



Puget Sound Regional Council

MEMORANDUM

January 20, 2026

TO: Eligible Rural Town Centers & Corridors Applicants and Interested Parties

FROM: Jennifer Barnes, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Call for Projects – 2026 Competition for \$6.07 Million in Funding for PSRC’s Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) invites agencies with eligible projects to submit applications for the \$6.07 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funds available through its Rural Town Centers and Corridors (RTCC) Program. The available funding includes \$3.035 million per year in 2027 and 2028. The RTCC program was established to recognize and support the needs of the region’s rural areas. Eligible projects will support a rural town center defined as a location designated or identified in a local comprehensive plan as a town center, downtown, mixed use or business district, or activity center / area that is either in a freestanding city or town outside the region’s contiguous urban growth area (UGA), or within a county’s unincorporated rural area.

Please Note: There is a limit of two applications per sponsor, and project requests are limited to the maximum amount available for one year of \$3,035,000.

Overview of the 2026 Process

The 2026 RTCC application process consists of the following major components:

1. **Screening Form** – All interested project sponsors must complete and submit an eligibility screening form, which includes information about the project's scope, location, policy consistency, schedule, and finances. PSRC staff will review all information provided to verify the project's eligibility to compete, based upon consistency with federal rules and adopted policies. PSRC will follow up with the project sponsor to address issues or provide clarifications and confirm the project's eligibility. For any issues that are identified and resolved, PSRC will return the form and the sponsor will need to provide updated information that addresses all issues. All screening form issues must be confirmed by PSRC to have been resolved prior to submitting the funding application. The final screening form information will be prefilled into the project funding application.

Screening forms are due Friday, March 6, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. Screening forms will be reviewed by PSRC and comments returned in the order received, so earlier submittals are encouraged.

2. **Funding Application** – In addition to the information provided through the screening form process, the funding application includes the evaluation criteria questions. The responses to these questions will be scored and reviewed by the project evaluation committee to help inform award recommendations.

Funding applications are due Friday, April 17, 2026, by 11:59 p.m.

3. **Project Presentation** – After the funding applications are submitted, sponsors will be invited to give a short presentation to PSRC staff and the project evaluation committee, scheduled for **May 6, 2026**. This will provide opportunity to share project highlights and provide any final clarifications requested by staff or committee members.

Online Application System

Project sponsors can access the [screening form and application portal](#) using the same username and password used for prior funding competitions and monthly TIP amendments via PSRC's web application system, but with a # symbol added to the end of the password.

If you do not have your agency's username, have forgotten your password, or experience any issues accessing the online system, please contact Mitch Koch at MKoch@psrc.org or Miles Stepleton at MStepleton@psrc.org.

For More Information

Information about eligibility, schedule, and resource materials, and a link to the online forms are provided on PSRC's website at: <https://www.psrc.org/our-work/funding/project-selection/rural-town-centers-and-corridors>

In addition to the resources provided, PSRC will be holding a **virtual workshop** for the 2026 RTCC competition on **Wednesday, January 28, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**

For questions about the RTCC program or application process, please contact Doug Cox at (206) 971-3050 or DCox@psrc.org.