



# UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

*Many Traditions One Alaska*

## **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** **Summary of Key Provisions**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (sometimes referred to as IIJA or the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)) provides \$1.2 trillion for transportation infrastructure, transportation research, energy infrastructure, energy research and broadband infrastructure among other areas. You can review the bill text [here](#). The White House published a guidebook on opportunities that are or will be available through the law, which can be found [here](#).

The majority of funding provided in the law will be administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of the Interior (DOI). These federal agencies, including some of their component agencies, have created websites partially designed to inform the public about implementing various programs from the law. Below please find a link to relevant federal agency implementation websites.

<b><u>IIJA – Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation Websites</u></b>	
<a href="#">U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)</a>	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)</a>
<a href="#">Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)</a>	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)</a>
<a href="#">Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</a>	<a href="#">U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)</a>

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## **Finding Federal Funding Opportunities**

### **Federal Government-Wide**

- [Grants.gov](#) – general grant opportunities
- [SAM.gov](#) – grant and contract opportunities
- [FedConnect](#) – general solicitations and grant opportunities

### **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**

- [Grant Programs and Projects Website](#)

### **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)**

- [DOE Funding Opportunity Announcements and Grants](#)
- [Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy \(EERE\) Funding Opportunities](#)
- [EERE Funding Opportunity Exchange](#)
- [National Energy Technology Laboratory \(NETL\) Solicitations and Funding Opportunities](#)

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

- [EPA Grants Website](#)

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

- [Grants and Loans Website](#)

### **U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)**

- [Grants and Contract Opportunities Website](#)
- [National Telecommunications and Information Administration \(NTIA\) Grants Website](#)

### **Broadband Funding Opportunities**

- [Broadband USA General Website](#)
- [Broadband USA Grant Programs Website](#)

## Transportation Research Opportunities

### **Highway Research and Development Program**

The infrastructure law reauthorizes the Highway Research and Development (HRD) program, which provides formula funding to state departments of transportation to conduct research activities that address current and emerging highway transportation needs. Generally speaking, HRD can support research to improve highway safety; improve infrastructure integrity; strengthen transportation planning and environmental decision-making; reduce congestion, improve highway operations, and enhance freight productivity; and exploratory advanced research.

Congress provided \$147 million for each fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to support the HRD program, which is an increase of \$22 million annually.

*The Alaska DOT&PF will determine how these funds are spent including any matching requirements. It is recommend that UA universities contact Alaska DOT&PF if interested in the HRD program.*

### **Technology and Innovation Deployment Program**

The infrastructure law reauthorizes the Technology and Innovation Deployment Program (TIDP), which provides formula funding to state departments of transportation to support projects that accelerate the implementation and delivery of new innovations and technologies that result from highway research and development to benefit all aspects of highway transportation. Generally speaking, TIDP can support deploying research results and products from the HRD program; establish and carry out demonstration programs; provide technical assistance and training to researchers and developers; and develop improved tools and methods to accelerate adoption of proven innovative practices and technologies as standard practices.

Congress provided \$110 million for each fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to support the TIDP program, which is an increase of 42.5 million annually.

*The Alaska DOT&PF will determine how these funds are spent including any matching requirements. It is recommended that UA universities contact Alaska DOT&PF if interested in the TIDP program.*

### **Intelligent Transportation Systems Program**

The infrastructure law reauthorizes the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program, which provides formula funding to state departments of transportation to fund research, development, and operational testing of intelligent transportations aimed at solving congestion and safety problems, improving operating efficiencies in transit and commercial vehicles, and reducing the environmental impact of growing travel demand.

Congress provided \$110 million for each fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to support the ITS program, which is an increase of \$10 million annually.

*The Alaska DOT&PF will determine how these funds are spent including any matching requirements. It is recommended that UA universities contact Alaska DOT&PF if interested in the ITS program.*

**University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program**

The infrastructure law reauthorizes the UTC program without making significant changes. The [UTC](#) program advances transportation research and technology by awarding research grants to consortia of colleges and universities across the United States. Existing matching requirements will likely remain unchanged. However, the law does provide significantly more funding to support the program as outlined below.

	<b><u>FY 22</u></b>	<b><u>FY 23</u></b>	<b><u>FY 24</u></b>	<b><u>FY 25</u></b>	<b><u>FY 25</u></b>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$175 million</i>	<i>\$175.5 million</i>	<i>\$176 million</i>	<i>\$176.5 million</i>	<i>\$177 million</i>

DOT’s Office of Research, Development and Technology (RD&T) administers the UTC program. *UA universities should monitor funding opportunity announcements from RD&T if interested in competing for funding.*

**Transportation Resilience and Adaptation Centers of Excellence Program**

Sec. 13009 of the law requires DOT to competitively award/select 10 regional Centers of Excellence for Resilience and Adaptation, and one National Center of Excellence to serve as the coordinator for the regional centers, to receive grants to advance research and development that improves the resilience of regions to natural disasters and extreme weather by promoting the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure and infrastructure dependent on surface transportation. There is a 50 percent matching requirement under this program. Each center of excellence would receive at least \$5 million each year from FY 22 through FY 31. Congress provided \$100 million annually from FY 22 through FY 26 support this program.

Eligible entities are institutions of higher education and consortiums of nonprofit organizations led by an institution of higher education.

Eligible activities include development of new design, operations, and maintenance standards for transportation infrastructure that can inform federal and state decision making; research of new materials and technologies that could be integrated into existing and new infrastructure; development of and investment in new approaches for facilitating meaningful engagement in transportation decision making by local, tribal, regional, or national stakeholders and communities; workforce development and training; technology transfer; and education and outreach regarding transportation infrastructure resilience among other activities.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, it is likely that the program will be implemented similar to how the University Transportation Centers (UTCs) program operates. DOT’s Office of Research, Development & Technology (RD&T) seems like the most likely entity to be assigned to administer the program. *UA*

*universities should monitor funding opportunity announcements from RD&T if interested in competing for funding.*

### **Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment**

Sec. 13006(b) of the law requires DOT to award grants to eligible entities to deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment. It is unclear if there will be a matching requirement for this program but typically transportation projects require at least a 20 percent non-federal match. The law requires DOT to set aside for grants \$60 million annually from FY 22 through FY 26 to support this program.

