Shaping the Next Decade of Grant Funding: An Interactive Conversation.

2024 WPPA Spring Meeting

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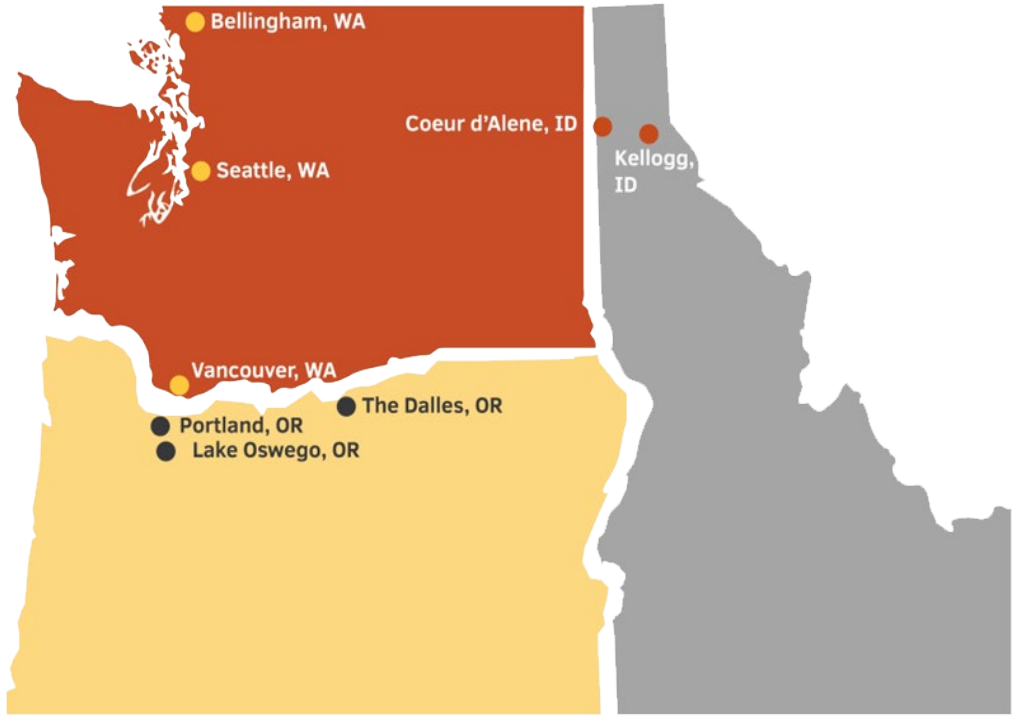
MFA—Collaborating with Ports in the Pacific Northwest Since 1996



Maul Foster & Along, Inc. (MFA), is an integrated multidisciplinary firm with offices throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. We provide:

- Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Services
- Civil Engineering
- Communications & Public Outreach
- Land Use Planning
- GIS & Data Management

