



Investing in the Southeast

Tracking Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Spending

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Grace Parker
Research Associate



Key Takeaways

- While the BIL shifts the definition of infrastructure to include critical energy and environmental infrastructure necessary to mitigate climate change, the largest funding category is still ground transportation.
- The Southeast has not received a share of funding proportionate to its population. The Southeast trails in both total funding per capita and grant funding per capita compared to other regions.
- Energy conservation funding in the Southeast is currently committed to weatherization programs and state energy programs, with significant differences in the amount committed to each state.
- Significant investments in energy storage and EV supply chains in the Southeast are being hastened by federal funding opportunities available through the BIL.

Introduction

Federal funding dedicated to climate, energy, and environmental initiatives has significantly increased since 2021. The landmark Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) mark the largest investments in climate mitigation in American history. While the resources available through these laws provide unprecedented opportunities for communities across the United States, additional steps are needed to ensure that this funding is accessible to all communities in our region, particularly those who have been previously underserved by federal resources.

We have reviewed federal funding awards across the Southeast to understand where funds are going and what they are funding. This information supports decision-makers applying for funding and supporting under-resourced communities across the region. While this whitepaper focuses on the BIL, we plan to address additional sources of funding, including the IRA, in future updates as more funding is allocated.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): An Overview

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), passed in November 2021. The law allocates \$1.2 trillion, of which \$550 billion is new federal spending, over ten years for infrastructure projects, including roads, public transit, broadband, and electric grid upgrades. This law goes beyond previous conceptions of what constitutes infrastructure by making significant investments in the infrastructure needed to hasten the clean energy transition, including investments in the electric grid, improving the quality and energy efficiency of homes, training the next generation of energy workers, and supporting the deployment of cutting-edge clean energy technologies.

Almost half of the new funding, about \$274 billion, will be allocated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). Other agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Commerce (DOC), and the Department of Interior (DOI) will award smaller amounts of funding, between \$28 and \$67 billion each.¹ Federal agencies will use the funding for operations, award funds through direct payments, competitive grants, or cooperative agreements, or allocate it based on formulas that provide pre-determined amounts for each state/territory. Current funding opportunities can be found on The White House website.²

Key Trends

- While the BIL shifts the definition of infrastructure to include critical energy and environmental infrastructure necessary to mitigate climate change, the largest funding category is still ground transportation.

¹ Senate Amendment 2137 to H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as Proposed on August 1, 2021, Congressional Budget Office, last modified August 9, 2021, https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2021-08/hr3684_infrastructure.pdf.

² Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Opportunities You Can Apply for Today, The White House, last modified July 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/resources/nofos-to-know/>.

- The Southeast has not received a share of funding proportionate to its population. The Southeast trails in both total funding per capita and grant funding per capita compared to other regions.
- Energy conservation funding in the Southeast is currently committed to weatherization programs and state energy programs, with significant differences in the amount committed to each state.
- Significant investments in energy storage and electric vehicle (EV) supply chains in the Southeast are being hastened by federal funding opportunities available through the BIL.

Distribution of BIL Funding by Region

Nationally, the Northeast has received the most total funding and the most grant funding. The Northeast also has one of the highest amounts of total funding per capita and grant funding per capita. The Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest have received roughly similar amounts of total funding. However, this represents almost \$250 less per capita in the Southeast than in the Northeast. The south-central states and the Southeast have received the lowest amount of grants per capita by far at \$38 and \$43, respectively. Despite its small population, Alaska has received more total funding than several states in the Southeast, resulting in extremely high amounts of total funding per capita and grant funding per capita. For grant funding, the entire Southeast has received a comparable amount to California, which has only about half the population of the Southeast.

The Southeast and Midwest Lag Behind the Northeast in Committed Funding Despite Larger Populations