Eligible entities are States; local governments; transit agencies; metropolitan planning organizations; or consortia of research institutions or academic institutions. DOT must award grants to not less than 5 and not more than 10 eligible entities each fiscal year. 20 percent of the amounts made available are reserved for projects serving rural areas.

Project criteria includes how the deployment of technology will improve the mobility of people and goods; improve the durability and extend the life of transportation infrastructure; reduce costs and return on investment including through optimization of existing transportation capacity; reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes and increase driver, passenger, and pedestrian safety; connect, disseminate, and use real-time traffic, work zone, weather, transit, paratransit, parking and other transportation-related information to improve mobility and reduce congestion; and accelerate the deployment of vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-infrastructure, vehicle-to-pedestrian, autonomous vehicles and other technologies among other activities.

The Administration has not yet released details about implementation of this program. However, the law essentially requires that the funds be administered through DOT's Office of Research, Development & Technology (RD&T). *UA universities should monitor funding opportunity announcements from RD&T if interested in competing for funding.*

### **Center of Excellence on New Mobility and Automated Vehicles**

Sec. 13006(c) of the law requires DOT to establish a Center of Excellence to collect, conduct, and fund research on impacts of new mobility and highly automated vehicles on land use, urban design, transportation, real estate, equity, and municipal budgets. The term new mobility is defined as docked and dockless bicycles; docked and dockless electric scooters; and transportation network companies. It is unclear if there will be a matching requirement for this program but typically transportation projects require at least a 20 percent non-federal match. Funding is subject to Congress providing appropriations.

DOT is authorized to enter into appropriate partnerships with any institution of higher education or public or private research entity.

The Administration has not yet released details about implementation of this program. However, the law essentially requires that the funds be administered through DOT's Office of Research, Development & Technology (RD&T). *UA universities should monitor funding opportunity announcements from RD&T if interested in competing for funding.*

### **Open Challenge and Research Proposal Pilot Program**

Sec. 13006(e) of the law requires DOT to establish an open challenge and research proposal pilot program under which eligible entities may propose open highway challenges and research proposals that are linked to identified or potential research needs. Research needs will be identified by the Secretary or Administrator of FHWA. It is unclear if there will be a matching requirement for this program but typically transportation projects require at least a 20 percent non-federal match. Funding is subject to Congressional appropriations and limited to no more than \$15 million for each fiscal years 2022 through 2026

Eligible entities include a State; unit of local government, existing University Transportation Center (UTC), a private nonprofit organization, and private sector organization working in collaboration with prior mentioned entities.

The Administration has not yet released details about implementation of this program. However, the law essentially requires that the funds be administered through DOT's Office of Research, Development & Technology (RD&T). *UA universities should monitor funding opportunity announcements from RD&T if interested in competing for funding.*

### **Open Research Initiative**

Sec. 25013 of the law requires DOT to establish an advanced transportation research pilot program to address research needs identified by the Secretary, Administrator of a modal administration of DOT, or an issues that the Secretary determines to be important. It is unclear if there will be a matching requirement for this program but typically transportation projects require at least a 20 percent non-federal match. Congress provided \$50 million annually from FY 22 through FY 26 to support this program.

Eligible entities include institutions of higher education, including a university transportation center; State agency; local government agency; nonprofit organization; and a private sector organization collaboration with any of the prior mentioned entities.

The Administration has not yet released details about implementation of this program. However, it seems likely that the funds will be administered through DOT's Office of Research, Development & Technology (RD&T). *UA universities should monitor funding opportunity announcements from RD&T if interested in competing for funding.*

## Transportation Infrastructure Opportunities

### **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants**

Sec. 11041 of the law requires DOT to designate alternative fuel corridors along national highway system corridors. Upon designation, the entities within the corridors are eligible for the two grant programs established under the law to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure, hydrogen fueling infrastructure, propane fueling infrastructure, and natural gas fueling infrastructure along designated alternative fuel corridors.

Established alternative fuel corridors for Alaska can be found [here](#). DOT will solicit nominations for additional alternative fuel corridor designations but applications must be submitted by the state. It appears the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) is the lead entity for vehicle charging efforts for the State.

The first grant program established is entitled the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program (NEVI). \$5 billion is provided over five years for NEVI grants. Under the [formula](#), Alaska will receive more than \$52 million in total federal funding. More information can be found at the FHWA website [here](#) and at the Joint DOE/DOT program office website [here](#).

The second grant program will be a nationally competitive grant program to further increase charging access in locations throughout the country, including in rural and underserved communities. Entities eligible to apply for grants include States; political subdivision of States; metropolitan planning organizations; unit of local government; a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function; an Indian tribe; a territory; an authority, agency, or instrumentality of any of the prior mentioned entities; and a combination of the prior mentioned entities.

Entities receiving grants under the nationally competitive program are only permitted to use the funds to contract with a private entity, which is defined as a corporation, partnership, company, or nonprofit organization, for acquisition and installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure, hydrogen fueling infrastructure, propane fueling infrastructure, or national gas fueling infrastructure that is directly related to the charging or fueling of a vehicle.

The law requires that 50 percent of the competitive grants be reserved for Community Grants. Eligible activities under Community Grants includes development phase activities such as planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting among others; and acquisition, installation and any related construction or reconstruction including acquisition of real property to expand access to charging infrastructure. The law requires the Secretary to give priority to rural areas; low and moderate income neighborhood; and communities with a low ratio of private parking spaces to households or a high ratio of multiunit dwellings to single family homes.

DOT is expected to announce further details about the competitive grant program later this year including how to apply.

Congress provided \$2.5 billion for the nationally competitive program to be available as follows:

\$300 million for FY 22; \$400 million for FY 23; \$500 million for FY 24; \$600 million for FY 25; and \$700 million for FY 26.

*If any UA university is interested in deploying electric, hydrogen, propane or national gas fueling infrastructure, it is recommended to work with the Alaska Energy Authority.*

### **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program**

Sec. 11405 of the law requires DOT to establish the PROTECT Program to support planning, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure. The PROTECT program will administer funding through a formula funding directly to state departments of transportation and several nationally competitive grant programs. Congress provided \$1.4 billion in total for the nationally competitive programs to be available as follows: \$250 million for FY 22; \$250 million for FY 23; \$300 million for FY 24; \$300 million for FY 25; and \$300 million for FY 26. It is unclear if there will be a matching requirement for this program but typically transportation projects require at least a 20 percent non-federal match.