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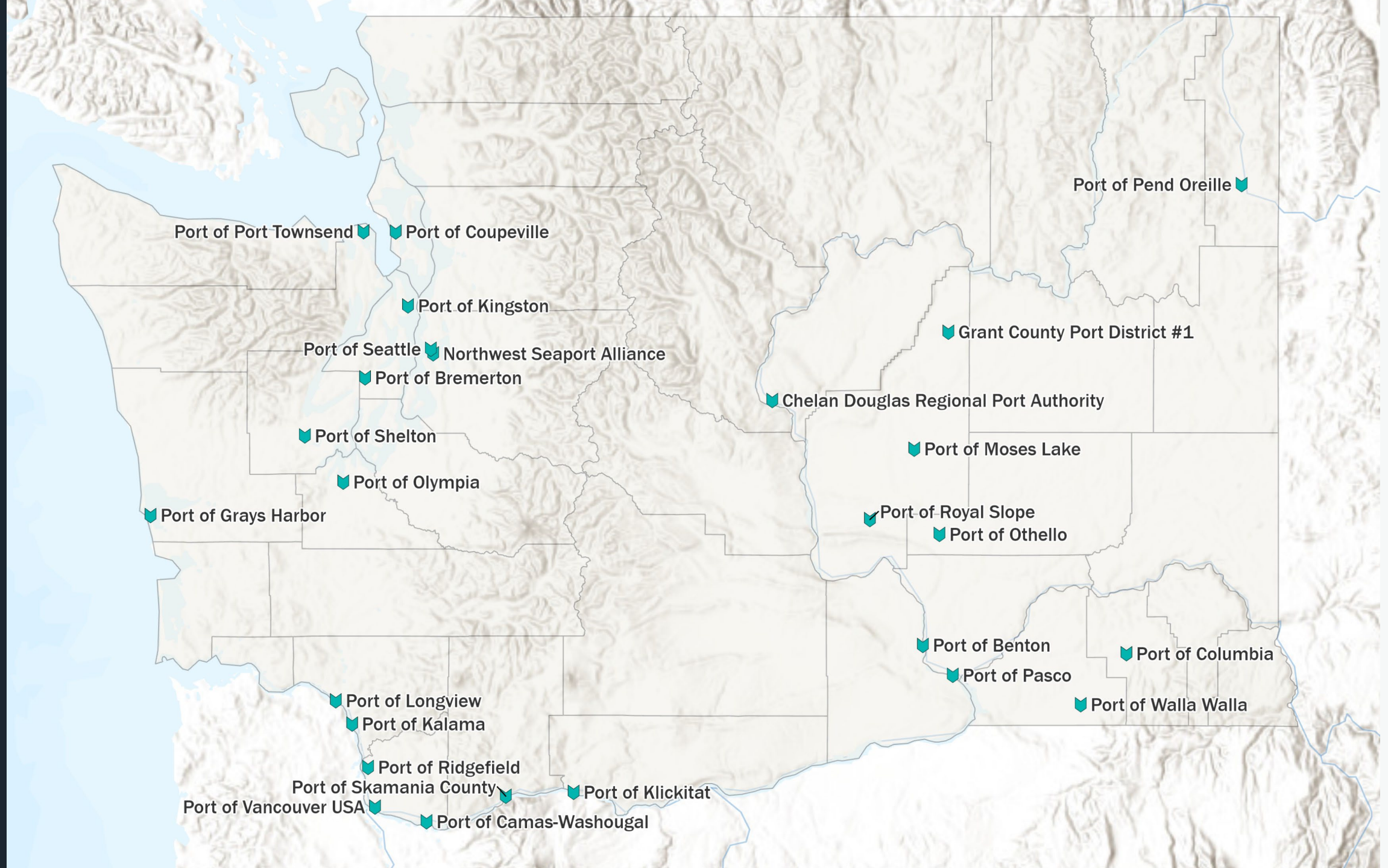
What will we talk about today?

