Achieve What You Imagine for Your Port Infrastructure

Why your company should apply for the PIDP grant



PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PIDP) is a competitive federal grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD). PIDP invests in infrastructure that improves the safety, efficiency, capacity, and reliability of freight movement through U.S. ports and intermodal connections. For FY 2026, nearly **$489 million** was available for competitive PIDP grants.

VAA, an engineering, planning, and design firm, helps private companies work with ports and other public entities to structure projects that combine federal funding, public sponsorship, and private investment. This helps companies advance major infrastructure improvements without carrying the entire capital cost.

THE FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE

1. Leverage Your Private Investment

- PIDP can generally fund up to **80% of eligible project costs**, allowing private and local investment to leverage significantly larger infrastructure improvements.

2. Invest in Infrastructure That Supports Your Growth

- Projects that improve your company's movement of goods. This includes dock and berths, cargo terminals and intermodal facilities, equipment and storage, and rail and roadway connections serving ports.

3. Reduce Capital Exposure

- By sharing project costs with the federal government and public partners, your company ties up less private capital in necessary infrastructure projects and leaves more available for your core business.

4. Strengthen Long-Term Competitiveness

- Modern port infrastructure achieved through such investment increases throughput and cargo capacity, reduces transportation costs, and positions your facilities and entire supply chain for long-term growth.

Let's get growing.®

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HOW IT WORKS

1. Identify the Project: Your company identifies an infrastructure constraint, expansion need, or investment that would improve movement or support future growth.

2. Build the Partnership: An eligible entity, such as a port authority or local government, serves as the applicant and partners with you on the project.

3. Structure the Investment: Private, local, state, and other funding sources are combined to create the non-federal share and strengthen the funding match commitment.

4. Pursue Federal Funding: PIDP funding is requested for eligible project costs, allowing a significantly larger investment for your project than if you were to otherwise undertake alone.

$137.5 million

The total amount of federal funding VAA has helped clients win through successful PIDP applications since 2024.

WHY START NOW

- **Funding is available once a year.** The PIDP grant cycle typically starts in early spring.
- **The earlier, the better**. Successful PIDP projects often require substantial preparation before the next Notice of Funding Opportunity is released.
- **Competitive projects need more than a grant narrative**. They need to achieve public support and demonstrate readiness through a public partner, matching fund commitments, economic analysis, and preliminary engineering design.

VAA CAN HELP YOU

- **Identify eligible PIDP projects** that support company growth or reduce operating costs.
- **Develop public-private partnerships**, including coordination and government relations with ports and public sponsors.
- **Structure your funding strategy**, including federal, state, local, and private investment.
- **Prepare engineering and cost-benefit justifications** that maximize grant competitiveness.
- **Manage federal grant application process** from start to post-award.
- **Position your future projects for PIDP funding cycles.**

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