



The Corps Network

Strengthening America through
service and conservation

Thursday, October 3, 2019

**Building America's Infrastructure
and Trail and Transportation
Professionals**

**Project and Funding Overviews and
Priorities**



Introduction

- Cooperative agreement with FHWA explained
- Corps partner guide

Multimodal Program Activities

- DOT/FHWA strategic plan and goals
- Allowable uses of Federal funds (project eligibility)
- Agency initiatives and research
- Sole-sourcing of youth conservation corps on transportation and RTP projects

Grant applications and relationship building [10 mins]

- State trail advisory committees
- Knowing the needs of your State

Reauthorization of Federal Surface Transportation Legislation

- What is the status of the reauthorization

RTP State education allotments

- How Corps can tap into that funding
- How States are using that funding

Next Steps

- Wrap-up; Important dates; TCN listserv

Open, moderated discussion for Corps and State DOT/RTP admins

Youth service and conservation corps issues, challenges, and barriers experienced with the grant and agreement process.



Cooperative Agreement with FHWA Explained

The Corps Network and the FHWA are partnering to foster relationships and develop systems and resources that encourage state and regional transportation agencies to work with Service and Conservation Corps.

These local and state-level partnerships with Corps help transportation agencies complete critical transportation and recreational trail projects, and also help enhance career pathways for Corpsmembers.

Working together, The Corps Network and FHWA are producing a number of Corps and partner resources aimed to help support these partnerships:

- Corps best practice documents;
- Partnership toolkits;
- FHWA Executive Di support letter;
- Partner trainings and workshops;
- Model contracts and agreements;
- Video series of corps project work;
- Transportation workforce pathway models.

Corps Partnership Guide

Produced in Spring 2019 in partnership with FHWA, the purpose of this guide is to acquaint state administrators and transportation agencies with the benefits of employing Corpsmembers on trail and transportation projects, and to encourage the use of Service and Conservation Corps in state-funded trail programs.

Building the Future

A Guide for Utilizing the Recreational Trails Program
to Partner with Service and Conservation Corps | Spring 2019



Partnership Guide features:

- 15+ Recreational Trail Program-funded project case studies performed by youth conservation corps;
- 15 Corps programs; 50+ public, private, and federal project sponsors;
- What is a Corps program and why partner with a youth service and conservation corps;
- DOT strategic plan priorities and goals

Multimodal Program Activities



DOT/FHWA Strategic Plan Goals for FY 2018-2022

Goals for the US Department of Transportation

How do you see Trails and Transportation Projects in these Goals?



Safety: Reduce Transportation-Related Fatalities and Serious Injuries Across the Transportation System.

We want safe access to trails and safe trail crossings. *How do you contribute to safety?*



Infrastructure: Invest in Infrastructure to Ensure Mobility and Accessibility and to Stimulate Economic Growth, Productivity, and Competitiveness for American Workers and Businesses.

We want good access to trails, and access across infrastructure. We might find ways to have transportation and recreation infrastructure work together. *How can you improve transportation and recreation infrastructure?*



Innovation: Lead in the Development and Deployment of Innovative Practices and Technologies that Improve the Safety and Performance of the Nation's Transportation System.

Innovation can lead to safety benefits, better facility management, and better services, with reduced pollutant emissions and better environmental protection. *What innovative techniques do you use?*



Accountability: Serve the Nation with Reduced Regulatory Burden and Greater Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Accountability.

Accountability includes the wide range of financially accountable, environmentally accountable, and accountable to the public to provide facilities that do no harm. *How accountable are you to work effectively, cost-efficiently, protect the environment, provide workforce development, and pass a financial audit?*



DOT/FHWA Strategic Plan Goals for FY 2018-2022

FHWA Programs support an integrated, safe, accessible, and convenient transportation system for all:

- Connected pedestrian and bicycle networks;
- Design flexibility;
- Economic development;
- Efficient project development;
- Equity, quality of life, community connections;
- Multimodal data;
- Resilient transportation policies and practices.