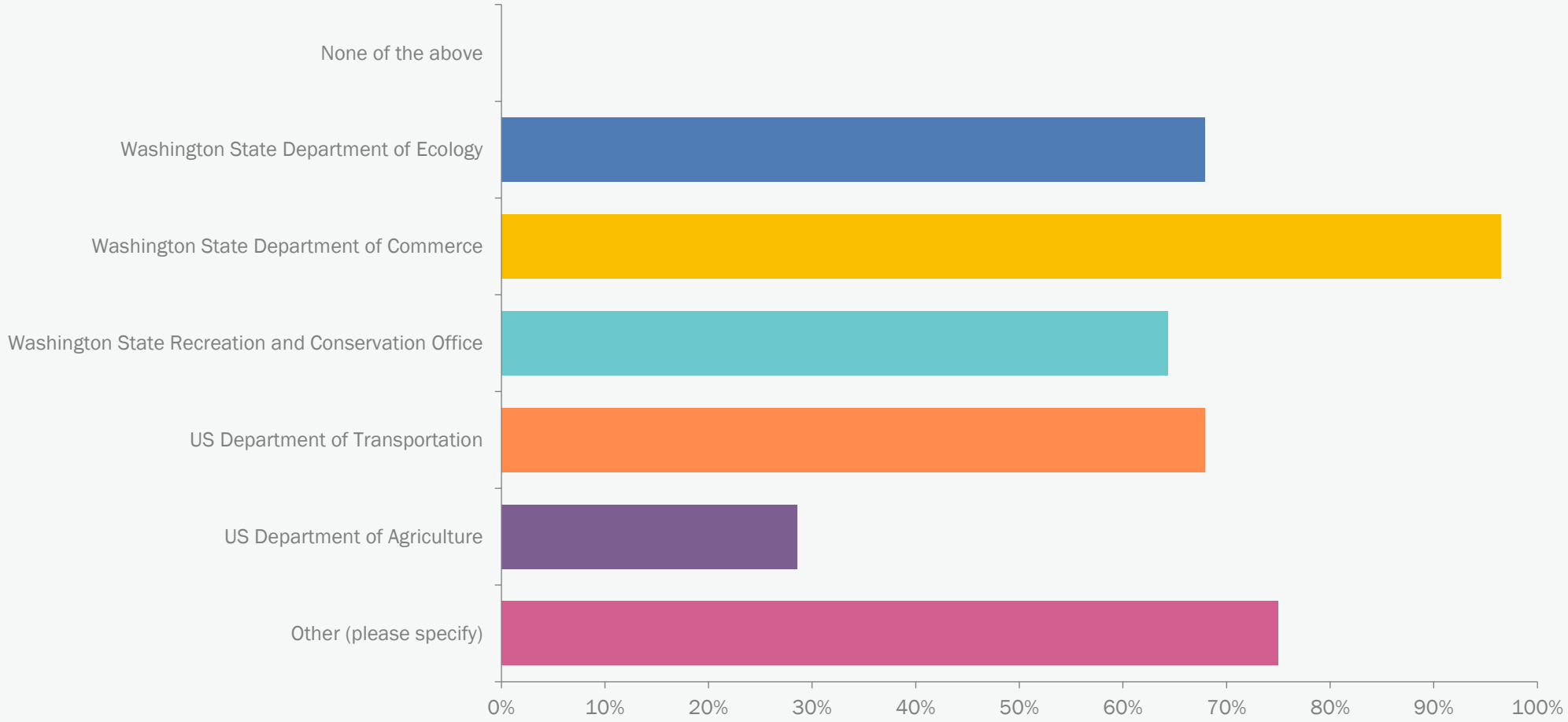
1. **Your successes and challenges with grant funding**
2. **What ports need from grant programs**
3. **Working together for the future of grants and community benefit**

We surveyed the Washington port industry to hear about your successes and challenges with grant funding.

There's still time to add your voice!


Port of Pend Oreille
Port of Port Townsend
Port of Coupeville
Port of Kingston
Grant County Port District #1
Port of Seattle
Northwest Seaport Alliance
Port of Bremerton
Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority
Port of Shelton
Port of Moses Lake
Port of Olympia
Port of Grays Harbor
Port of Royal Slope
Port of Othello
Port of Benton
Port of Columbia
Port of Pasco
Port of Longview
Port of Walla Walla
Port of Kalama
Port of Ridgefield
Port of Skamania County
Port of Klickitat
Port of Vancouver USA
Port of Camas-Washougal