The Alaska DOT&PF will be able to use formula grant funds for resilience improvements that protect:

- Surface transportation assets by making assets more resilient to current and future weather events and natural disasters including flooding, drought, wildlife, extreme temperature and earthquakes among others;
- Communities through resilience improvements and strategies that allow for the continued operation or rapid recovery of surface transportation system that serve critical local, regional, and national needs including evacuation routes; and provide access or service to hospitals and other medical or emergency service facilities, major employers, critical manufacturing centers, ports and intermodal facilities, utilities, and federal facilities;
- Coastal infrastructure, such as a tide gate to protect highways that is at long-term risk to sea level rise; and
- Natural infrastructure that protects and enhances surface transportation assets while improving ecosystem conditions including culverts that ensure adequate flows in rivers and estuarine systems.

For the following competitive programs, eligible entities are States; political subdivision of a State; metropolitan planning organization, unit of local government; special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function; Indian tribe; federal land management agency that applies with a State or group of States; and a combination of the prior mentioned entities.

*Competitive Planning Grants:* funds can be used for resilience improvement plans; resilience planning, predesign, design, or the development of data tools to simulate transportation disruption scenarios including vulnerability assessments; technical capacity building; and evacuation planning and preparation. Congress designated that from the total funding available for competitive programs the following amounts will be available for this program: \$25 million for FY 22; \$25 million for FY 23; \$30 million for FY 24; \$30 million for FY 25; \$30 million for FY 26.



*Competitive Resilience Improvement Grants:* funds can be used for 1 or more construction activities to improve the ability of an existing surface transportation asset to withstand 1 or more weather event or natural disaster, or to increase the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of changing conditions such as sea level rise, flooding, wildfire, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters. The bill provides 17 eligible activities as construction activities (details on PDF page 137). Congress designated that from the total funding available for competitive programs that the following amounts will be available for this program: \$175 million for FY 22; \$175 million for FY 23; \$210 million for FY 24; \$210 million for FY 25; and \$210 million for FY 26.

*Competitive Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants:* funds can be used for 1 or more projects that strengthen and protect evacuation routes that are essential for providing and supporting evacuations caused by emergency events. Congress designated that from the total funding available for competitive programs that the following amounts will be available for this program: \$25 million for FY 22; \$25 million for FY 23; \$30 million for FY 24; \$30 million for FY 25; and \$30 million for FY 26.

*Competitive At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants:* funds can be used for strengthening, stabilizing, hardening, elevating, relocating, or otherwise enhancing the resilience of highway and non-rail infrastructure, including bridges, roads, pedestrian walkways, and bicycle lanes, and associated infrastructure such as culverts and tide gates to protect highways, that are subject to, or face increased long-term future risks of, weather event, a natural disaster, or changing conditions, including coastal erosion, wave action, storm surge, or sea level rise, in order to improve transportation and public safety and to reduce costs by avoiding larger future maintenance or rebuilding costs. Congress designated that from the total funding available for competitive programs that the following amounts will be available for this program: \$25 million for FY 22; \$25 million for FY 23; \$30 million for FY 24; \$30 million for FY 25; and \$30 million for FY 26.

The Administration has not yet released details about implementation of this program. *If any UA university has an interest in these opportunities, it is recommended to work with the Alaska DOT&PF or other eligible entities.*

### **Healthy Streets Program**

Sec. 11406 of the law requires DOT to establish the Healthy Street Program to administer grants to eligible entities to deploy cool pavements and porous pavements and expand tree cover. The goals of this program are to mitigate urban heat island; improve air quality; and reduce the extent of impervious surface, stormwater runoff, flood risks, and heat impacts to infrastructure and road users. It is unclear if there will be a matching requirement for this program but typically transportation projects require at least a 20 percent non-federal match. Congress provided \$100 million annually from FY 22 through FY 26 to support this program.

Eligible entities are a State; metropolitan planning organization; unit of local government; Tribal government; and nonprofit organization working in coordination with one of the prior mentioned entities. Tribal governments specifically include Alaska Native tribes.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. *If any UA university has an interest in these opportunities, it is recommended to work with the Alaska DOT&PF or other eligible entities.*

### **Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program**

Sec. 11123 of the law requires DOT to establish a competitive Wildlife Crossings Pilot program that will provide grants that seek to achieve a reduction in the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions; and improved habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. In awarding grants, DOT must consider the project's educational and outreach opportunities and support for local economic development and improvement of visitation opportunities. It is unclear if there will be a matching requirement for this program but typically transportation projects require at least a 20 percent non-federal match. Congress provided the following amounts for this competitive program: \$60 million for FY 22; \$65 million for FY 23; \$70 million for FY 24; \$75 million for FY 25; and \$80 million for FY 26.

Eligible entities include a State highway agency; metropolitan planning organization; unit of local government; a regional transportation authority; Indian tribe; and federal land management agency among others.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. *If any UA university has an interest in these opportunities, it is recommended to work with the Alaska DOT&PF or other eligible entities.*

### **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program**

Sec. 11509 of the law directs DOT to establish a competitive Reconnecting Communities Pilot program that will administer planning grants and capital construction grants for purposes of restoring community connectivity by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development. This program will primarily award Planning Grants and Capital Construction Grants.

*Planning Grants:* funds can be used to evaluate the feasibility of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing eligible facility to restore community connectivity. Eligible entities for Planning Grants are States, units of local government, tribal government, metropolitan planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations. There is a 20 percent non-federal match requirement for Planning Grants program. Congress provided \$30 million annually from FY 22 through FY 26.

