Community grants will be made available to awardees on a reimbursable basis. Typically, awardees may request reimbursement from Amtrak no more than once a month. However, Amtrak understands that the monthly reimbursement of funds may not be a viable option for some awardees. Payment methods will be negotiated during the funding agreement process on a case-by-case basis after awardees are selected, though it should be expected that the funds will be paid on a monthly reimbursement basis. Amtrak shall make the final decision on this matter.

**79. What is the "statement of financial position?"**

A Statement of Financial Position, commonly known as a balance sheet, is a core financial report that provides a snapshot of an organization's financial health as of a specific date. It lists assets, liabilities, and equity to show what a business owns, owes, and the owner's net worth. It is crucial for assessing liquidity, leverage, and overall financial stability.

**80. What counts as eligible or ineligible expenses? Are honoraria and/or salaries eligible expenses? What is the guidance on indirect costs?**

When determining proposed expenses to include in the grant application budget, the applicant should refer to the applicable Cost Principles (48 CFR Part 31 Subpart 31.2 or 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E).

Indirect costs are eligible project expenses. However, the applicant should keep in mind that the \$1 million grant award maximum cannot be exceeded, meaning both direct and indirect costs combined cannot exceed the \$1 million maximum project budget.

Honoraria and/or salaries are eligible expenses, provided that the costs are necessary for the performance of the project, allocable, and reasonable.

**81. If awarded this funding, does it count towards the federal single audit limit?**

Under 2 CFR 200, a non-Federal entity that expends \$1,000,000 or more in Federal awards during its fiscal year is required to have a single or program-specific audit conducted.

It has been determined that federal flow-down requirements do not apply to individual projects selected for award under the CIP. However, this does not release awardees from

single or program-specific audit requirements associated with other federal programs where they have received federal funds.

**82. Does Amtrak have a funding allocation target for each of the 6 categories (for this cycle or lifetime of CIP)?**

Amtrak intends to award CIP funds over the course of the Program construction until all CIP funds are depleted. Total awarded amounts are expected to stay roughly equal each year with room for flexibility depending on applications received each cycle.

**83. Since organizations can reapply in future cycles, can additional funds be related to the first project to help continue it?**

Entities that previously received a CIP award can submit applications under future NOFOs. However, any future application submitted must meet all CIP requirements and deliver benefits independently/have independent utility. Future application submissions should not ask for additional funding to complete previously awarded scope of works funded under prior CIP awards.

## **Workforce Hub and Workforce Development Questions**

**84. How would CIP community grants funding work for a workforce organization? Would the organization need to be located in the target area? Could participants only be in target area?**

Eligibility requirements are the same as for other CIP Categories – the workforce related project must serve residents in the eligible geographic area.

**85. Would a project submitted to the Workforce Development category have to be different than Amtrak's Workforce Hub?**

Amtrak's investment in the Baltimore Workforce Hub does not exclude other projects in this CIP Category.

**86. Can CIP community grants for workforce development projects be for skills training in fields other than construction?**

Yes, workforce development projects can be for skills in non-construction fields. The Baltimore Workforce Hub will focus on skills for jobs in construction-related trades.

**87. For workforce development projects, do the participants also need to be living in the catchment area or is it enough that the location of the training takes place within the geographic boundaries?**

Both. The training needs to take place within the eligible geographic boundaries and serve residents within those boundaries.

## Historic Preservation Grant Fund Questions

**88. What is the Historic Preservation Grant Fund?**

In accordance with the Programmatic Agreement (PA), developed in compliance with as a measure to mitigate for adverse effects to historic properties, Amtrak has established the Historic Preservation Grant Fund (Fund) with \$2.75 million for the purpose of providing direct financial assistance to individuals, for preservation projects within specific areas affected by the Program.

Specifically, the primary purpose of the Fund, as stated in the PA, is to support preservation projects involving exterior stabilization, repair, restoration, and rehabilitation of individual historic properties and contributing elements of the Midtown Edmondson and Edmondson Avenue Historic Districts located in Baltimore, Maryland.

**89. Why is the Fund only dedicated to two historic districts when there are other ones along the Program alignment?**

The ROD and PA require that \$2.75 million be set aside for historic preservation projects in the two historic districts experiencing the greatest percentage of properties demolished for the Program, the Midtown Edmondson and Edmondson Avenue Historic Districts.

However, organizations with historic preservation projects outside of those two identified districts can still apply for historic preservation projects through the community grants process.

**90. Must the administering organization be located in a historic building? If so, what qualifies as historic?**

No, the organization does not need to be located in a historic building to serve as the administrator.

**91. Which buildings qualify as historic?**

Historic properties are those that are either eligible or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These can be individual properties or properties that contribute to historic districts. The vast majority of the buildings within the Midtown Edmondson and Edmondson Avenue Historic Districts would be considered historic properties eligible for the Historic Preservation Grant Fund, but the fund intends to prioritize areas within these districts closer to the project's Limits of Disturbance. The specific list of properties contributing to the Edmondson Avenue Historic District is listed [here](#) and for the Midtown Edmondson historic District [here](#).

**92. When will the Historic Preservation Grant Funds be made available?**

We look forward to announcing applications for grant funds after an Administrator has been selected. We anticipate releasing further details in Fall 2026 or Winter 2027.