



Connect Oregon Federal Grant Match option | FAQ

Updated June. 2026

What are the main differences between the Connect Oregon Competitive Grant option and the Federal Grant Match option?

Competitive Grant option

- **Funding availability:** Funding opportunities every 2-3 years.
- **Application window:** Limited application window, usually for about 6 weeks.
- **Total funding available:** About \$45-\$50 million per opportunity normally, \$30 million in 2026.
- **Matching fund requirements:** Requires 30% matching funds from applicants (50% for Class I railroads). Applicants may use their own funding or other local, state and federal sources to provide the required match.

Federal Grant Match option

- **Funding availability:** Year-round until funding runs out.
- **Application window:** Applications accepted on a rolling basis.
 - No sooner than 120 days prior to the expected announcement of the federal grant (typically the Notice of Funding Opportunity)
 - No later than 90 days before the federal grant application due date.
- **Total funding available:** \$10 million every two years.
- **Matching funding requirements:** None, but applicants must identify the federal grant they applied for. Applicants may include additional local and state funding sources to fund the identified project.

Are there special application requirements for the Federal Grant Match option vs the Competitive Grant option?

Yes. Applicants to the Federal Grant Match option must identify a specific federal grant and granting agency, estimated due dates, and amount of funds they are applying for.

Otherwise, the application is unchanged from the existing Competitive Grant application.

Is the Federal Grant Match option easier or harder to get than the Competitive Grant option?

From a process standpoint, no. ODOT staff and an appointed panel will review Federal Grant Match applications to ensure they meet Connect Oregon program criteria. It's the same process ODOT follows with the Competitive Grant applications.

However, the panel will also consider the likelihood of success for the applicant winning their federal grant and include that as part of their final recommendation to the Oregon Transportation Commission. This is a unique consideration for Federal Grant Match applications.

Is the available funding for both Connect Oregon grant options separate? Could one option pull funding from another?

Both options are funded under the Connect Oregon program, but their amounts are separate. They cannot pull funding from one another.

ODOT sets aside \$10 million each 2-year period for the Federal Grant Match option, and the rest of the funding goes to the Competitive Grant option.

ODOT may revisit the amount we set aside for the Federal Grant Match option in the next few years, depending on the success of this option in leveraging federal funds.

I've already won a federal grant; can I still apply for the Federal Grant Match option?

No. The Federal Grant Match option is intended for applicants who have not yet applied for or won federal grant. Applicants must submit their CO Federal Grant Match applications no sooner than 120 days prior to the expected announcement of the federal grant to which they applied.

Prospective applicants for Connect Oregon funds who have already won a federal grant, but still need additional funds for their project, may apply for the Competitive Grant option when that funding is available.

Can I use the Federal Grant Match option to help fund a project that's already been awarded funding from the Competitive Grant option?

No, Federal Grant Match funds cannot be used for projects previously awarded Connect Oregon Competitive Grant funding.

However, an applicant can apply for additional grants from either Connect Oregon grant option for the same location, provided that future applications include projects that are for a unique phase and have independent utility from the previous grants.

What happens if an applicant is provisionally awarded Federal Grant Match funding but doesn't win the federal grant they applied for?

In this scenario, ODOT would rescind the provisional Federal Grant Match award because the applicant did not meet the requirement of securing the federal grant award. ODOT would then return the rescinded funds back into the Federal Grant Match funding pool for that biennium.

Applicants may re-apply for the Federal Grant Match option for the same project for future federal grants.

Is there a minimum or maximum requested amount from either Connect Oregon funding option?

There is no minimum or maximum request amount for either funding option, however there is a practical limit based on the available funds for each option.

The amount of funds sought by an applicant should be sufficient to achieve the positive project benefits described in their application. Application reviewers will consider the cost-benefit analysis of the project, with more costly projects needing to provide more benefits (jobs, economic growth, or goods moved) to score favorably.

Are there specific federal grants that Federal Grant Match applicants are limited to?

No, but the project must meet the eligibility requirements for Connect Oregon program, regardless of the requirements for the chosen federal grant program. In other words, applicants should ensure their project meets Connect Oregon program requirements *before* they choose a federal grant program to apply to. Visit the Connect Oregon webpage for eligibility requirements.

Project descriptions in the federal grant application must also be consistent with the description in the Connect Oregon Federal Grant match application.

Are there specific federal grants that are ineligible for the Federal Grant Match option?

Yes, federal grants that are allotted on a regular basis (also known as “formula funding grants”) to an entity or organization are ineligible for the Federal Grant Match Option. Only federal “discretionary grants” are eligible, meaning grants that are awarded through a competitive process.

For example, the Federal Aviation Administration administers the Airport Improvement Program and the Airport Infrastructure Grants program, which provide annual allocations to airports depending on their size and other characteristics. Those two programs would be ineligible for the Connect Oregon Federal Grant Match option.

Does ODOT have a list of federal grants that would be a good fit for the Federal Grant Match option?

We do not maintain a list, but [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) is a good starting place to search for federal grant opportunities. You can also sign up for newsletters or grant alerts from the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Rail Administration or the Maritime Administration.

Make sure you don't limit your grant research; due to the changing landscape of federal grant

programs, there may be funding opportunities from federal agencies that aren't primarily associated with transportation.