**Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Question:  Can the money be in-kind?

*Answer:  Grants will only be awarded for capital improvements. Therefore, in most cases,* *cash match will be necessary to complete the types of projects eligible under this program. However, if an applicant has specific in-kind match that is necessary for the completion of a project, the applicant may ask for approval from ADECA prior to submitting an application.*

Question: Can the 20% match be from a private company that is investing in a project?

Answer*: If the funds are provided for actual project expenses and can be documented, they may come from any source that is not otherwise prohibited.*

Question:  Can private companies partner with an eligible applicant and still qualify?

*Answer: Eligible applicants for the program are port authorities, commissions, or their subdivisions and agents under existing authority, as well as a political subdivision of a local government, tribal government, a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by the state. Applications will only be accepted from eligible applicants and grant agreements will only be awarded to eligible applicants. Applicants may partner with other entities, but all compliance requirements are the responsibly of the applicant.*

Question: Can the funds be used for multiple projects?

*Answer: Each project must “stand alone” in meeting the project requirements. An applicant may apply for funds for more than one project; however, each project may only receive up to the maximum grant amount of $1,000,000.*

Question: Are Public-Private-Partnerships (P3) projects eligible?

Answer: *Eligible applicants for the program are port authorities, commissions, or their subdivisions and agents under existing authority, as well as a political subdivision of a local government, tribal government, a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by the state. Applications will only be accepted from eligible applicants and grant agreements will only be awarded to eligible applicants. Applicants may partner with other entities, but all compliance requirements are the responsibly of the applicant.*

Question: What are the qualifying factors that make a feasibility study creditable to buy land?

*Answer: At a minimum, a feasibility study shall provide an in-depth analysis of the financial, managerial and operational, and the market feasibility of the project.*

Question: How recent does the feasibility have to be in order to be qualified to purchase land?

*Answer: ADECA may consider a previously completed feasibility study If the project is included in the study, the project falls within the projection period of the feasibility study, and it is no more than five years old.*

Question: If the feasibility study presents reasons to buy land, will purchasing land be an option?

*Answer: The use of funding to establish or construct new inland ports, or to acquire land, shall not be eligible for funding unless a feasibility study and competitive analysis has been performed and submitted for review to ADECA, prior to the application deadline.*

Question: Would stabilizing the river walls (bulk-head) which has a life span of 20 years be considered routine maintenance?

*Answer: In general, projects proposing to repair existing infrastructure will need to document 1) that appropriate maintenance has been conducted over the life of the infrastructure, 2) that the age of the infrastructure is older than the industry standard life expectancy, and 3) how the project will reduce congestion on public highways, increase tonnage at the facility, and/or enhance regional competitiveness.*

Question: When will the winners be notified?

*Answer: The awarded projects will be notified as soon as possible after the Evaluation Committee has met and projects have been chosen.*

Question: Can the project start before March 1, 2020 date?

Answer: *The March 1st start date has been removed from the program guide.* *Projects can start when all conditions are cleared and a grant agreement has been executed.*

Question: If so, is the earliest the project can be started?

*Answer: Projects can start when all conditions are cleared and a grant agreement has been executed.*

Question: When will the selection committee be appointed?

*Answer: The Inland Port Grant Evaluation Committee will be convened as necessary.*

Question: What is the definition of an inland port?

*Answer: For the purposes of this program, an inland port is a port located along one of Alabama’s inland waterways that provides an inter-modal transportation hub.*