

NOFO Amendment

What has changed with the August 2022 SS4A NOFO amendment?

Technical changes were made that affect the selection criteria, the application requirements, and the post-award grant administration requirements.

To calculate the population percentage in underserved communities required in both Action Plan and Implementation Grant applications, a new web tool that uses the same underlying data for the Underserved Community designation was duplicated with additional query features and appended 2019 population data. The new web link is:

<https://usdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/99f9268777ff4218867ceedfabe58a3a>. Also see the calculation instructions here: TO INSERT INSTRUCTIONS LINK

For Action Plan Grant applicants:

- The Key Information Table includes a new row to denote whether the application is for “a new action plan,” “to complete an action plan,” or for “supplemental planning activities.”
- The calculation for the **selection criteria #1: safety impact** clarified how to calculate the fatality rate. The rate is a 5-year annual average per 100,00 persons based on 2019 American Community Survey population data.
- The calculation for **selection criteria #2: equity** was modified to use 2019 American Community Survey data for the population counts.

For Implementation Grant applicants:

- The percentage of the population that resides in an Underserved Community calculation was modified to use 2019 American Community Survey data for the population counts.
- The safety impact criterion rating methodology was revised to remove a reference to “future costs,” which are not to be included in an application narrative.
- Award recipients are encouraged but not required to adhere to the Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines.

Why did DOT make these changes?

The changes are technical in nature, and are not substantive policy changes. The changes improve consistency across the notice of funding opportunity.

The changes to the calculations for the percentage of the population that resides in an Underserved Community ensures a consistent unit of analysis: 2019 Census tracts. The Underserved Communities Tool is based on 2019 Census tract boundaries, some of which changed based on the 2020 Census.

Is the SS4A Underserved Communities Tool different from the original Historically Disadvantaged Communities Tool?

The underlying data and methodology for the Underserved Community designation remain the same. The query features in the web tool and the inclusion of 2019 population data have both been added to

make it easier for applicants to calculate the percent population in underserved communities directly in the tool. The definition of an Underserved Community as defined for this NOFO is still consistent with the Office of Management and Budget's Interim Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative and the Historically Disadvantaged Community designation [ADD HYPERLINK](#).

What should we do if we have already submitted an application or were about to submit?

DOT will reach out to those who already submitted applications prior to the amendment to make corrections and address any issues in their application.

What changes were made related to post-award grant agreement terms?

In Section F.2.v of the NOFO, which focuses on grant recipient requirements, the paragraph on civil rights obligations and nondiscrimination laws was amended to read as follows:

SS4A award recipients should demonstrate compliance with civil rights obligations and nondiscrimination laws, including Titles VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and accompanying regulations. Recipients of Federal transportation funding will also be required to comply fully with regulations and guidance for the ADA, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and all other civil rights requirements. The Department's and the applicable Operating Administrations' Offices of Civil Rights ~~will may~~ work with awarded grant recipients as appropriate to ensure full compliance with Federal civil rights requirements.