WHAT'S NEXT?

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will create opportunities, especially for communities and projects that are well-aligned with the Act's intent. Consistent themes throughout the legislation are investing in resilience, supporting disadvantaged communities, improving small and rural infrastructure, and creating new programs for critical needs that have not been met through existing funding

and lead pipe replacement). While not all the details are available today, here are couple of tips to position for funding.

Understand the fowof funds

 Who distributes the funds? To engage, assess, and pursue, you need to know how much funding will be going to which agency and under which programs. Like previous stimulus bills, much of the funding

The time is now to get on the respective priority lists.

 Is it formula or competitive? With new and existing programs, funding will be distributed through allocation formulas or through discretionary, competitive grant programs. Are you automatically eligible for this funding through allocation or do you need to apply?

Understand the funding programs

- Guidance documents: Program
 administrators will publish guidance
 on their funding programs clarifying
 intent and expectations. To
 determine the attractiveness of the
 program and the competitiveness of
 your project needs, you must refer to
 program guidance. Expect guidance
 on new programs to be released in
 early 2022.
- Agency investment priorities: Most federal agencies have adopted new prioritizing criteria in alignment with Executive Orders including climate change, environmental justice, racial equity and addressing barriers to opportunity. Communities can work now to ensure planning and projects align with these priorities.
- Agency-specif c priorities: While the federal legislation often includes set-asides and priorities for funding, funding program administrators may overlay more regional or agency-

actual amount of funding available to your community or project type.

 Application cycles: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes \$550 illion of new spending between 2022-2026.

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