*Capital Construction Grants:* funds can be used for the removal, retrofit, or mitigation of an eligible facility or the replacement of an eligible facility with a new facility that restores community connectivity. There is a 50 percent non-federal match requirement for Capital Construction Grants. Congress provided the following amounts Capital Construction Grants: \$65 million for FY 22; \$68 million for FY 23; \$70 million for FY 24; \$72 million for FY 25; and \$75 million for FY 26.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. *If any UA university has an interest in these opportunities, it is recommended to work with the Alaska DOT&PF or other eligible entities.*

### **Alaska Highway**

Sec. 11116 of the law amends existing law to authorize DOT to providing for certain sections of the Alaska Highway, including sections in Canada, if the highway meets all applicable eligibility requirements. The sections mentioned are from the “Alaskan border of Beaver Creek, Yukon Territory, to Haines Junction in Canada and the Haines Cutoff Highway from Haines Junction in Canada to Haines, Alaska.”

The Administration has not released details about implementation. *It is recommended that any UA university contact Alaska DOT&PF to learn more.*

### **Construction of Ferry Boats and Ferry Terminal Facilities**

Sec. 11121 of the law reauthorizes [Ferry Boat Program \(FBP\)](#), which provides grants for the designing and constructing of ferry boats and for designing, acquiring right-of-way, and constructing ferry terminal facilities. Federal funding is allocated to states and eligible ferry systems based on a statutory formula. Congress provided the following amounts to support the FBP: \$110 million for FY 22; \$112 million for FY 23; \$114 million for FY 24; \$116 million for FY 25; and \$118 million for FY 26.

The Administration has not released details about implementation. *It is recommended that any UA university contact Alaska DOT&PF to learn more.*

### **Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program**

Sec. 11132 of the law establishes at DOT the Rural Surface Transportation Grants Program, which will award grants on a nationally competitive basis to eligible entities to improve and expand surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas. A rural area is defined as an area that is outside an urbanized area with a population of over 200,000. Generally speaking, there is a 20 percent non-federal match for eligible projects. However, if a project addresses a surface transportation infrastructure need identified for the Denali access system then no non-federal match is required. Congress provided the following amounts to support this program: \$300 million in FY 22; \$350 million in FY 23; \$400 million in FY 24; \$450 million in FY 25; and \$500 million in FY 26.

Eligible entities include a State; regional transportation planning organization; unit of local government; tribal government or consortium of tribal governments; and a multijurisdictional group of prior mentioned entities.

The types of projects eligible under this program include the contraction of a highway, bridge or tunnel; a highway safety improvement project to improve a high risk rural road; a project on a publicly-owned highway or bridge that provides or increases access to an agricultural, commercial, energy, or intermodal facility that supports the economy of a rural area; and a project to develop, establish, or maintain an integrated mobility management system, or on-demand mobility services.

The Administration recently published a notice of funding opportunity ([NOFO](#)) that includes information about this grant program among others. Applications must be submitted by May 23, 2022. *If any UA university has an interest in these opportunities, it is recommended to work with the Alaska DOT&PF or other eligible entities.*

**Denali Commission (Access System Program)**

Sec. 11507 of the law provides \$20 million annually from FY 22 through FY 26 for the [Denali Access System Program](#). This program supports the planning, design, engineering, and construction of road and other surface transportation infrastructure identified by the Denali Access Program Advisory Committee. Generally speaking, there is a 20 percent matching requirement for projects.

*UA universities should contact the Denali Commission to learn more.*

### **Critical Minerals Mining and Recycling Research**

Sec. 40210 of the law requires the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to establish two programs related to critical minerals mining and recycling. It is too early to tell if there will be cost sharing requirements associated with these programs.

*Critical Minerals Mining and Recycling Research and Development Program:* will award grants on a nationally competitive basis to support basic research that will accelerate innovation to advance critical minerals mining and recycling, and reclamation strategies and technologies. Eligible entities include institutions of higher education; national laboratories; nonprofit organizations; and consortia of eligible entities. Funding appears to be subject to future Congressional appropriations.

*Processing of Critical Minerals and Development of Critical Minerals and Metals Program:* will competitively award funding to finance pilot projects for the processing or recycling of critical minerals or the development of critical minerals and metals. It appears DOE will have flexibility in determining eligible entities. Congress provided \$100 million for each fiscal years 2021 through 2024 to support this program.

The Administration has not released details about implementation about these programs. *UA universities interested in these program should monitor DOE funding opportunities websites.*

### **Rare Earth Mineral Security Program**

Sec. 41003(b) of the law provides funding for DOE to implement the [Rare Earth Mineral Security Program](#). This program will award funding on a competitive basis to support research and development to develop and assess advanced separation technologies for the extraction and recovery of rare earth elements and other critical materials from coal and coal byproducts; and determine if there are, and mitigate, any potential environmental or public health impacts that could arise from the recovery of rare earth elements from coal-based resources. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program. Congress provided the following amounts to support the program: \$23 million for FY 22; \$24.4 million for FY 23; \$25.6 million for FY 24; \$26.6 million for FY 25; and \$27.8 million for FY 26.

Eligible entities will be determined by DOE, though it seems this industry will be a key player in this program.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, the law designates the DOE Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management to administer this program. It is likely that the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) will ultimately administer this program. Current information estimates applications opening in the first quarter of 2023. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor DOE and NETL funding opportunity websites.*

### **Critical Material Innovation, Efficiency, and Alternatives**

Sec. 41003(c) of the law provides funding for DOE to implement the [Critical Material Innovation, Efficiency, and Alternatives Program](#). This program will award funding on a competitive basis to support research, development, demonstration, and commercialization to develop alternatives to critical materials that do not occur in significant abundance in the U.S.; promote the efficient production, use, and recycling of critical materials, with a special consideration for domestic critical materials, throughout the supply chain; ensure the long-term, secure, and sustainable supply of critical materials; and prioritize work in areas that the private sector by itself is not likely to undertake due to financial or technical limitations. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements under this program. Congress provided the following amounts to support the program: \$230 million for FY 22; \$100 million for FY 23; and \$135 million for FY 24 and FY 25.

Eligible entities include federal agencies; national laboratories; critical material producers, processors, and manufacturers; trade associations; academic institutions; small businesses; nongovernment organizations; and other relevant entities or individuals.