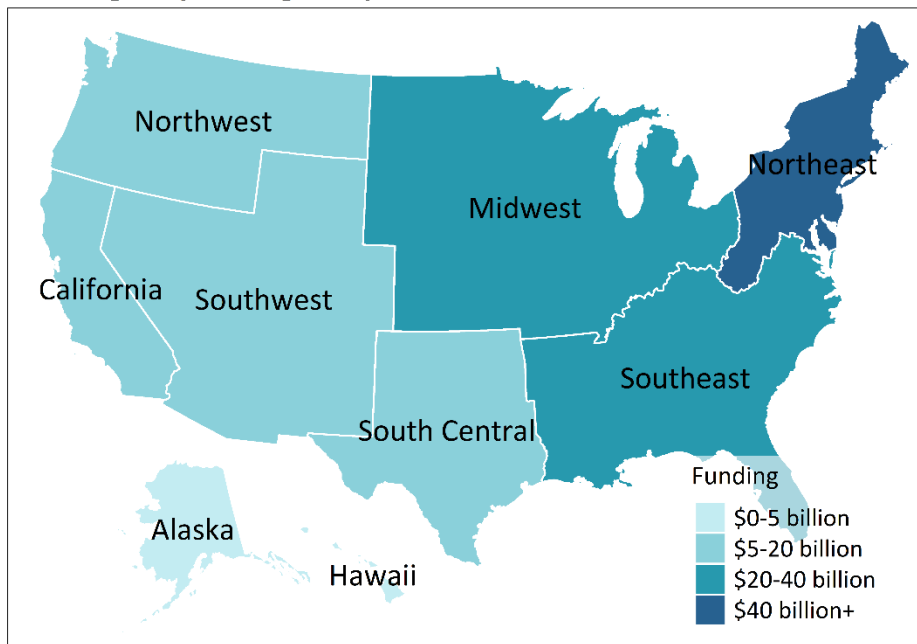


Figure 1.

The Northeast Has Received Far More Grant Funding Than Any Other Region

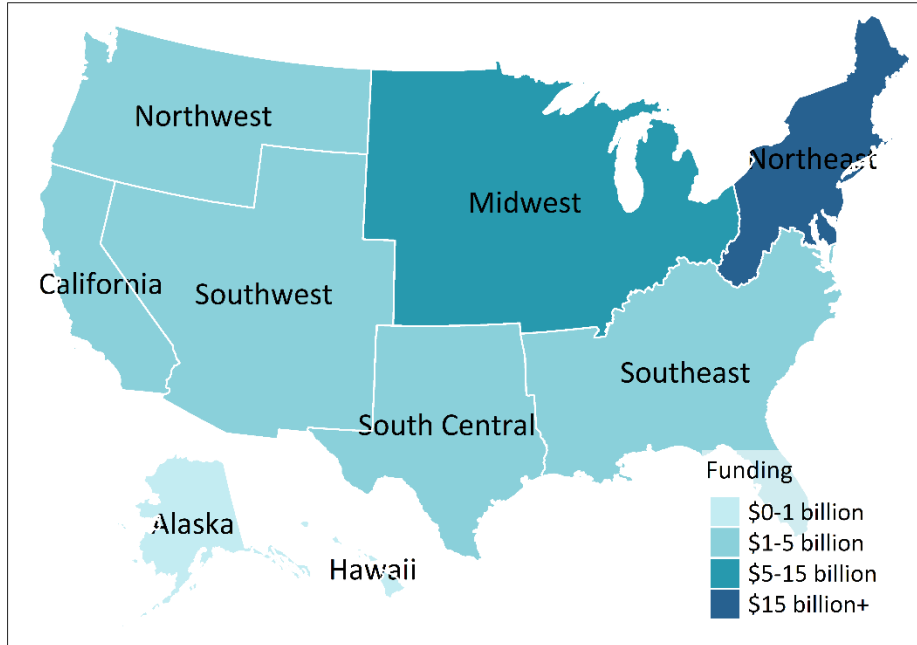


Figure 2.

Funding by Region

Region	Funding	Total Per Capita	Grant Funding	Grants Per Capita
Northeast	\$45,908,718,786	\$689	\$15,199,055,695	\$228
Southeast	\$37,675,742,262	\$443	\$3,644,137,369	\$43
Midwest	\$37,645,281,353	\$547	\$5,033,744,832	\$73
California	\$15,997,061,891	\$410	\$3,130,699,878	\$80
South Central	\$14,973,645,014	\$440	\$1,289,018,048	\$38
Southwest	\$12,648,703,556	\$563	\$2,570,171,379	\$114
Northwest	\$9,602,970,469	\$636	\$2,315,383,073	\$153
Alaska	\$2,631,362,503	\$3,587	\$837,373,306	\$1,141
Hawaii	\$834,354,992	\$579	\$236,260,581	\$164

Figure 3: The Southeast trails in total funding per capita and grants per capita.

Distribution of BIL Funding in the Southeast

As of January 22, 2024, the federal government had committed \$37.67 billion in BIL funding to the Southeast, about \$443 per person. This is 21.1% of total BIL funding committed nationally, while 25.5% of the U.S. population lived in the Southeast in 2022. Accordingly, the Southeast’s funding on a per capita basis is less than the national average of \$537. Southeastern states have received between \$1.7 and \$7.7 billion each, with more populous states receiving more funding. Florida, Georgia, Virginia, and North Carolina have received the most overall funding but generally lower per capita funding, while states that have received less funding typically have a smaller population. However, South Carolina has received the third lowest amount of total funding and per capita funding in the Southeast.

