



Fiscal Year 2023 Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Grant Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can any local educational agency apply for one of these construction grants?

No, only those local educational agencies (LEAs) eligible for Impact Aid under Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are eligible to apply. There are also other [eligibility requirements](#) that further limit the applicants for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 competition.

2. Can my school apply for a grant?

No, only eligible LEAs may apply. Your LEA's authorized representative must sign the application. Applications from individual schools, individuals, or other entities will not be reviewed.

3. Does Build America Buy America Act (BABAA) apply to this grant?

Yes, this program is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (Pub. L. 117-58) domestic sourcing requirements. Accordingly, grantees and their contractors may not use their grant funds for infrastructure projects or activities unless—

- (a) All iron and steel used in the infrastructure project or activity are produced in the United States;
- (b) All manufactured products used in the infrastructure project or activity are produced in the United States; and
- (c) All construction materials are manufactured in the United States.

For more information, see the Department's Build America Buy America website at:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/buy-america/index.html>. Grantees may request a waiver for these requirements, but **do not assume a waiver request will be granted when creating your cost estimate.**

4. Where does my LEA submit its application?

You must submit your application through [Grants.gov](#) and follow the [Common Instructions](#) referenced in the [Notice Inviting Applications](#) which contains requirements and information on how to submit an application. Find additional training resources on navigating Grants.gov, including video tutorials, [here](#).

The application package for the FY 2023 competition can be found [here](#), or you can search in Grants.gov by the opportunity number for the award competition: ED-GRANTS-031523-001.

5. How does my LEA apply in Grants.gov?

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different web forms within an application. For each funding opportunity announcement (FOA), you can create individual instances of a workspace.

For access to complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>

6. Are all the mandatory forms located in Grants.gov?

No, you must download three of the mandatory forms from our [Impact Aid Program website](#) (additional information form, independent certification, and cost estimate/budget table). Complete these forms and upload each into your Grants.gov application.

7. Is there a matching requirement for these grants?

An LEA is required to provide a 50 percent match for an emergency repair or modernization grant award unless the LEA has “no practical capacity to issue bonds.”

8. What does “no practical capacity to issue bonds” mean?

An LEA is deemed to have “no practical capacity to issue bonds” if the total assessed value of real property in the LEA that may be taxed for school purposes is less than \$25,000,000.

9. My district has only 20 percent federally connected children, but we have an individual building in the district with emergency needs that serves mostly federally connected children. Can I apply on behalf of this building only?

No, we are accepting applications under Priority One only, so the LEA must either have 50% of its students living on Indian Lands, or with a parent in the Uniformed Services, or receive a Heavily Impacted payment under Section 7003(b)(2).

10. If we receive an emergency repair or modernization grant, how long do we have to expend the funds?

The period of availability will be specified in the grant award documents and will depend on the scope of the individual project. In general, we expect awardees to expend emergency grants funds within a short period as they will be remediating urgent health and safety concerns.

11. Can we apply for a grant to fund a project if we already have funding from other sources?

This decision is made on a case-by-case basis. These grants are subject to supplement-not-supplant regulations (see [34 CFR 222.174](#)). In general, no, federal funds for emergency repair and modernization grants can be used to supplant other state or local funds that are available for a project. You should review section 222.174 of the regulations for further details regarding supplanting.

12. We funded an emergency repair project from our current funds. Can we use our grant award to reimburse our current fund for this expenditure?

No, reimbursing another source of funds is considered supplanting and is not permitted. You should review [34 CFR 222.174](#) for further details about supplanting.

13. We have several buildings that need repairs and modernization. Can we apply for grants for all of these?

No, an LEA may only submit **one** application, detailing its emergency needs for **one** facility.

14. Can we include photographs and design drawings in our application?

Photographs or other materials will not be considered. You should describe your project in a concise narrative within the grant application forms. Other materials submitted will not be provided to the reviewers scoring your application.

15. If we submit an application that doesn't get funded, can we apply again next year?

The Department will retain applications that are not funded and include those applications for consideration along with new applications received for the following year (assuming Congress appropriates funding for the 7007(b) program). [Section 222.189](#) of the regulations provides additional details for this procedure.