The Administration has not released details about implementing this program. Of note, the law permits, does not require, DOE to administer the program through the [Energy Innovation Hub Program](#), potentially being administered by the [Critical Materials Institute](#) at the Ames National Laboratory. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor DOE and NETL funding opportunity websites.*

### **Clean Hydrogen Research and Development Program (Regional Hubs)**

Sec. 40313 of the law requires DOE to establish several clean hydrogen initiatives includes the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program; Clean Hydrogen Manufacturing Initiative; Clean Hydrogen Technology Recycling Research, Development, and Demonstration Program; and Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis Program. The Secretary of Energy is authorized to determine eligible entities. It is too early to tell if there will be cost sharing requirements associated with these programs.

[Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program](#): funds will support the development of at least four regional clean hydrogen hubs that demonstrably aid the achievement of the clean hydrogen production standard; demonstrate the production, processing, delivery, storage, and end-use of clean hydrogen; and can be developed into a national clean hydrogen network to facilitate a clean hydrogen economy. Congress provided \$8 billion to support this program, available through FY 26.

[Clean Hydrogen Manufacturing Initiative](#): funds will support research, development, and demonstration projects to advance new clean hydrogen production, processing, and delivery, storage, and use equipment manufacturing technologies and techniques. Congress provided \$500 million to support this program (available through FY 26) and the Clean Hydrogen Technology Recycling Research, Development and Demonstration Program.

[Clean Hydrogen Technology Recycling Research, Development and Demonstration Program](#): funds will support research, development, and demonstration projects to create innovative and

practical approaches to increase the reuse and recycling of clean hydrogen technologies. Congress provided \$500 million to support this program (available through FY 26) and the Clean Hydrogen Manufacturing Initiative.

*[Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis Program](#)*: funds will support the research, development, demonstration, commercialization, and deployment to improve the efficiency, increase the durability, and reduce the cost of producing clean hydrogen using electrolyzers. Congress provided \$1 billion to support this program, available through FY 26.

DOE is in the process of implementing these programs. [RFI's](#) was released seeking implementation feedback on the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program ([here](#)) and Clean Hydrogen Manufacturing, Recycling and Electrolysis program ([here](#)).

*DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) will be the lead agency implementing these programs. UA universities interested in these programs should monitor EERE funding opportunities website.*

### **Electric Grid Reliability and Resilience Research, Development, and Demonstration**

Sec. 40103 of the law directs DOE to establish two initiatives related to electric grid reliability and resilience – Program Upgrading Our Electric Grid and Ensuring Reliability and Resiliency; and Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas. These programs will awarded nationally competitive funding opportunities.

*[Program Upgrading Our Electric Grid and Ensuring Reliability and Resiliency](#)*: funds will support projects to demonstrate innovative approaches to transmission, storage, and distribution infrastructure to harden and enhance resilience and reliability; and demonstrate new approaches to enhance regional grid resilience, implemented through States by public and rural electric cooperative entities on a cost-shared basis. Eligible entities include States; combination of two or more States; an Indian tribe; unit of local government; and a public utility commission. Congress provided \$5 billion to support this program, available through FY 26. In general, at 20 percent match will be required under this program but there are exemptions.

*[Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas](#)*: funds will support projects in rural or remote areas (defined as an area that has a population of not more than 10,000 inhabitants) to improve overall cost-effectiveness of energy generation, transmission, or distribution systems; siting or upgrading transmission and distribution lines; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; providing or modernizing electric generation facilities; developing microgrids; and increasing energy efficiency. Congress provided \$1 billion to support this program, available through FY 26. It is too early to tell if there will be a matching requirement for this opportunity.

DOE's [Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations](#) will administer these programs. Applications for funding are expected to be open in the Fall of 2022. *UA universities interested in these programs should monitor DOE funding opportunities websites.*

### **Battery Processing and Manufacturing**

Sec. 40207 of the law establishes several programs at DOE to support projects for sustainable sourcing and processing of critical minerals used in battery production without new extraction or mining all the way through end-of-life battery collection and recycling. Eligible entities for these competitive opportunities are institutions of higher education; national laboratories; nonprofit and profit entities; State and local government; or consortia of eligible entities. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for these opportunities.

*Battery Materials Processing Grant Program*: funds will carry out 1 or more demonstration projects for the processing of battery materials; construct 1 or more commercial scale battery materials processing facilities; and retool, retrofit or expand 1 or more existing battery material processing facilities. Congress provided \$3 billion to support this program, available through FY 26.

*Battery Component Manufacturing and Recycling Program*: funds will carry out 1 or more demonstration projects for advanced battery component manufacturing and recycling; construct 1 or more new commercial-scale advanced batter component manufacturing or recycling facilities; and retool, retrofit, or expand 1 or more existing facilities for advanced battery component manufacturing and recycling. Congress provided \$3 billion to support this program, available through FY 26.

*Battery Recycling Research, Development and Demonstration Grants Program*: funds will support research, development, and demonstration projects that create innovative and practical approaches to increase the reuse and recycling of batteries. Congress provided \$60 million to support this program, available through FY 26.

The Administration has released an intent to issue funding opportunity announcement regarding some aspects of these programs. The intent to issue can be found through the EERE Funding Opportunity Exchange: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx>. *UA universities interested in these programs should monitor EERE funding opportunities website.*

### **Electric Drive Vehicle Battery Recycling and Second-Life Applications Program**

Sec. 40208 of the law directs DOE to establish a [program](#) of research, development, and demonstration of second-life applications for electric drive vehicle batteries that have been used to power electric drive vehicles; and technologies and processes for final recycling and disposal of the devices. Funds will be awarded on a nationally competitive basis. Congress provided \$200 million to support this program, available through FY 26.

Eligible entities for this program are institutions of higher education; national laboratories; nonprofit and profit entities; State and local government; or consortia of eligible entities. It is unclear if there will be any matching requirements.

Grants can be used to fund a variety of activities, including but not limited to, research, development and demonstration: to increase the rate and productivity of electric drive vehicle battery recycling; increase the efficiency of vehicle battery recycling and maximize the recovery of critical materials; expanded uses for critical materials recovered from batteries; and



improvements and changes to electric drive vehicle battery chemistries that include ways to decrease processing costs of battery recycling without sacrificing front-end performance.