Types of grants pursued



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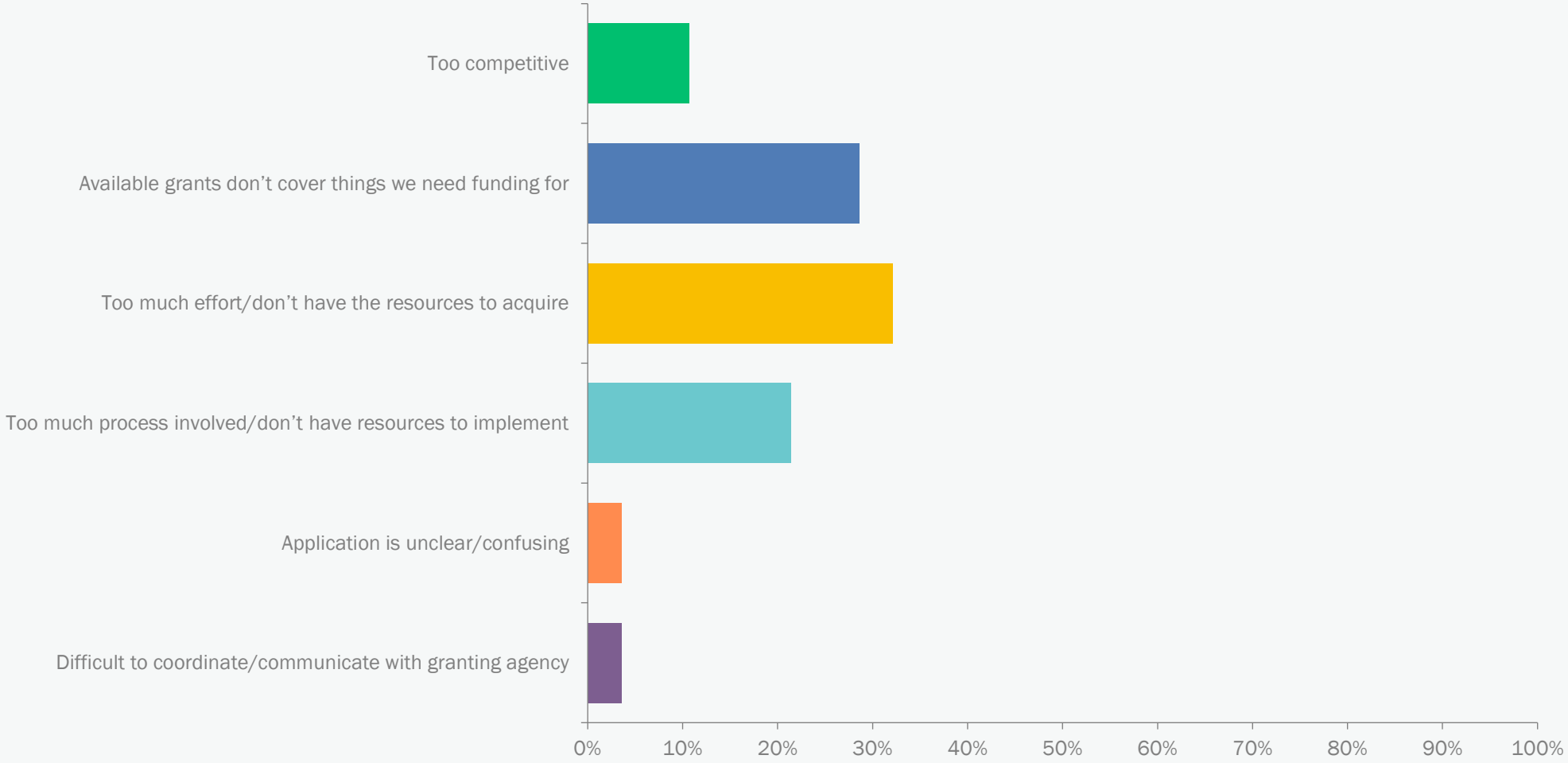
Barriers to access and understanding

- Centralized location
- Information overload
- Burden of researching
- Confusing rules
- Finding matching funds
- State vs. federal programs

Biggest challenges when applying



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Most helpful grants

- Port-specific
- Broad/flexible applicability
- Grant staff access
- Well-defined program
- Short approval timelines
- Easy to implement
- Assist with matching for other grant programs

Big picture challenges on the horizon

Aging infrastructure, gaps

Regulations, complexity of doing business

Sustainability, climate resilience

Costs and resources compared to revenues

Model vs. mission

Competition, automation

Cybersecurity, physical security

WPPA Port Governance & Management Guide

www.washingtonports.org/publications-guides

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We help our clients learn about funding opportunities.

www.maulfoster.com/services/funding-financing-grant-support

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Follow Up Questions?