The More Populous States Have Received the Most Total BIL Funding

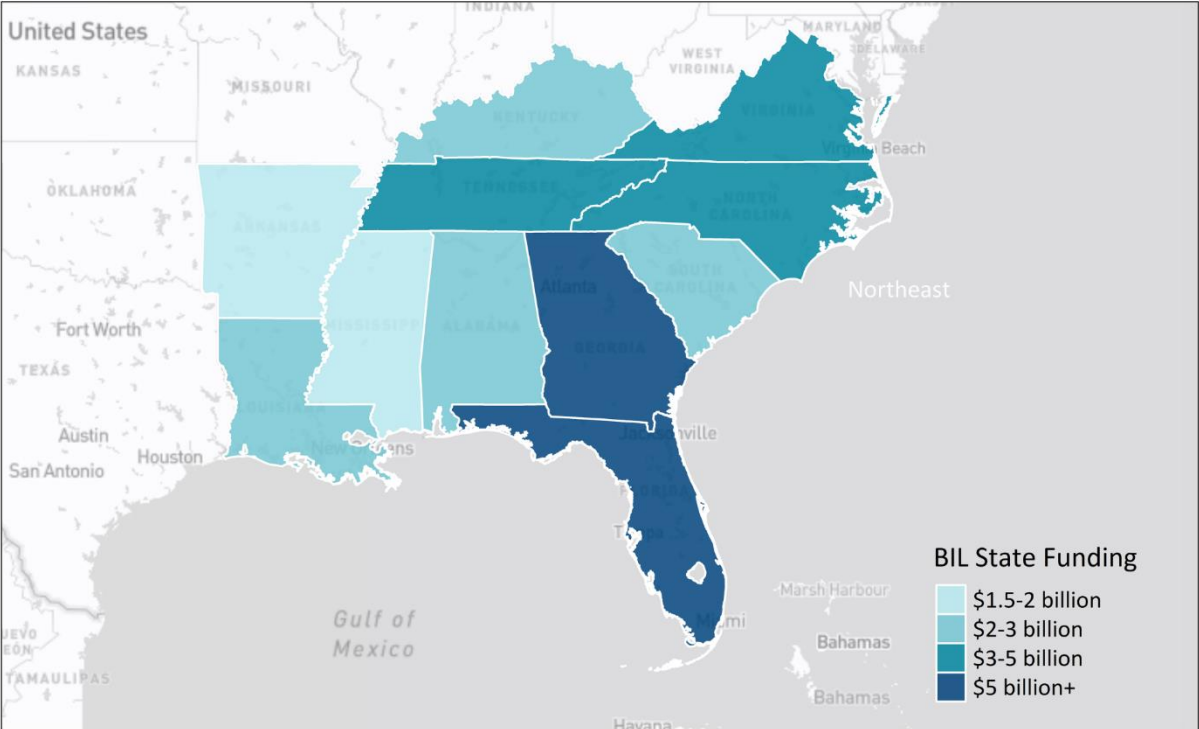


Figure 4.