The Administration has not released details about this opportunity. However, EERE will be administering the program. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Pumped Storage Hydropower Wind and Solar Integration and System Reliability Initiative**

Sec. 40334 of the law directs DOE to enter into an [agreement](#) with an eligible entity to provide financial assistance to carry out projects design, transmission studies, power market assessment, and permitting for a pumped storage hydropower project to facilitate the long-duration storage of intermittent renewable electricity. A matching requirement of 50 percent or greater is required under this opportunity. Congress provided \$2 million annually through FY 26.

Eligible entities including a political subdivision of a State; such as a municipally owned electric utility; instrumentality of a State composed of municipally owned electric utilities; electric cooperative; investor-owned utility; Tribal organization; State energy office; institution of higher education; and a combination of eligible entities.

The Administration has not released details about this opportunity. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor DOE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land**

Sec. 40342 of the law directs DOE to establish a [program](#) to demonstrate the technical and economic viability of carrying out clean energy projects on current and former mine land. The section defines “clean energy project” as a project that demonstrates one or more of the following technologies: solar; micro-grids; geothermal; direct air capture; fossil-fueled electricity generation with carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration; energy storage; and advanced nuclear technologies. The law directs DOE to select not more than 5 clean energy programs in geographically diverse regions and 2 of the projects are required to be solar projects. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this opportunity. Congress provided \$500 million to support this opportunity, available through FY 26.

The only eligibility requirements associated with this opportunity in the law are that applications must demonstrate that a technology on current or former mine land sites have a reasonable expectation of commercial viability.

It is likely that DOE’s [Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations](#) will administer this program. *UA universities interested in these programs should monitor DOE funding opportunities websites.*

### **Energy Storage Demonstration Projects**

Sec. 41001(a) of the law provides \$355 million, available through FY 25, to implement the [Energy Storage Demonstration and Pilot Grant Program](#). Under the nationally competitive program, DOE will enter into agreements to carry out 3 energy storage system demonstration projects. One project is required to demonstrate second-life applications of electric vehicle batteries as aggregated energy storage installations to provide services to the electric grid; and

one project is required to demonstrate the development of technologies for weekly or monthly durations, which have the capacity to discharge energy for 10 to 100 hours at a minimum, or for seasonal durations, which have the capability to address seasonal variations in supply and demand. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program.

Eligible entities include State energy offices; Indian Tribes; Tribal organizations; institutions of higher education; electric utilities; and private energy storage companies.

DOE's [Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations](#) will administer this program. Based on current information, applications are expected to open in the third quarter of 2022. *UA universities interested in these programs should monitor DOE funding opportunities websites.*

### **Long-Duration Demonstration Initiative and Joint Program**

Sec. 41001(b) of the law provides \$150 million, available through FY 25, to implement the [Long-Duration Demonstration Initiative and Joint Program](#). Under the nationally competitive program, the Secretary of Energy and Secretary of Defense are required to enter into a memorandum of understanding to carry out the Joint Program to demonstrate promising long-duration energy storage technologies at different scales; and to help new, innovative long-duration energy storage technologies become commercially viable. In selecting projects, the Secretaries must ensure regional diversity. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program.

It appears the Secretary of Energy and Secretary of Defense have authority to determine eligible entities but institutions of higher education are anticipated to be eligible.

The Administration has not released details about this opportunity. Based on current information, applications are expected to open the third quarter of 2022. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor DOE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Hydropower Research, Development, and Demonstration**

Sec. 41006(a)(1) of the law provides \$36 million, available through FY 25, for DOE to carry out a nationally competitive [program](#) of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application for technologies that improve the capacity, efficiency, resilience, security, reliability, affordability, and environmental impact, including potential cumulative environmental impacts, of hydropower systems. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program.

DOE will determine eligible entities but universities are anticipated to be eligible.

DOE's EERE will administer this program. Based on current information, applications are expected to open in 2022. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Marine Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration**

Sec. 41006(a)(2) of the law provides \$70.4 million, available through FY 25, for DOE to carry out a nationally competitive [program](#) research, development, demonstration, and commercial

application of marine energy technology. Funding can support a wide variety of activities, including but not limited to, technology development to improve components for power generation from marine energy resources; advance efficient and reliable integration of marine energy with the electric grid; and demonstrate and prove marine energy devices at a range of scales in a manner that is cost-effective and efficient. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program.

DOE will determine eligible entities but universities are anticipated to be eligible.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer the program. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **National Marine Energy Centers**

Sec. 41006(b) of the law provides \$40 million, available through FY 25, for DOE to award grants for the continuation or expansion of the [National Marine Energy Centers](#) program. Centers advance research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of marine energy technologies in response to industry and commercial needs; support in-water testing and demonstration; and collect and disseminate information on best practices in all areas related to developing and managing marine energy resources and energy system. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program.

Institutions of higher education are eligible for this program. Grants cannot exceed \$10 million per year per institution.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer the program. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Enhanced Geothermal Systems Pilot Demonstrations**

Sec. 41007(a) of the law provides \$84 million, available through FY 25, for DOE to carry out a [program](#) of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application for the technologies to achieve higher efficiency and lower cost enhanced geothermal systems. DOE has indicated that it will fund four pilot demonstration projects to be carried out in locations that are potentially commercially viable for enhanced geothermal systems development, while also considering environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program.

DOE will determine eligible entities but universities are anticipated to be eligible.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer this program. Based on current information, a funding opportunity announcement could be made Spring/Summer 2022. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Wind Energy Technology Program**

Sec. 41007(b)(1) of the law provides \$60 million, available through FY 25, for DOE to carry out a [program](#) of research, development, demonstration, and commercialization of wind energy technologies. Research subject areas include, but are not limited to, wind power plant siting, performance, operations, and security; new materials and designs; advanced win energy manufacturing and installation technologies and practices; and offshore wind-specific projects and plants. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program.

Eligible entities include universities; national labs; federal research agencies; state research agencies; Tribal energy development organizations; Tribal organizations; nonprofit research organizations; and an industrial entity.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer this program. Based on current information, applications are expected to be open the third quarter of 2022. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Wind Energy Technology Manufacturing Recycling Research, Development, and Demonstration**

Sec. 41007(b)(2) of the law provides \$40 million, available through FY 25, for DOE to carry out a [program](#) of research, development, and demonstration, and commercialization projects to create innovative and practical approaches to increase the reuse and recycling of wind energy technologies. Research will focus on increasing the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the recovery of raw materials from wind energy technology components and systems; minimizing potential environmental impacts; advancing technologies and processes for disassembly and recycling of wind energy devices; and developing alternative materials, designs, manufacturing processes and other aspects of wind energy technologies. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program.