FHWA also is working with its partners to accelerate project development, provide design flexibility, and support economic development, **with a special interest in rural areas.**

The Office of Human Environment focuses on connecting communities through safe, efficient, multimodal transportation networks. *How can we combine transportation and recreation infrastructure in appropriate ways?*

Multimodal Program Activities



Key: \$ = Funds may be used for this activity (restrictions may apply). ~\$ = Eligible, but not competitive unless part of a larger project. \$* = See program-specific notes for restrictions.

Activity or Project Type	Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities U.S. Department of Transportation Transit, Highway, and Safety Funds															
	BUILD	INFRA	TIFIA	FTA	ATI	CMAQ	HSIP	NHPP	STBG	TA	RTP	SRTS	PLAN	NHTSA 402	NHTSA 405	FLTPP
Access enhancements to public transportation (includes benches, bus pads)	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$						\$
ADA/504 Self Evaluation / Transition Plan									\$	\$	\$		\$			\$
Bicycle plans				\$					\$	\$		\$	\$			\$
Bicycle helmets (project or training related)									\$	SRTS		\$		\$*		
Bicycle helmets (safety promotion)									\$	SRTS		\$				
Bicycle lanes on road	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$				\$
Bicycle parking	~\$	~\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Bike racks on transit	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$						\$
Bicycle repair station (air pump, simple tools)	~\$	~\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$						\$
Bicycle share (capital and equipment; not operations)	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$						\$
Bicycle storage or service centers (example: at transit hubs)	~\$	~\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$						\$
Bridges / overcrossings for pedestrians and/or bicyclists	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Bus shelters and benches	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$						\$
Coordinator positions (State or local)						\$ 1 per State			\$	SRTS		\$				
Crosswalks (new or retrofit)	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Curb cuts and ramps	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Counting equipment				\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*			\$
Data collection and monitoring for pedestrians and/or bicyclists				\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*			\$
Historic preservation (pedestrian and bicycle and transit facilities)	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$				\$	\$						\$
Landscaping, streetscaping (pedestrian and/or bicycle route; transit access); related amenities (benches, water fountains); generally as part of a larger project	~\$	~\$	~\$	\$	\$			\$	\$	\$						\$
Lighting (pedestrian and bicyclist scale associated with pedestrian/bicyclist project)	\$	~\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Maps (for pedestrians and/or bicyclists)				\$	\$	\$			\$	\$		\$	\$*			
Paved shoulders for pedestrian and/or bicyclist use	\$	~\$	\$			\$*	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$				\$

Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities

U.S. Department of Transportation,
Highway, and Safety Funds

Revised August 9, 2018

Multimodal Program Activities



Allowable uses of Federal Funds

Federal Transportation Program Sources for Trails

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

Must demonstrate a reduction of vehicle emissions. The most likely trail projects are trails that provide access to public transportation or that can demonstrate a likely mode shift from driving to bicycling and walking.

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)

Any recreational trail is eligible under STBG, but most DOTs will only use these funds for projects that benefit transportation.

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside

This is the single largest source of funds for trails for transportation purposes, including rail-trails.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

This is the single largest source of funds for Recreational Trails.

Federal Lands Transportation Program

Provides funds to Federal Land Management agencies for projects that provide access to or within Federal lands. This may include trails.

Federal Lands Access Program

Provides funds to State and local governments for projects that provide access to or within Federal lands. This may include trails.

Multimodal Program Activities



Allowable uses of Federal Funds

Recreational Trails Program

The RTP provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails for all trail uses.

- Usually administered through a State resource agency.
- Only FHWA program to support routine maintenance.

States solicit and select projects for funding.

States are encouraged to use Youth Corps.

Represents a portion of the Federal motor fuel excise tax paid by OHV users (including snowmobilers).

Eligible RTP Projects

- Maintain and restore existing trails (and bridges).
- Develop and rehabilitate trailside and trailhead facilities.
- Purchase and lease trail construction and maintenance equipment.
- Construct new trails (limits on Federal lands).
- Acquire easements or property for trails (willing seller only: Condemnation is prohibited).
- Trail assessments for accessibility and maintenance.
- Trail safety and environmental protection education.
- State administrative costs.

Multimodal Program Activities



Allowable uses of Federal Funds

Transportation Alternatives

The TA Set-Aside authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including:

- On- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including trails for nonmotorized use.
- Community improvement activities:
 - Historic preservation
 - Vegetation management

Environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity;

Recreational trail projects;

Safe routes to school projects.