Grant Funding is Less Correlated with Population than Total Funding

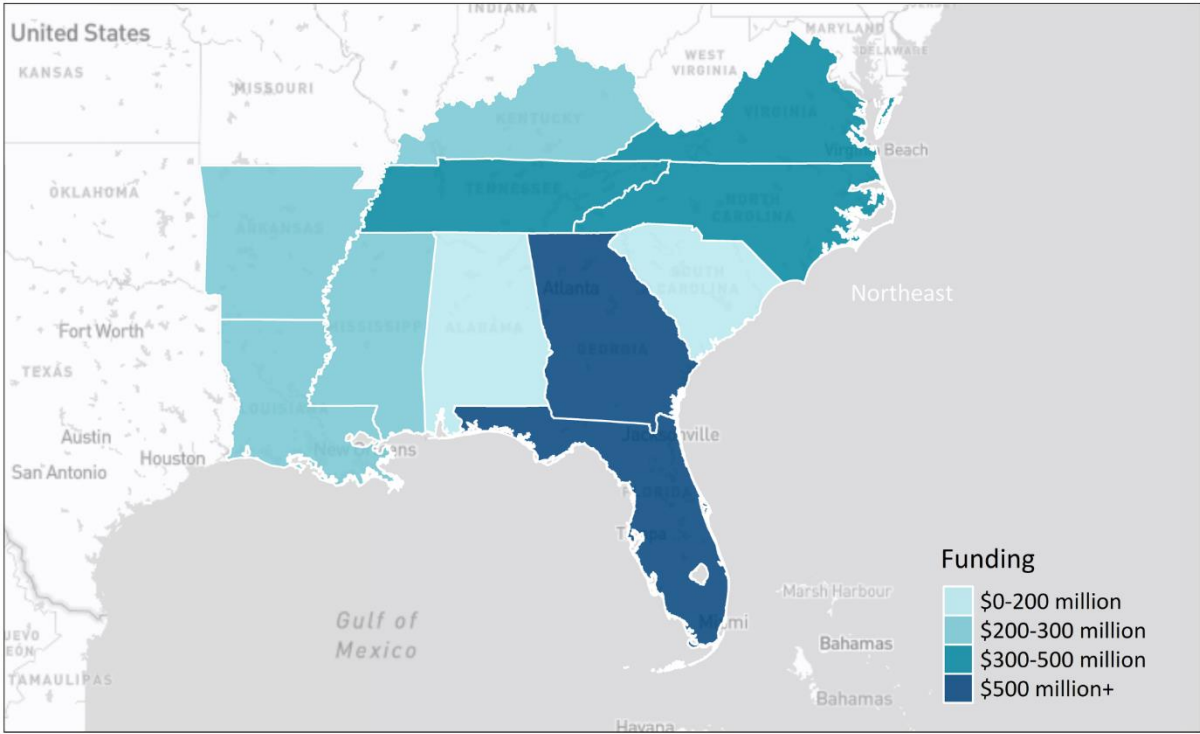


Figure 5.

Funding Varies Drastically Among States in the Southeast

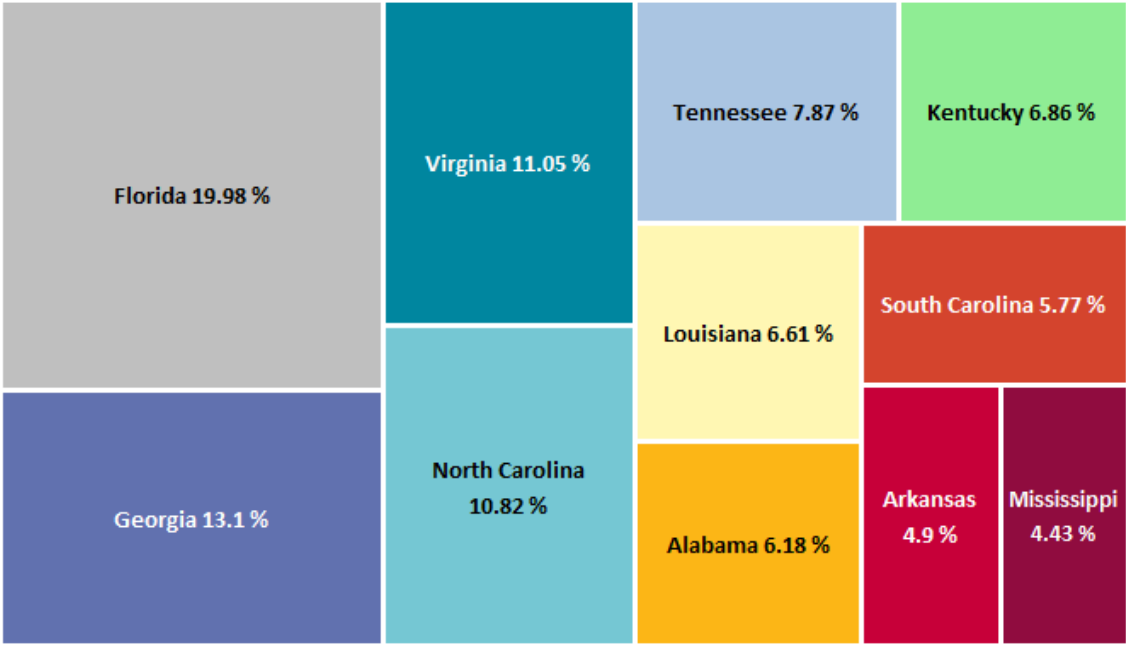


Figure 6.

Southeast Funding by State

State	Funding	Total Per Capita	Grant Funding	Grants Per Capita
Florida	\$7,715,800,000	\$347	\$615,960,000	\$28
Georgia	\$5,057,600,000	\$463	\$630,710,000	\$58
Virginia	\$4,265,700,000	\$491	\$320,700,000	\$37
North Carolina	\$4,177,000,000	\$390	\$486,070,000	\$45
Tennessee	\$3,038,900,000	\$431	\$304,420,000	\$43
Kentucky	\$2,649,000,000	\$587	\$265,950,000	\$59
Louisiana	\$2,552,300,000	\$556	\$278,880,000	\$61
Alabama	\$2,384,800,000	\$470	\$149,640,000	\$29
South Carolina	\$2,229,300,000	\$422	\$147,960,000	\$28
Arkansas	\$1,894,100,000	\$622	\$205,240,000	\$67
Mississippi	\$1,711,100,000	\$582	\$238,630,000	\$81

Figure 7: States that received more funding commitments tended to have lower committed funding on a per capita basis.