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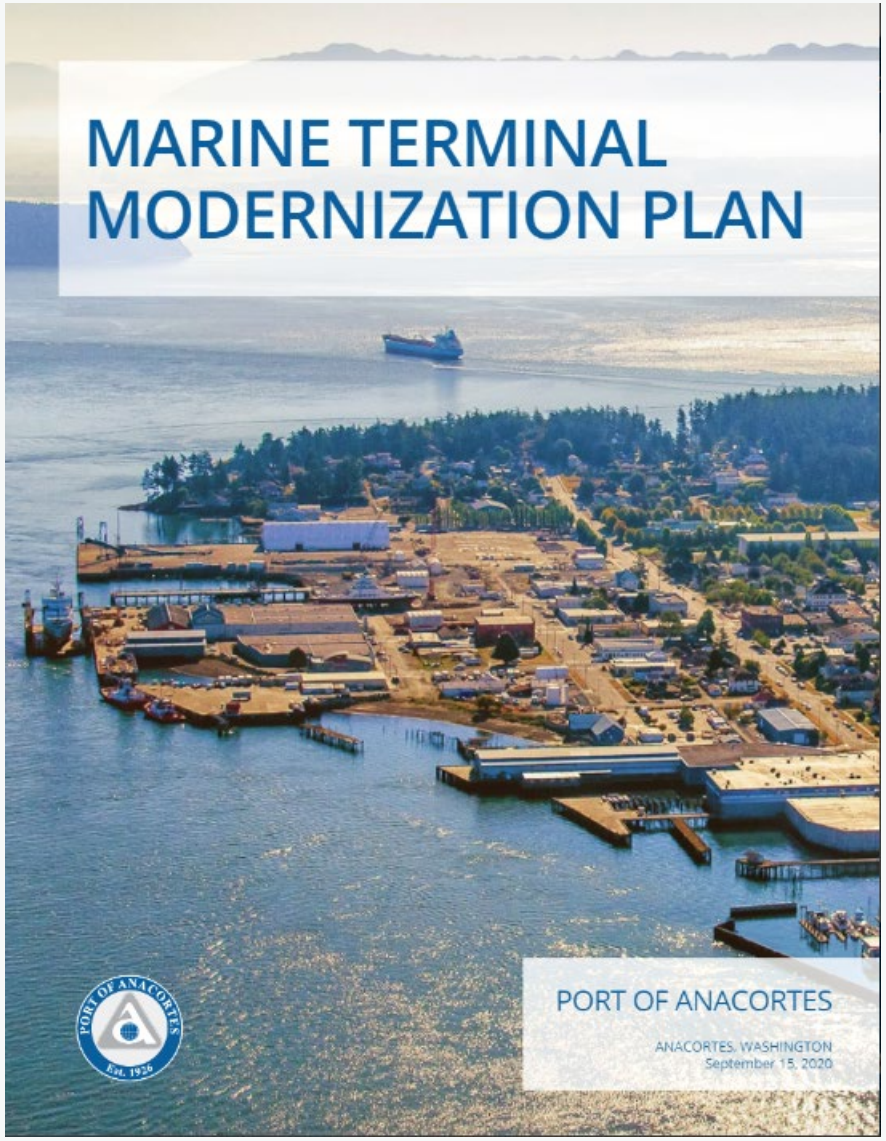
Three essentials of grants:

1. **Research**
2. **Application**
3. **Implementation**

Research Must-Haves:

1. **Planning and vision**
2. **Focused project**
3. **Approach for timing and leveraging other resources**



Research:

Primary Category*	Secondary Category	Program Name*	Description of Source*	Website*	Source Agency	Source Agency Type*
Infrastructure Construction	Port freight and transportation	Port Infrastructure Development Program	Support the port and related freight infrastructure improvements to ensure that the transportation of goods can keep pace with anticipated growth	https://www.maritime.dot	U.S. Department of Transportation	Federal

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Application:

1. **Some grants require a lot of pre-planning, a letter of interest, or even a pre-application months before the actual application is due.**

2. **Some grants have restrictions about cost allocations—the percentage of overhead, for example—in the application budget.**

3. **Grants vary in the kinds of matching funds (in-kind or cash) that are allowable.**

Implementation:

1. **Grants usually have strict timelines for spending the funds, so use your A Team for implementation!**

2. **Administration of the grant requires in-house resources or someone to help fulfill the scheduling and reporting requirements.**

3. **Post-construction monitoring can have a cost not covered by the grant.**