

HAPPENINGS

HARBOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATES



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Harbor Assistance Program grant applications due August 1

Applications for the 2027 cycle of Harbor Assistance Program grants are due by Saturday, August 1 at 5:00 p.m. Here are key resources to assist with your application development:

- [Habor Assistance Program 2026-2027guidelines and application instructions](#)
- [Harbor Assistance Program Application form](#)
- [Environmental Screening of Harbor Facilities Development Actions form](#)
- [Three-year harbor development plan \(Statement of Intentions form\)](#)
- [Draft resolution template](#)

If you haven't already provided a Statement of Intentions and/or resolution for 2026-2028, you will need to submit both with your application. Before submitting your application, please carefully review Section 7.0 Application Submittal Procedures in the [HAP guidelines and application instructions](#).

WisDOT reviews applications after August 1 and may contact applicants to request additional information. The Harbor Assistance Council then reviews applications and makes award recommendations to the WisDOT Secretary in the fall. The Governor's Office announces awards no later than January 28th of the award year.

For more information, contact the Harbors and Waterways Program Manager at Erika.Kluetmeier@dot.wi.gov or 608-471-5762.

TOPIC 01 – HAP DEADLINES

HAP applications due on August 1 at 5:00 pm.

TOPIC 02 – NHFP funding opportunity response due on July 22.

TOPIC 03 – State Freight Plan Public Involvement Plan input due on July 17.

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Potential NHFP freight funding opportunity for port projects

WisDOT is reaching out to commercial ports and harbors to explore the potential funding of priority projects through the National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) for construction in 2029-2032. Recent federal rule changes now allow states to allocate up to 30 percent of NHFP formula funding for eligible non-highway freight-related projects at the discretion of the department.

While we have information from ports who submitted Statements of Intention plans as part of the Harbor Assistance Program application process, we're interested in port officials' perspectives on freight-related maritime projects that could be selected for funding as part of the next State Freight Plan.

To be considered for potential funding for construction in 2029-2032, please [complete a NHFP project survey](#) by **July 22, 2026**. You will need to submit a separate survey for each proposed project. **This information request is for planning purposes only and WisDOT does not guarantee funding for any submitted proposals.**

The NHFP funding criteria are different than HAP, so please review the [NHFP program goals and project eligibility sections](#) before completing a survey.

For more information, please contact Matt Umhoefer, WisDOT's Economic Development Chief, at matthew.umhoefer@dot.wi.gov.

Provide input on public involvement plans for updates to State Freight Plan

Every four years, WisDOT updates the [State Freight Plan](#) to ensure it reflects current and future transportation needs to help Wisconsin compete in the global marketplace. The plan's findings and policy recommendations influence future freight-related improvement projects and funding priorities.

WisDOT values your ideas and encourages all stakeholders to get involved throughout the planning process. To that end, there are several proposed stakeholder participation options in the [Public Involvement Plan \(PIP\)](#). WisDOT is looking for feedback on the overall plan as well as any new ideas on engagement and outreach strategies. Please share your feedback on the PIP by **Friday, July 17** by emailing freight@dot.wi.gov.

Federal grant opportunities

To receive timely Notifications of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for federal grants:

1. [Register for an account](#) at Grants.gov.
2. To receive grant alerts, log in to your account, search for grants from target agencies and click on +save search.

HAPPENINGS, is a quarterly e-newsletter from WisDOT's Harbors and Waterways Program, providing regular updates on the Harbor Assistance Program grants and waterway commerce and transportation more broadly. We welcome feedback, content suggestions, or photos submissions, so **[please reach out](#)** to share your ideas. You can **[subscribe or unsubscribe](#)** anytime.