Deobligated Funding by State

State	Funding
Florida	\$87,700,000
Alabama	\$71,700,000
Tennessee	\$63,400,000
Arkansas	\$60,000,000
Georgia	\$56,600,000
Louisiana	\$39,500,000
Virginia	\$37,200,000
North Carolina	\$31,800,000
Mississippi	\$30,400,000
Kentucky	\$15,500,000
South Carolina	\$11,200,000

Figure 8: Deobligated funding varies drastically, with Arkansas having about ten times more funding deobligated than South Carolina.

Type and Function of BIL Funding in the Southeast

Formula grants, which are noncompetitive allocations to states and territories based on unique distribution formulas, comprise 77% of committed BIL funding in the Southeast. The largest category of formula funding is for roads and bridges, and major funding includes the National Highway Performance Program, through which \$148 billion is available nationally; the Surface Transportation Block Grant

Program, comprising \$72 billion; and the Bridge Formula Program, which makes \$26.68 billion available.³ Direct payments for specified use, which are federal funds provided to individuals or private entities and meant to encourage a specific activity, comprise about 6% of committed funding in the Southeast. Almost all direct payments committed in the Southeast (99.9%) are from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which pays communications companies to provide affordable broadband to eligible households through the Affordable Connectivity Program. Competitive project grants comprise about 9% of committed funding in the Southeast. The complete distribution of funding types is shown in Figure 8. The BIL includes over \$100 billion in competitive awards for transportation, including \$12.2 billion for the Bridge Investment Program and \$8 billion for Capital Investment grants, which provide capital funds to public agencies to invest in building or expanding transit systems, including rail systems, streetcars, and bus rapid transit.⁴

About \$505 million in BIL funding has been deobligated in the Southeast (Figure 8). Deobligated funds have been awarded to a recipient and later reduced or revoked, which can happen for many reasons. While the deobligation of funds is not the focus of this report, these funds are not included in the committed funding figures. About 86% of deobligated funding was from formula funding, and about 87% was for ground transportation.

Formula Funds Comprise the Vast Majority of Funding

Southeast Funding by Award Type

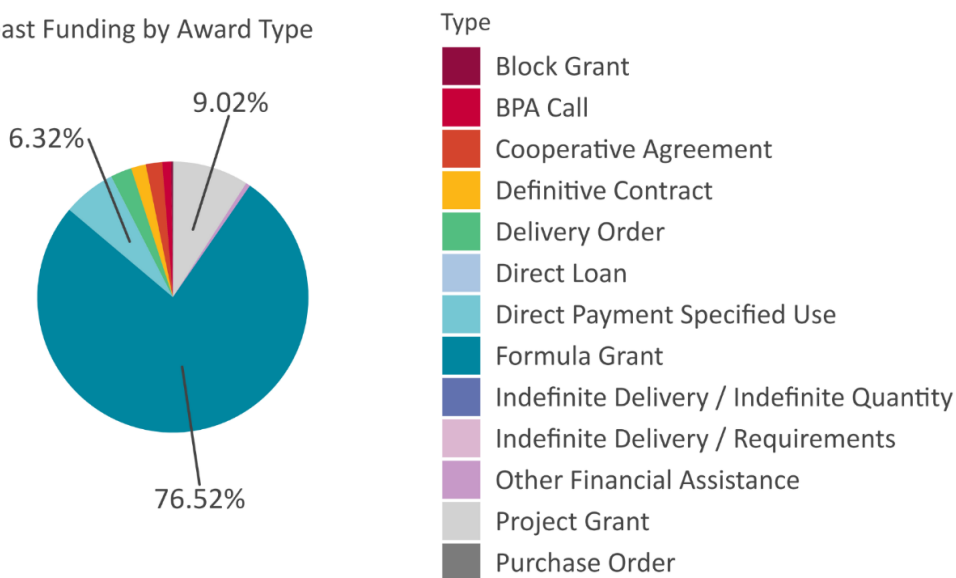


Figure 9.

³ Guidebook Data, The White House, accessed September 8, 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/guidebook/>

⁴ Guidebook Data, The White House.

About 75% of committed funding in the Southeast, or about \$28.2 billion, is for ground transportation. 7% of funding committed is for “other advancement of commerce,” with many of these awards allocated to support the expansion of broadband infrastructure. 6% is for pollution control and abatement. Between 1% and 3% of funding is for water resources, air transportation, conservation and land management, and energy conservation, each. The complete distribution of funding is shown in Figure 10, with a relatively similar composition among states.

