

2027 Planning Sustainable Places (PSP) Program Frequently Asked Questions



Q: Are any of the following items eligible for PSP funds: land assembly, land acquisition, construction of infrastructure/buildings, administrative costs, or construction design documents?

A: The Planning Sustainable Places Program is for planning activities only. As such, any pre-construction activities, including construction design documents, are not eligible. The other items listed above are also not eligible. See the PSP guidebook on the Call's home page for examples of eligible activities: [Visit the Planning Sustainable Places Guidebook.](#)

Q: Are school districts and non-profits, such as the Kansas City Regional Transit Alliance, eligible to apply?

A: No, although the 2012 PSP program allowed for entities other than local jurisdictions or transportation agencies to apply, the 2027 can only receive applications from government entities.

Q: Must studies include a transportation focus?

A: Yes. The 2027 Planning Sustainable Places Program is fully funded with Kansas and Missouri Surface Transportation Program funds and, therefore, must include a strong tie to transportation. We are seeking studies that successfully integrate transportation, environmental and land use planning.

Q: Can an applicant conduct the planning work on his or her own?

A: No. Grant recipients are not funded directly. A competitive process for the procurement of a consultant will be required for each funded study.

Q: Is the solicitation limited to the corridors and activity centers identified on the regional maps provided by MARC?

A: No. Studies outside the identified corridors and activity centers are eligible to apply, but studies located in identified corridors and activity centers will receive more points than those located elsewhere.

Q: Is there a specific timeframe in which the studies must be completed?

A: There isn't a specific timeframe, but most studies are typically completed within 18 months or less which would be the end of the second quarter of 2028. There have been a few larger studies, though, that required 24 months.

Q: When do matching funds need to be made available?

A: Matching funds need to be available at the time of contract initiation. This is a reimbursement program.

Q: If a consultant assists a project sponsor with an application, does this preclude the consultant from competing for the study?

A: No. A consultant who assists a project sponsor with an application is eligible to compete for the study if the study is awarded federal funds.

Q: If an application includes greater than the required minimum 20 percent non-federal cash match from outside sources such as a private entity; can the over-match go toward administrative costs?

A: The program requires a minimum non-federal match of 20 percent. Additional non-federal cash matching resources can be referenced in the application and utilized, however the applicant chooses, but only the actual non-federal cash match will count toward the federal matching requirement and the points awarded for overmatching.

The rationale for the requirement is as follows:

- We anticipate the program will be competitive, and a direct non-federal cash match will help ensure the limited resources that are available go as far as possible and result in the greatest number of funded studies.
- The requirement for a direct local financial commitment will help ensure there is a strong level of local support and commitment from proposing sponsors, and that these studies are positioned for timely completion and, ultimately, implementation.
- The requirement that project sponsors support study administration activities outside of the grant helps to ensure that program resources are directed toward the development of actual plan products and deliverables, and helps ensure a strong local commitment, while also stretching the dollars to a greater number of studies.
- The program is funded through federal surface transportation funds. Per state requirements, direct non-federal cash match is required to support these federal funds.

Q: Can federal match currently being utilized for another project count toward the match requirement for the PSP Program?

A: No, other federal match cannot be used as match for the PSP Program.

Q: Is there a space limit for responses?

A: Yes, many of the questions have maximum character counts.

Q: Why can't the project sponsor conduct the planning work?

A: The federal funds utilized for the program require that a "full and open" competitive (48 CFR part 6) approach be utilized to select consulting assistance. The Planning Sustainable Places Call for Studies that is currently underway, while competitive, is only comparing the study proposals against one another and is not structured to assess the specific qualifications and/or complete requirements of the proposing sponsor. A competitive selection process provides public assurance that funds are spent wisely and judiciously, and that fully qualified and capable firms are selected to complete the work.

Q: Can Census Bureau data be used to substantiate hidden areas of persistent poverty and historically disadvantaged community populations?

A: Yes, Census Bureau data may be used to substantiate hidden areas of persistent poverty and historically disadvantaged community populations.

Q: Can CDBG funds be used as the local match?

A: Yes, CDBG funds may be used as local match for a Planning Sustainable Places project.

Q: Under the Community Improvement District Act, Community Improvement Districts are defined as political subdivisions, similar to cities. Are Community Improvement Districts eligible entities?

A: Community Improvement Districts may apply for Planning Sustainable Places funding, but we require that a letter of support from the relevant cities or counties be included as an attachment to the application.

Q: Can in-kind matches be considered towards the 20% match?

A: No, matches must be cash matches.

Q: Will the presentation from the Call for Studies Workshop be shared?

A: Yes, the presentation will be posted to the application home page. Visit the [Planning Sustainable Places Call for Studies Page](#).

Q: Do local cash matches have to be from local governments? Can match come from qualified agencies such as Port KC, KCATA, etc., community non-profits or local community stakeholders? Can match come from multiple sources?

A: Yes, match can come from multiple sources. You can't use other federal funds for local cash match. We have had a number of studies where entities other than the sponsor have provided local match towards a study.

Q: For questions that ask about layer data, do the responses need to rely only on MARC's data or can city data supplement or be used instead?

A: Assuming this is in relation to page 2 of the application. You can provide additional information but we would like you to provide responses in relation to that data. If you have more specific information that isn't captured in those layers, please feel free to include it. It just helps to help fill out the details for the study area.

Q: Is a Community Improvement District concerned a government entity given it collects tax dollars?

A: We do consider them a government entity and we have had them partner with a local jurisdiction.

Q: Just trying to align different fiscal years, is there a particular month when the local match would need to be paid?

A: It depends on when the RFP is released. I would anticipate 15-17 studies so 15-17 RFPs with the first set of three released at the beginning of October. We will work with you to determine when to release the RFP so that it works best with your schedule and can accommodate your fiscal year. We can break the match into installments if that works better with your fiscal year. Basically, we'll work with you on the match payment.

Q: Is there a way to determine how much we need to request?

A: The Planning Sustainable Places Hub has a Project Explorer, [visit the Project Explorer](#), that provides access to the previous studies and see what the budget amount was for each study along with a breakdown of the federal funds and local match. You can look at the studies and see what the deliverable was for that budget amount.

Q: You can't use other federal funds, but can you use CDBG funds?

A: We have accepted CDBG funds previously for local match.

Q: Could you explain scalable?

A: So with scalable, we are trying to understand if you take less money than how will that impact the proposed scope of work. Also, in the Guidebook we provide an explanation for each of the questions to help you understand what we are trying to understand.

Q: Is a sponsor limited to only a single application?

A: No, sponsors are not limited to a single application. You should be prepared to provide a priority ranking of the applications if you have more than one.