Eligible Project Sponsors

- Local governments;
- Regional transportation authorities;
- Transit agencies;
- Natural resource or public land agencies;
 - May include Federal, State, or local public land agencies
- School districts, local education agencies, or schools;
- Tribal governments;
- Nonprofit entity responsible for local transport safety programs;
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than an MPO or a State agency) that the State determines to be eligible...

Multimodal Program Activities



Trail Training

American Trails

National Trails Training Partnership

Tread Lightly! and National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council

OHV User Ethics and OHV Safety and Access Training

American Council of Snowmobile Associations

Snowmobile Safety and Access Programs

Bureau of Land Management

National Scenic and Historic Trail Inventory and Monitoring

Partnership for the National Trails System

National Trails System Information, Corridor Protection, and Training

The Corps Network

Youth Service and Conservation Corps Workforce Development

Multimodal Program Activities



Agency Initiatives and Research

FHWA has produced many pedestrian and bicycle resources since May 2015.

Pedestrian and bicycle planning and design resources.

Help States and localities plan, design, and manage multimodal transportation networks to benefit all users.

Concepts transferable for trail projects.



Multimodal Program Activities



Sole-sourcing of Youth Conservation Corps on Transportation and RTP projects

DOT encourages States to have contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified Youth Service and Conservation Corps.

Corps work on recreational trails, pedestrian and bicycle projects, safe routes to school.

Corps provide workforce development training.

Agencies can sole source to qualified Corps.

[Youth Workforce Development Resources](#)

Multimodal Program Activities



Corps MAP-21 Language: SEC. 1524. USE OF YOUTH SERVICE AND CONSERVATION CORPS.

- (a) “IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall encourage the States and regional transportation planning agencies to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth service or conservation corps, as defined in sections 122(a)(2) of Public Law 101–610 (42 U.S.C. 12572(a)(2)) and 106(c)(3) of Public Law 103– 82 (42 U.S.C. 12656(c)(3)) to perform appropriate projects eligible under sections 162, 206, 213, and 217 of title 23, United States Code, and under section 1404 of the SAFETEA–LU (119 Stat. 1228).
- (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Under any contract or cooperative agreement entered into with a qualified youth service or conservation corps under this section, the Secretary shall—
 - (1) set the amount of a living allowance or rate of pay for each participant in such corps at—
 - (A) such amount or rate as required under State law in a State with such requirements; or
 - (B) for corps in States not described in subparagraph (A), at such amount or rate as determined by the Secretary, not to exceed the maximum living allowance authorized by section 140 of Public Law 101–610 (42 U.S.C. 12594); and
 - (2) not subject such corps to the requirements of section 112 of title 23, United States Code.”

[23 U.S. Code § 112](#)

§112. Letting of contracts

- (a) In all cases where the construction is to be performed by the State transportation department or under its supervision, a request for submission of bids shall be made by advertisement unless some other method is approved by the Secretary. The Secretary shall require such plans and specifications and such methods of bidding as shall be effective in securing competition.

Sole-sourcing of Youth Conservation Corps on Transportation and RTP projects

What are Qualified Youth Service and Conservation Corps?

Section 1524 of MAP-21 defines "qualified youth service or conservation corps" as those that are defined at 42 U.S.C. 12572(a)(2) and 42 U.S.C. 12656(c)(3). 42 U.S.C. 12572(a)(2) refers to the "Healthy Futures Corps," which is designed to identify and meet unmet health needs in communities. 42 U.S.C. 12656(c)(3) refers to the "urban youth corps," which means any program established by a State or local government or by a nonprofit organization that—

- is capable of offering meaningful, full-time, productive work for **individuals between the ages of 16 and 25**, inclusive, in an urban or public works or transportation setting;
- gives participants a mix of work experience, basic and life skills, education, training, and support services; and
- provides participants with the opportunity to develop citizenship values and skills through service to their communities and the United States.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/qandas/qayscc.cfm>

Photo: Utah Conservation Corps / Utah





State Trail Advisory Committees

- Each State has a State Recreational Trail Advisory Committee.
- Must represent motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail users.
- Provide advice to the States for recreational trail policy.
- Some assist with project selection; some select projects.
- Must meet at least annually, some meet biannually or quarterly.
- Corps can get involved:
 - Apply for a seat in your State
 - Experience serving on an advisory body
 - Time commitments for periodic committee meetings, travel, and council activities:
 - Review grant applications and subcommittee work
 - Engage in trail planning efforts



Knowing the Needs of your State

- Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Plans
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Know your statewide trail associations
- Know your State's project solicitation process for RTP, TA, and other programs.
- Find partners
- Coordinate possible projects:
 - Can a trail project be incorporated into a highway project?
 - Can you get a new bridge, overpass, or underpass?