Ground Transportation Makes Up the Vast Majority of Funding

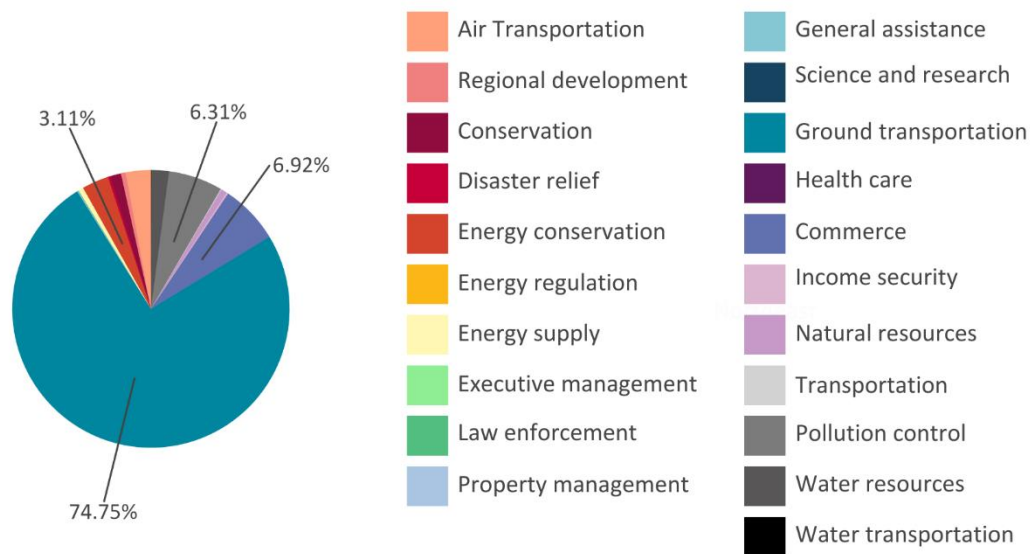


Figure 10.

The composition of BIL funding by category in the future will be significantly different from the funding committed thus far. Although ground transportation is the largest category in the BIL at \$259 billion, it is still only about 47% of total new funding, compared to 75% of committed funding in the Southeast. Ground transportation will make up a smaller proportion of funding as other funds are rolled out. Other new investment categories in the BIL include power and energy at 13%, broadband at 12%, water resources at 10%, and resilience at 8%. These categories are underrepresented in committed funding to the Southeast as of January 22, 2024, so the committed funding in these categories is expected to make up a larger proportion of committed BIL funding moving forward.

Energy Funding in the Southeast

BIL funding represents one of the most significant investments in energy efficiency in history. About \$1.17 billion has been committed to energy conservation in the Southeast, with an additional \$219 million in energy production and \$6.6 million in energy regulation. Most committed energy funding is to support DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), with \$305.3 million, and the State Energy Program, with \$98.7 million. WAP funds home improvements such as insulation, caulking, and replacement of inefficient heating and cooling systems for eligible income-qualified households, with the

goal of improving health, affordability, and safety for people who cannot afford the upfront capital needed for weatherization. State Energy Program funding can be used for a variety of applications, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative fuels, electric vehicles, and more. With past funding, State Energy Programs in the Southeast have deployed over 20 MW of solar photovoltaics in Arkansas,⁵ have saved over \$77 million in energy costs since 2005 for local governments, schools, and nonprofits in Alabama,⁶ and plan to add about 50 electric vehicle fast-charging stations to Tennessee interstates and major highways.⁷

The amount of committed BIL WAP funding varies drastically by state, with DOE committing about \$46.8 million to the Florida Department of Commerce and about one-tenth of that to the Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality. WAP funding for each state and territory is determined by a base allocation, which aims to stabilize WAP funding over time, and a formula allocation, which is based on the state’s share of low-income households, the heating and cooling required, and an estimate of the energy burden on low-income households.⁸ These commitments do not necessarily reflect the entirety of WAP and SEP funding that will be committed to these states from the BIL, and most states will spend these funds over several years.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Funding

Recipient	Funding
Florida Department of Commerce	\$46,824,000
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality	\$44,888,000
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority	\$42,157,000
Tennessee Housing Development Agency	\$33,174,000
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development	\$32,796,000
Kentucky Housing Corp	\$25,971,000
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs	\$23,745,000
South Carolina Office of the State Treasurer	\$21,291,000
Louisiana Housing Corporation	\$15,497,000
Mississippi Department of Human Services	\$14,039,000
Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	\$4,934,400

Figure 11: These amounts of committed funding can be expected to cover program expenses for several years.