Eligible entities include universities; national labs; federal research agencies; state research agencies; Tribal energy development organizations; Tribal organizations; nonprofit research organizations; and an industrial entity.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer this program. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Solar Energy Research and Development**

Sec. 41007(c)(1) of the law provides \$40 million, available through FY 25, for DOE to carry out a [program](#) of research, development, demonstration, and commercialization to improve solar energy technologies. Research subject areas include, but are not limited to, advanced solar energy technologies of varying scale and power production; solar energy technology siting performance, installation, operations, resilience, and security; integration of solar energy technologies; and advanced solar energy manufacturing technologies and practices.

Eligible entities include universities; national labs; federal research agencies; state research agencies; Tribal energy development organizations; Tribal organizations; nonprofit research organizations; and an industrial entity.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer the program. Based on current information, applications are expected to open in the third quarter of 2022. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Advanced Solar Energy Manufacturing Initiative**

Sec. 41007(c)(2) of the law provides \$20 million, available through FY 25, for DOE to carry out a [program](#) of research, development, demonstration, and commercialization projects to advance new solar energy manufacturing technologies and techniques. Priority will be given to projects that increase efficiency and cost effectiveness in the manufacturing process and use of resources; support domestic supply chains for materials and components; and identify and incorporate nonhazardous alternative materials or components and devices.

Eligible entities include universities; national labs; federal research agencies; state research agencies; Tribal energy development organizations; Tribal organizations; nonprofit research organizations; and an industrial entity.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer the program. Based on current information, applications are expected to open in the second quarter of 2022. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Solar Energy Technology Recycling Research, Development, and Demonstration Program**

Sec. 41007(c)(3) of the law provides \$20 million, available through FY 25 for DOE to carry out a [program](#) of research, development, demonstrations, and commercialization projects to create innovative and practical approaches to increase the reuse and recycling of solar energy technologies. Projects will need to focus on increasing the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the recovery of raw materials from solar energy technology components and systems; minimizing potential environmental impact; advancing technologies and processes for the disassembly and recycling of solar energy devices; and developing alternative materials, designs, manufacturing processes, and other aspects of solar energy technologies.

Eligible entities include universities; national labs; federal research agencies; state research agencies; Tribal energy development organizations; Tribal organizations; nonprofit research organizations; and an industrial entity.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer the program. Based on current information, applications are expected to open in the second quarter of 2022. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Industrial Emissions Demonstration Projects**

Sec. 41008 of the law providing funding for DOE to carry out a [program](#) of demonstration projects that test and validate technologies that reduce industrial emissions. The program will focus on industrial production processes; achieving emissions reductions in chemical production processes; leverage the principles of sustainable manufacturing; increase energy efficiency of industrial processes; and develop alternative materials that produce fewer emissions during production among other areas. It is too early to tell if there will be matching requirements for this program. Congress provided \$100 million in FY 22 and FY 23, and \$150 million in FY 24 and FY 25 to support this program.

Eligible entities including a scientists or other individual with knowledge and expertise in emissions reduction; universities; nongovernmental organizations, national laboratories; private entities; and partnership of eligible entities.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer the program. Based on current information, applications are expected to open in the second quarter of 2022. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites*

### **Wildfire Risk Reduction**

Sec. 40803 of the law provides \$3.3 billion to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a variety of programs related to wildlife risk reduction. Of note, this section provides \$20 million for the [Joint Fire Science Program](#), \$10 million to DOI and \$10 million to USDA.

Funding should be administered through the Joint Fire Science Program [Funding Opportunity Announcements \(FOAs\)](#).

### **Earth Mapping Resources Initiative**

Sec. 40201 of the law requires the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to establish the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative to complete an initial comprehensive national modern surface and subsurface mapping and data integration effort to better understand our domestic and mineral resources. Congress provided \$320 million to support the Initiative, available through FY 26.

The law authorizes, but does not require, USGS to enter into cooperative agreements with State geological surveys to complete the initiative.

*UA institutions should contact the [USGS Alaska Science Center](#) or [Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys](#) at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for more information about potential opportunities.*

### **Water Resources Research Act Amendments**

Sec. 50221 of the law amends existing law to authorize the Department of the Interior to make matching grants to support the Water Resources Research Institutes and reauthorizes the program through FY 25. *This only impacts UAF's Water and Environmental Research Center. Implementation details should be available by USGS.*

## **Energy Infrastructure Opportunities**

### **State Energy Program**

Sec. 40109 of the law provides \$500 million for the State Energy Program (SEP). Each state receives an allocation of funding and proposes how to use funds. SEP can fund a wide variety of energy related projects and the State has tremendous flexibility in administering the funds.

The Administration has not released details about distribution of funds and implementation of this program. It is likely that the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) will administer these funds. *UA institutions should contact AEA for additional information.*

### **Infrastructure Planning for Micro and Small Modular Nuclear Reactors**

Sec. 40321 of the law directs DOE to submit a report to Congress that describes how the Department could enhance energy resilience and reduce carbon emissions with the use of micro-reactors and small modular reactors; and authorizes DOE to offer financial and technical assistance to entities to conduct feasibility studies for the purpose of identifying suitable locations for the deployment of micro-reactors, small modular reactors, and advanced nuclear reactors in isolated communities. The term “isolated communities” means a community that is powered by a stand-alone electric generation and distribution system without the economic and reliability benefits of connection to a regional electric grid.

This section does not define eligible entities and does not specify how much financial assistance is made available. The law does say that not more than 50 percent of funding for financial assistance can be awarded to National Laboratories.

The Administration has not released details about this opportunity. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor DOE funding opportunity websites.*

### **State Manufacturing Leadership**

Sec. 40534 of the law directs DOE to administer competitive grants to States for establishing programs to be used as models for supporting the implementation of smart manufacturing technologies. States can use funds to facilitate access to high-performance computing resources for small and medium manufacturers; and provide assistance to small and medium manufacturers to implement smart manufacturing technologies and practices. A 30 percent matching requirement is required for this program. Grants are limited to \$2 million per award. Congress provided \$50 million for this program, available through FY 26.