What is the Status of the Reauthorization

Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (P.L. 114-94): [This is the legislation](#) that currently authorizes surface transportation programs. It was signed into law on December 4, 2015 and expires on September 30, 2020.

Senate: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported out S. 2302, the [America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019 \(ATIA\)](#) on August 1, 2019.

House: The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is in the drafting stage of its surface transportation reauthorization legislation.



State Examples of RTP Educational Funding Uses for Items or Services

RTP Education funds are used for recreational, trail-related educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection. Eligible elements must directly convey a safety or environmental message.

North Carolina

- Payment of speaker/educator fees
- Rental of space to provide training or conference opportunities
- Transportation to off-site training locations
- Electronic copying and/or printing of training materials
- Travel expenses for approved speakers
- Lodging and per diem for speakers at the current rate allowed for State employees

South Carolina

- Chainsaw safety courses
- Speaker fees
- Environmental protection training workshops
- Designing of trail brochures, websites and maps



TCN Trails and Transportation Listserv

The Corps Network manages regional listservs to facilitate the transfer of information among Corps and state trail and transportation administrators.

These listservs are moderated, collaborative spaces designed to strengthen relationships between RTP administrators and member organizations of The Corps Network. They provide a place to share ideas and troubleshoot challenges and barriers associated with accessing state RTP funding.

Midwest

IL, ID, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

Name:

Email:

Northeast

CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT

Name:

Email:

South

AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV

Name:

Email:

West

AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY

Name:

Email:

Recreational Trails Program Database and Annual Report

[Recreational Trails Program Annual Report](#)

[Recreational Trails Program Database](#)

- More than 24,500 project examples;
- Searchable by State or project type;
- Many examples for you to consider.



Recreational Trails Program Database and Annual Report

[Recreational Trails Program Annual Report](#)

A report on the use and benefits of Federal Recreational Trails Program funds across the United States



Photo: Mile High Youth Corps / Colorado

[Recreational Trails Program Database](#)

- More than 24,500 project examples;
- Searchable by State or project type;
- Many examples for you to consider.