⁵ *State and Community Energy Programs Project Map – Arkansas*. (n.d.). Energy.gov. Retrieved January 22, 2024, from <https://www.energy.gov/scep/articles/state-and-community-energy-programs-project-map-arkansas>

⁶ *State and Community Energy Programs Project Map - Alabama*. (n.d.). Energy.gov. Retrieved March 7, 2024, from <https://www.energy.gov/scep/articles/state-and-community-energy-programs-project-map-alabama>

⁷ *State and Community Energy Programs Project Map – Tennessee*. (n.d.). Energy.gov. Retrieved March 7, 2024, from <https://www.energy.gov/scep/articles/state-and-community-energy-programs-project-map-tennessee>

⁸ Weatherization Assistance Program Allocation Formula, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, accessed on August 15, 2023, <https://www.energy.gov/scep/wap/weatherization-assistance-program-allocation-formula>.

State Energy Program Funding

Recipient	Funding
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	\$16,837,000
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority	\$10,814,000
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources	\$10,536,000
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality	\$10,438,000
Virginia Department of Energy	\$9,509,500
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation	\$8,519,000
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs	\$7,361,700
Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet	\$6,927,300
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff	\$6,883,400
Mississippi Development Authority	\$5,487,400
Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	\$5,397,600

Figure 12: The amount of funding for SEPs is much more consistent across states in the Southeast compared to WAP.

Spotlight on Projects:

Arkansas Black Mayor’s Association (ABMA): The Natural Resources Conservation Service committed \$62.1 million to the ABMA for watershed protection and flood prevention in several cities across the state.⁹

Westminster Village of the Mid-South: The Environmental Protection Agency committed \$1 million to a retirement community in Blytheville, Arkansas, that provides affordable housing on a former Air Force base, a site contaminated with inorganic substances. The grant will help the nonprofit clean up the site to enhance the safety of its residents.¹⁰

Anovion: The Department of Energy committed \$117 million to Anovion to build a facility in Colbert County, Alabama, that can produce 35,000 tons annually of synthetic graphite anode material, which is used for EV and critical energy storage lithium-ion batteries. This grant will also be used, in part, to expand capacity at Anovion’s plant in New York.¹¹

City of Birmingham: The Department of Transportation committed \$800,000 to the City of Birmingham, Alabama, to study and produce recommendations about how to reduce the negative impacts of rail and highway infrastructure on historically Black communities and historic neighborhoods in general.¹²

⁹ Award NR227103XXXXC029, USA Spending, accessed on August 15, 2021, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_NR227103XXXXC029_12C3.

¹⁰ President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering in Arkansas, The White House, last modified June 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Arkansas-Fact-Sheet-June.pdf>.

¹¹ President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in Delivering in Alabama, The White House, last modified March 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Alabama-Fact-Sheet-March-Edition.pdf>.

¹² President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in Delivering in Alabama, The White House, last modified March 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Alabama-Fact-Sheet-March-Edition.pdf>.

Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (CFRTA): The Federal Transit Authority committed \$16.1 million to CFRTA in Orlando, Florida to buy battery electric buses and charging infrastructure.¹³

Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program: The ACE committed \$1.1 billion to reconnect habitats in the Everglades, which have been isolated by the impacts of human development. According to the White House, this is the single largest investment in Everglades' history.¹⁴

Seminole Tribe of Florida: The Department of Commerce committed \$500,000 to the Seminole Tribe of Florida to establish a digital training program and provide broadband equipment to support schools, libraries, and workforce development.¹⁵

City of Atlanta: The Environmental Protection Agency committed \$3.9 million to the City of Atlanta for brownfield remediation at five sites. The sites will be redeveloped or repurposed into affordable housing units, an environmental education center, parks, and mixed-use sites.¹⁶

Solvay: The Department of Energy committed \$178 million to Solvay to build a polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) facility in Augusta, Georgia. The facility is expected to supply over 5 million EV batteries per year at full capacity and create more than 100 highly skilled manufacturing jobs.¹⁷

Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet: The Department of Interior committed \$74.3 million to Kentucky for mine reclamation.¹⁸

Ascend Elements: The Department of Energy committed \$316 million to Ascend Elements to build an EV battery manufacturing and recycling facility. The facility will produce enough precursor and battery-ready cathode active materials for 250,000 EVs per year.¹⁹

Jefferson Parish, Louisiana: The Department of Transportation committed \$6.9 million to Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, to purchase three diesel-electric buses and construct new administrative and maintenance buildings.²⁰

¹³ President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Deliver in Florida, The White House, last modified February 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Florida-Fact-Sheet-E3.pdf>.

¹⁴ President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Deliver in Florida, The White House.

¹⁵ Award NT23TBC0290121, USA Spending, accessed on August 15, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_NT23TBC0290121_1335.

¹⁶ Award 02D34622, USA Spending, accessed on August 15, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_02D34622_6800.