The Administration has not released details about this opportunity. It is likely that the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) will serve as the lead applicant, if the State applies. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should contact AEA for more information.*

### **Energy Efficiency Materials Pilot Program**

Sec. 40542 of the law directs DOE to establish a pilot program to competitively award grants for the purpose of providing nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency materials. “Nonprofit buildings” are defined as buildings operated and owned by an organization that is a 501(c)(3) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) if IRS code. The term “energy-efficiency materials”

includes a roof or lighting system or component of the system; a window; a door, including a security door; and a heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system or component of the system that results in a reduction of energy or fuel. Grants are limited to \$200,000 per award. It is too early to tell if there will be any matching requirements under this program. Congress provided \$50 million for this program, available through FY 26.

It is possible that universities will be eligible entities under this program. However, this program is likely to be highly competitive.

DOE's EERE will administer this program. Current information estimates applications opening in the first quarter of 2023. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*



## Workforce Development Opportunities

### **Transportation Workforce Development, Training, and Education**

Sec. 13007 of the law amends existing law to enable State DOTs to obligate apportioned federal funding to support a variety of workforce development activities, including but not limited to:

- Tuition and direct educational expenses, excluding salaries, in connection with the education and training of employees of State and local transportation agencies;
- Employee professional development;
- Student internships;
- Pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, and career opportunities for on-the-job training;
- University, college, community college, or vocational school support;
- Education activities, including outreach, to develop interest and promote participation in surface transportation careers; and
- Activities associated with workforce training and employment services, such as targeted outreach and partnerships with industry, economic development organizations, workforce development boards, and labor organizations.

*UA universities interested in supporting educational activities of the transportation workforce should contact the Alaska DOT&PF or their location transportation agency.*

### **Energy Auditor Training Grant Program**

Sec. 40503 of the law establishes a competitive grant [program](#) at DOE to award grants to eligible States to train individuals to conduct energy audits or surveys of commercial and residential buildings. Funds can be used to cover any costs associated with individuals being trained or certified to conduct energy audits by the State or a State-certified their party training program. Grants cannot exceed \$2 million for any State. Congress appropriated \$40 million for this program to be administered from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

*It is likely that the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) would be the lead applicant for this program. UA universities interested in this opportunity should contact AEA.*

### **Career Skills Training**

Sec. 40513 of the law establishes a competitive grant [program](#) at DOE to award grants to eligible entities to pay the federal share associated with career skills training programs under which students concurrently receive classroom instruction and on-the-job training for the purposes of obtaining an industry related certification to install energy efficient buildings technologies. This program requires a 50 percent match. Congress provided \$10 million in FY 22 to support this program.

Eligible entities is defined as a nonprofit partnership that includes equal participation of industry, including public or private employers, and labor organizations, including joint labor-management training programs; may include workforce investment boards, community-based organizations, qualified service and conservation corps, educational institutions, small

businesses, cooperative, State and local veterans agencies; and veterans service organizations among other requirements.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, DOE's EERE will administer the program. Based on current information, applications are expected to open in the first of 2023. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor EERE funding opportunity websites.*

### **Water Infrastructure and Workforce Investment**

Sec. 50211 of the law authorizes \$5 million annually from FY 22 through FY 26 for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a competitive grant program to assist the development and utilization of innovative activities related to workforce development and career opportunities in the water utility sector. Activities may include recruitment, including the promotion of diversity within that recruitment, of individuals to careers in water and wastewater utility sector; and expanding the availability of training opportunities for individuals entering into the water and wastewater utility sector, and individuals seeking to advance careers within the water and wastewater utility sector among others.

Eligible entities include community colleges, universities, nonprofit professional or services organizations, or other training and educational institutions.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. However, background on the program can be found EPA's Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program [website](#). *Future funding opportunities should be made available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).*

## **Broadband Infrastructure**

### **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program**

Sec. 60102 of the law provides \$42.5 billion for States to utilize broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects. Each state shall receive at least \$100 million under this program. The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will administer this program.

*NTIA has begun to implement this program. More information about implementation activities can be found [here](#). The State of Alaska will need to take the lead on all aspects of applying for and administering BEAD program funding.*

### **Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program**

Sec. 60401 of the law provides \$1 billion for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure. The purpose of the grant program is to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the Internet. Funds will be awarded through a national competition. The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will administer this program.

Eligible applicants includes States, political subdivisions of a State, tribal governments, technology companies, electric utilities, utility cooperative, public utility districts, telecommunications companies, telecommunications cooperative, nonprofit foundations, nonprofit corporations, nonprofit institutions, nonprofit associations, regional planning councils, Native entities, and economic development authorities.

*NTIA has begun to implement this program. More information about implementation activities can be found [here](#).*

### **Digital Equity Act Programs**

Sections 60301- 60306 of the law provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital inclusion and equity to ensure that all individuals and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy. The goal of these programs is to promote the meaningful adoption and use of broadband services across low-income households, aging populations, incarcerated individuals, veterans individuals with disabilities, individuals with language barrier, racial and ethnic minorities, and rural inhabitants. The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will administer this program.

*State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program: Congress provided \$60 million in formula grant funding for states and territories to develop digital equity plans.*

*State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program:* Congress provided \$1.44 billion in formula grant funding for states and territories to implement digital equity projects and support the implementation of digital equity plans.

*Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program:* Congress provided \$1.25 billion for competitive grants to implement digital equity projects. Eligible applicants include specific types of political subdivisions, or instrumentality of a state; tribal governments; nonprofit entities; community anchor institutions; local educational agencies; and entities that carry out workforce development programs.

*NTIA has begun to implement these programs. More information about implementation activities can be found [here](#).*

### **Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program**

The infrastructure law provides \$2 billion in appropriations to support the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants program](#). This program administered grants and loans on a competitive basis to help rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density.

Eligible applicants include most State and local governments; federally-recognized tribes; nonprofits; for-profit businesses; and consortia of eligible entities.

The Administration has not released details about implementation of this program. *UA universities interested in this opportunity should monitor the program website linked above and [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).*