Save the Date

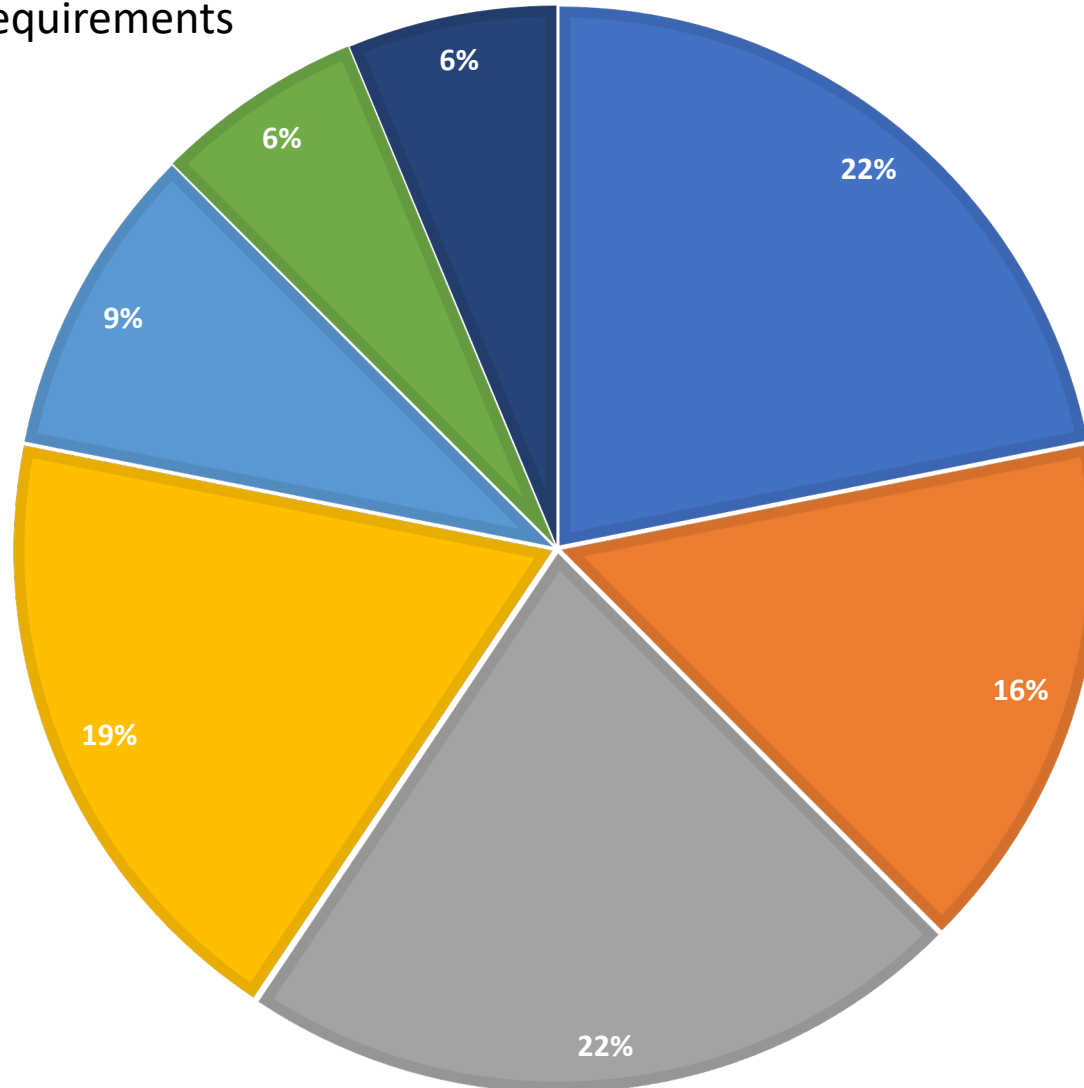


Conferences and Webinars

	The 2019 Corps Rendezvous	November 1-3, 2019	Glorieta Camps just outside of Albuquerque, NM
	The Corps Network 35 th Annual National Conference: <i>Thrive: The Power of Community</i>	February 9 – 12, 2020	Washington, DC – Washington Marriott at Metro Center
	[Tentative] FHWA Corps Meeting	February 9 – 12, 2020	Washington, DC – Washington Marriott at Metro Center
	The Future of Transportation and Recreation Trail Projects Utilizing Youth and Conservation Corps	December 5, 2019 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM (ET) / 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (MT)	https://www.americantrails.org/training/the-future-of-transportation-and-recreation-trail-projects-utilizing-youth-and-conservation-corps#eventDetails
	Sustainable Trails Conference	March 15-21, 2020	Bentonville, AR

RTP Corps Assessment on State Grants and Agreements

Grant and Agreement Process Reporting Requirements



- General difficulty with navigating the transportation grant process
- Turnaround time on grant deadlines
- Time required to write a grant proposal; lack of staff capacity to dedicate to RTP grant writing
- How and when grant cycles are announced
- Reporting requirements and deliverables
- Frequency around reporting
- Amount/type of deliverables required for each reporting period.

