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# COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT

## New ADA and Title VI Requirements

Indiana cities and towns will have two chances this year to apply for up to \$1 million in Community Crossings Program grants to fund infrastructure projects that spur economic development, create jobs, and strengthen transportation networks.

The first call for 2019 is under way and runs through Feb. 1. Awards will be announced in late March. Another Call for Projects will be issued in July.

Dunkirk, a city of just over 2,300 residents, received a \$272,270 Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) in the last Call for Projects.

The grant, which covers up to 75 percent of the project costs, will help fund road and sidewalk improvements on three streets and install ADA ramps at several intersections. An ADA ramp at city hall will be also upgraded to make it wheelchair accessible.

“Getting everything ADA compliant is very expensive, so this grant means the world to our city,” said Tina Elliott, Dunkirk’s clerk/treasurer. “We are so blessed to get the funds to help make our streets better and more accessible.

“It’s vital that our elderly have better access to our streets and our City Building. There’s tons more to do, but this grant is a start.”

### FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR BETTER ROADS, SIDEWALKS AND ACCESS PROJECTS

The CCMG program was started in 2016 to fund infrastructure projects. INDOT has awarded \$400 million in state funds through the CCMG program to support local road and bridge projects.

Eligible projects include:

- Road resurfacing and preservation with sidewalk and ADA ramp upgrades
- Bridge rehabilitation or replacement
- Total road reconstruction that can include drainage and sidewalk improvements

Projects submitted are evaluated based on need, traffic volume, local support, impact on connectivity and mobility within the community, and regional economic significance.



New in 2019, cities and towns applying for CCMG will need to be in compliance with the Title VI and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) nondiscrimination and accessibility requirements.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) confirmed the program change in its 2019 Call for Projects Q&A document for CCMG last October.

Title VI and ADA compliance has been a requirement for all communities receiving federal funds for years. CCMG applications previously included a question on whether cities and towns were in compliance, but it wasn’t a requirement for funds until now.

The City of Dunkirk hired Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) to prepare its Title VI Implementation and ADA Transition plans, in order to be compliant. Part of ADA compliance is creating an ADA Transition Plan that includes an inventory of curb ramps and sidewalks, using field visits supplemented by aerial photography. In addition, all buildings open to the public also need to be ADA compliant.

“Getting all the plans together is a big job and we could never do it ourselves,” Elliott said. “Hiring a consultant is a must.”

Many of Dunkirk’s ramps and sidewalks, and City Hall do not meet ADA minimum requirements. The ADA plan, a living document that is to be updated annually, shows the city’s commitment to make all infrastructure including curb ramp and sidewalk areas accessible to all pedestrians, including those with disabilities.

Application requirements, in addition to ADA and Title VI compliance, include local units of government having an updated and approved asset management plan and providing a local match. Also starting this year, INDOT will no longer accept applications for projects that have already been procured, completed or under construction.

Cities and towns with populations less than 10,000 and counties with less than 50,000 are eligible for 75 percent grants. Cities and towns with populations over 10,000 and counties with more than 50,000 people are eligible for 50 percent grants.

If you need help with your ADA and Title VI compliance or training, help in your Community Crossings grant application, or simply want to brainstorm on how to put the funding together, contact Troy Stahl at 800.494.5202 or [tstahl@fveng.com](mailto:tstahl@fveng.com).

IN THIS ISSUE:

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