¹⁷ President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Deliver in Georgia, The White House, last modified February 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Georgia-Fact-Sheet-E3.pdf>.

¹⁸ Award S23AF00001, USA Spending, accessed August 15, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_S23AF00001_1438.

¹⁹ President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Deliver in Kentucky, The White House, last modified February 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Kentucky-Fact-Sheet-E3.pdf>.

²⁰ Award LA-2023-004, USA Spending, accessed on August 15, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_LA-2023-004_6955.

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources: The Department of Interior committed \$25 million to the Louisiana DNR to plug and restore orphaned wells, implement methane monitoring protocols, and improve water quality monitoring.²¹

Syrah: The Department of Energy committed \$220 million to expand Syrah's natural graphite active anode material (AAM) facility. This facility will be the first large-scale natural graphite AAM facility in the United States, used for EV and critical energy storage batteries.²²

Mississippi State Department of Health: The EPA committed \$19.4 million to the Mississippi State Department of Health to improve public water systems, including fixing leaky or old pipes, improving the water supply, replacing or constructing finished water storage tanks, and more.²³

Applied Materials: The Department of Energy committed \$100 million to Applied Materials to build a pre-lithiation and lithium anode facility to support the EV battery supply chain. Applied Materials will build the facility in North Carolina but has not yet finalized an exact location.²⁴

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians: The Department of Commerce committed \$500,000 to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for the initial phase of a broadband initiative, including rights-of-way, appraisals, project inspection fees, and project management.²⁵

City of Clemson: The Department of Commerce committed \$3.9 million to the City of Clemson, South Carolina, for zero-emission battery electric buses to replace diesel buses that are past their useful life.²⁶

Economic Development Growth Engine for Memphis and Shelby County: The Environmental Protection Agency committed \$1 million to finance a revolving loan fund for brownfield cleanup. The grant will specifically target four sites, including a historic school for African Americans and a site where the State of Tennessee stored contaminated soil in the 1960s.²⁷

Piedmont Lithium: The Department of Energy committed \$141.7 million to Piedmont Lithium to build a lithium hydroxide facility in Etowah, Tennessee, that will strengthen the domestic EV battery supply chain. The facility is expected to produce 30,000 metric tons of lithium hydroxide annually, doubling the current U.S. production.²⁸

²¹ Award D22AP00241, USA Spending, accessed August 15, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_D22AP00241_1406.

²² President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Deliver in Louisiana, The White House, last modified February 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Louisiana-Fact-Sheet-E3.pdf>.

²³ Award 02D39222, USA Spending, accessed August 15, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_02D39222_6800.

²⁴ President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Deliver in North Carolina, The White House, last modified May 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/North-Carolina-Fact-Sheet-May.pdf>.

²⁵ Award NT23TBC0290061, USA Spending, accessed August 15, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_NT23TBC0290061_1335.

²⁶ President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Deliver in South Carolina, The White House, last modified November 2022, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/South-Carolina-BIL-State-Fact-Sheet-Nov-22.pdf>.

²⁷ President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Deliver in Tennessee, The White House, last modified June 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Tennessee-Fact-Sheet-June.pdf>.

²⁸ President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Will Deliver in Tennessee, The White House.

National Association of State Energy Officials: The Department of Energy awarded \$1.5 million to NASEO for their work to build a national electric vehicle infrastructure network.²⁹

Methods

The BIL funding data in this report is from the federal government’s USA Spending website, managed by the U.S. Department of Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service. The data includes all committed funding awards associated with the BIL, which was filtered to include only states in the Southeast. The award data was joined to spatial data via State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) codes based on the award recipient’s state. This is significant because the recipient’s location is not always the same as the place of performance. Many companies operate on a large scale. Although their project may be in the Southeast, if their headquarters is in California, that award will not appear in this analysis. Similarly, funding that appears in North Carolina may be used in Kentucky, for example, or even outside of the Southeast.

Federal agencies are required to update USA Spending on a monthly or quarterly basis, and the website itself is updated bi-weekly, so committed funding amounts should be considered a minimum as funding continues to be allocated. Notable shortcomings with USA Spending include overdue submissions (agencies submit data after government deadlines), incomplete records, and ambiguous data, e.g., awards associated with an “unknown” activity.³⁰ As discussed above, the most relevant shortcoming for this report is that awards largely lacked an associated place of performance. Addressing these issues is critical to a completely representative analysis of federal spending.

Acknowledgments

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²⁹ Award DEEE0010189, USA Spending, accessed August 15, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_DEEE0010189_8900.

³⁰ See U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Federal Spending Transparency: Opportunities to Improve USA Spending.gov Data*, GAO-24-106214, November 7, 2023.