Corps Survey Comments

Hard to find information on where to even start with submitting a proposal

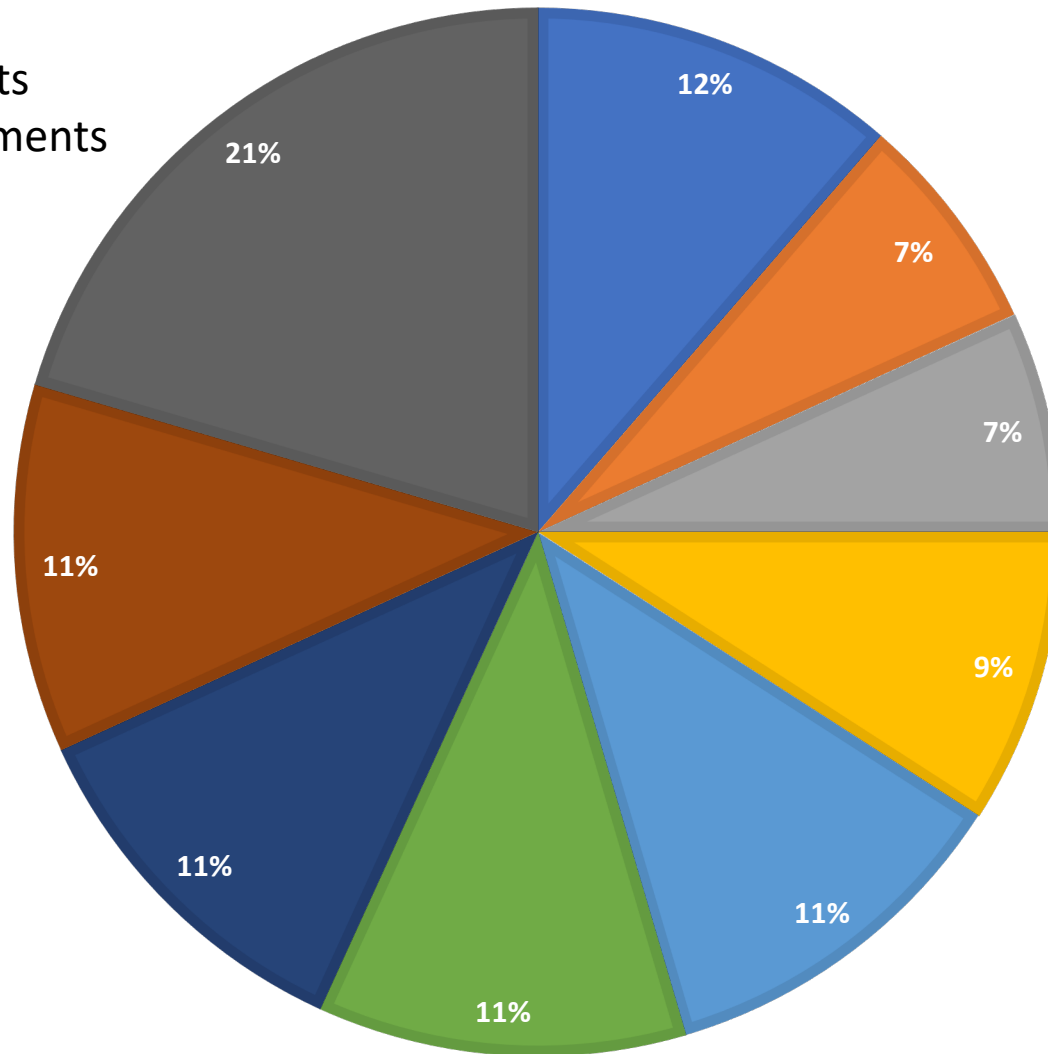
Extensive time sheet tracking requirements when multiple crews cycle through an RTP-funded project

My State RTP regularly supports local units of government in their proposals, who are often hands-off with implementation

Land management agencies that are awarded RTP funds have staff that retire, go on temporary details, and/or lack capacity to complete and implement grant application.

RTP Corps Assessment on State Grants and Agreements

Funding Allocations
Bidding
Reimbursements
Match Requirements



- States not reimbursing full project cost expenditures
- Lack of clarity and guidance on reimbursement process and compliance
- Guidance is not provided on accepted forms of in-kind match
- Amount of required match
- State funding caps
- How state RTP funding is allocated; types of projects RTP funding is allocated to
- Diminishment of RTP grant funds in my state
- Lack of clarity on the bidding process
- Project sponsors are unaware of local youth Corps

Corps Survey Comments

Too competitive and not enough funding

Minimal project reimbursements don't make it financially viable to use RTP funds for crew work in place of standard fee-for-service projects.

My State RTP rarely uses their full allocation of DOT resources toward trail development

Some states will refuse reimbursement unless every line item is documented



The Corps Network

Strengthening America through
service and conservation

@TheCorpsNetwork | #CorpsWork

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