



# SPUR Meeting Notes: Grant Opportunities

April 2024

## Meeting Summary

This meeting focused on different FRA grant opportunities for trespassing and suicide prevention related activities and how to make the best use of available funding. The 2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention was also highlighted as recently being published, the first update since 2012 and which included several DOT and FRA-specific actions. The Federal Action Plan included several elements directly relevant to SPUR stakeholders.

## Key Takeaways

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP) Federal Action Plan Highlights:

- DOT/FRA will increase opportunities for industry partners to share insights regarding suicide prevention challenges and successes, such as the FRA-hosted quarterly meetings of the Suicide Prevention for US Rail (SPUR) working group.
- DOT/FRA will work with other federal agencies to streamline the application process for FRA grant programs and to identify dedicated grant opportunities to reduce barriers experienced by communities at risk for trespassing on the rails and suicide.
- DOT/FRA will work through the Executive and Congressional budget cycles and reauthorization process to identify funds to strengthen grant programs that provide funding for trespasser mitigation, such as suicide prevention efforts.
- DOT/FRA will expand the eligibility criteria for applicants to FRA grants to include local law enforcement agencies.

FTA Grants:

- CRISI grants have a goal of preventing trespassing tragedies and have funded projects that specifically address rail suicides using targeted outreach and education campaigns.
- FRA provided information on how to apply for these grants, located [here](#).
- It will be important to have a consistent point of contact for the grant and if that individual has plans to leave the organization, identify a new primary contact. These grants can take a long time to be awarded and funded, and it can make things more difficult when points of contact and internal champions change.
- Research and Development funding is also available through FRA's Broad Agency Announcement (BAA). See their [website](#) for more information about what research efforts may qualify for this funding.

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