



Roads To Your Future - HCWP Winter 2021 e-Newsletter

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Introduction to HCWP

Our country is experiencing a growing shortage of highway construction workers, who are vital to the transportation industry and our economy. Many trade occupations such as heavy equipment operators, cement masons, and iron workers are filled only to 60 percent capacity or less. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has formed important partnerships to tackle the worker shortage in highway construction. The solution: Identify, train, and place workers so they can build [#RoadsToYourFuture](#).

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, the FHWA, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the Associated General Contractors of America, and American Road & Transportation Builders Association, working with many regional and local partners, designed a two-year pilot to develop a new model for identifying, training, and placing individuals in highway construction jobs.

The national organizations selected 12 pilot locations in cities and States across the country. Throughout the two years, local stakeholders identified successful strategies, which are laid out in [The Playbook](#), a living and growing document with a concise set of plays for forming working groups. These plays offer game-ready examples of success, including consolidated themes and case studies from different programs in the pilot locations.

Be sure to click the “Sign Up” button below to receive the most up-to-date information on the Highway Construction Workforce Partnership (HCWP) and future programs.



SIGN UP

For questions, please contact Clark Martin, HCWP program manager, at clark.martin@dot.gov.



The HCWP Notice of Funding Opportunity

The HCWP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) provides funding to establish HCWP working groups. These groups develop partnerships to implement successful workforce programs and practices, and identify, train, and place individuals in highway construction jobs.

The NOFO has \$4 million in grant funds available for State transportation departments with a period of performance up to two years. These grants require an 80 percent Federal share and 20 percent non-Federal share. State and local labor departments and workforce development

boards are required to participate along with contractor organizations and the respective FHWA division. In addition, community colleges, under-represented groups, tribes, nonprofits supporting highway construction and transportation workforce development, and more are encouraged to participate.

Applicants will explain the expected scope of work and performance measures in their submissions, and recipients will provide a final report. They will organize scope of work by task, describing the HCWP working group, how it was established, and how the group will operate. They will also define the roles and responsibilities of participants, such as contractor organizations, State transportation departments, and workforce boards. Candidates must provide a program plan that aligns recruitment, training and supporting programs, and job placement with workforce needs. The NOFO is available at: <http://bit.ly/NOFOLink>. A webinar to review the NOFO will be held tomorrow, January 13 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. EST. The link to participate is <http://bit.ly/38fqPKN> or use the teleconference phone number **877-873-8018** then enter passcode **8009417#**.

For agencies in need of marketing assistance, HCWP offers [free downloads](#) of customizable posters, social media graphics, mailer cards, and more.

Applicants are evaluated with equally weighted criteria, including the degree to which they:

- Capture data for workforce needs, source, and process
- Demonstrate a cooperative approach with partners, with a focus on job placement
- Encourage participation of minority groups, disadvantaged individuals, and women
- Address gaps in areas with current or projected workforce shortages
- Define performance measures and provide processes to capture metrics

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EDC-6 Initiative



The State-based [Every Day Counts \(EDC\) model](#) identifies and rapidly deploys proven yet underutilized innovations to shorten the project delivery process, enhance roadway safety, reduce traffic congestion, and integrate automation. FHWA works with State transportation departments, local governments, tribes, private industry, and

other stakeholders to identify and champion every two years a new collection or “round” of innovations that merit accelerated deployment.

The model is in its sixth round (EDC-6) and has made a significant, positive impact in accelerating deployment of innovations and in building a culture of innovation within the transportation community. Since EDC's inception, each State has used 19 or more of the 52 innovations promoted, and some States have adopted more than 40. By advancing 21st century solutions, the transportation community is making every day count to ensure the country's roads and bridges are built better, faster, and smarter.

EDC-6's [2021–2022 innovations](#) include:

- Crowdsourcing for Advancing Operations
- e-Ticketing and Digital As-Builts
- Next-Generation Traffic Incident Management: Integrating Technology, Data, and Training
- Strategic Workforce Development
- Targeted Overlay Pavement Solutions
- Ultra-High Performance Concrete for Bridge Preservation and Repair
- Virtual Public Involvement

After EDC innovations are selected, transportation leaders across the country gather at regional summits to discuss and identify opportunities to implement the innovations that best fit the needs of their respective State transportation programs. Following the summits, States finalize their selection of innovations, establish performance goals for the level of implementation over the upcoming two-year cycle, and begin implementation with support from technical teams established for each innovation.

If you have questions, please contact Julie Zirlin, program coordinator, EDC Program, at julie.zirlin@dot.gov.

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