



## MARAD Discretionary Grant Opportunity

# Port Infrastructure Development Program

The Port Infrastructure Development Program provides a federal funding opportunity to improve safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. The program is administered by the Maritime Administration (MARAD).

This document provides a summary of the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) issued by MARAD on May 2, 2025.

## Changes to the FY 2025 NOFO

- Removes references to rescinded Executive Orders
- Updates rating rubrics for the statutory merit criteria to better align with new Executive Orders
- Includes \$50 million in additional funding appropriated by Congress for FY 2025
- Requires PIDP large project applicants, if applying to use a PIDP grant to acquire digital infrastructure or a software component, to ensure that they have a plan to address the cybersecurity risks of digital infrastructure or software

## Eligible Capital Projects

Eligible projects may be within the boundary of a port. It can also be outside the boundary of a port and directly related to port operations or to an intermodal connection to a port and improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of:

- The loading and unloading of goods at a port;
- The movement of goods into, out of, around or within a port
- Operational improvements at a port
- Environmental and emissions mitigation measures
- Infrastructure that supports seafood and seafood-related businesses or
- Planning, environmental review and final design of eligible projects.

## Ineligible Projects

Projects ineligible for PIDP funding include:

- Improvements to federally owned facilities
- Construction, reconstruction, reconditioning, or purchase of a vessel or any project within a small shipyard (unless determined otherwise by USDOT)
- Channel improvements or harbor deepening that are part of a federally maintained navigation channel or an access channel associated with a federal channel
- This program will not fund construction, reconditioning, or purchase of a vessel, unless the Secretary determines such vessel is necessary for a project and is not already receiving assistance under 46 U.S.C. chapter 537.



### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

#### Applications Due:

September 10,  
2025 11:59 p.m.  
EDT

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Summaries:



May 7, 2025





- Previously incurred costs or previously expended or encumbered funds towards the matching requirement for any project prior to MARAD's announcement of project selections, *except* for certain costs related to a small project at a small port
- PIDP funds may not be used to support or oppose union organizing
- Purchase or installation of:
  - Fully automated cargo handling equipment
  - Terminal infrastructure that is designed for fully automated cargo handling equipment.

## Eligible Planning Projects

Eligible uses of planning funds include:

- Planning
- Feasibility Analysis
- Revenue Forecasting
- Environmental Review
- Permitting
- Preliminary Engineering and Design Work
- Development of Master Plans
- Electrification Master Planning
- Emergency of Major Disaster Planning

Under the FY 2025 PIDP, right of way acquisition is considered a capital project and should include a timeline for construction.

MARAD may consider eligible pre-construction costs toward the non-federal cost-share requirement if incurred after the date of application submittal. An application may include components carried out by entities other than the applicant.

Although an activity may not include federal funding, MARAD requires all project components to be clearly described and presented. MARAD may award funds for a component, instead of the larger project.

## Funds Available, Award Size and Matching Requirements

A total of \$500 million in funding is available to be awarded, including an additional \$50 million appropriated by Congress in FY 2025. [Please see the NOFO](#) for additional details on each funding stream.

The program has the following funding requirements:

- **Small Projects at Small Ports:** At least 25% of funding, which is \$125 million, with a maximum award size of \$11.25 million
- **Coastal seaports or Great Lakes Ports:** At least \$42 million of funding made available under the FY 2025 Appropriations Act
- **Per State:** No more than 25% of funding, which is \$125 million
- **Planning Projects:** No more than 10% of funding reserved for Small Projects at Small Ports. No more than 10% of funding reserved for large projects

## Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible to apply for funding through this program:

- A state
- A political subdivision of a state, or a local government
- A public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more states
- A special purpose district with a transportation function
- An Indian Tribe, or a consortium of Indian Tribes
- A multistate or multijurisdictional group of entities described above
- A lead entity described above jointly with a private entity or group of private entities, including the owners or operators of a facility, or collection of facilities at a port



## Evaluation Criteria

MARAD will evaluate applications to determine technical merit and project benefits.

### Merit Criteria

- Achieving safety, efficiency, or reliability improvements
- Supporting economic vitality at the regional or national level
- Leveraging federal funding to attract non-federal sources of infrastructure investment
- Port resilience
- Workforce development and job quality
- Project readiness
- Technical capacity
- NEPA process and permitting risk

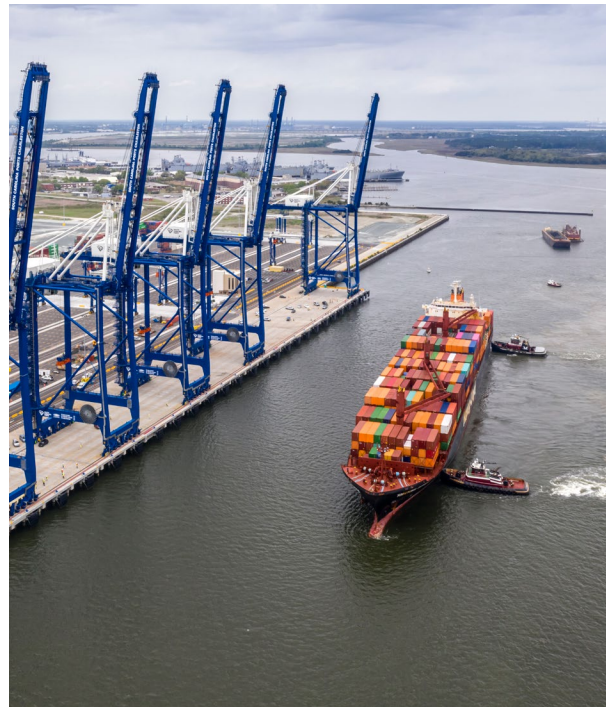
## Application Requirements

The following sections must be included in the application submission:

- Project narrative not to exceed 30 pages
- Benefit-cost analysis for most large projects
- Supporting documentation, as applicable
- Funding commitment supporting documentation
- Standard forms as identified in the NOFO

### Applications are due by

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 11:59 pm ET**



**Your Infrastructure Finance and grant writing professionals stand by ready to support project sponsors applying for funding from the Port Infrastructure Development Program.**

**If you need any assistance or have questions, please contact:**

**Nathan Macek** | [nathan.macek@hdrinc.com](mailto:nathan.macek@hdrinc.com) | **Kevin Keller** | [kevin.keller@hdrinc.com](mailto:kevin.keller@hdrinc.com) | **Mathew Olson** | [mathew.olson@hdrinc.com](mailto:mathew.olson@hdrinc.com)

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