

ACT LOCALLY



An equitable investment resource guide for **advocates and local governments** to **access federal infrastructure funding** and activate bold investments



Why is this infrastructure resource targeted to local leaders?

The federal government delegated decision-making to states on how to invest an unprecedented, nearly **\$3 trillion** from the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**.

Wisdom about local priorities lies with community advocates and local officials. If local leaders are at the table, this unprecedented infrastructure funding can deliver better outcomes:



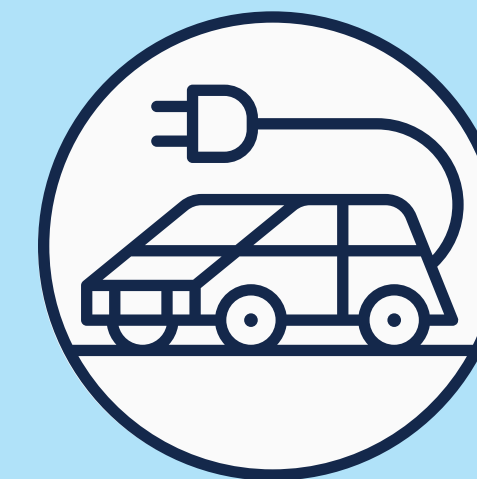
Good jobs and economic opportunity for all



Safer, more affordable transportation options



Cleaner air and water and improved health



Electrified transportation and decarbonized buildings



Benefits to disadvantaged and BIPOC communities

This resource delivers the information needed so local implementers can successfully advocate for what they need!

What information can I find in *Act Locally*?

For all 50 states:

- Specifics on five-year funding for 46 programs supporting investments in transportation, energy, and buildings
- Details on policy and regulatory frameworks
- Data on flexing funds, on traffic deaths, on building energy codes, and much more so you can craft your most compelling case for local investment

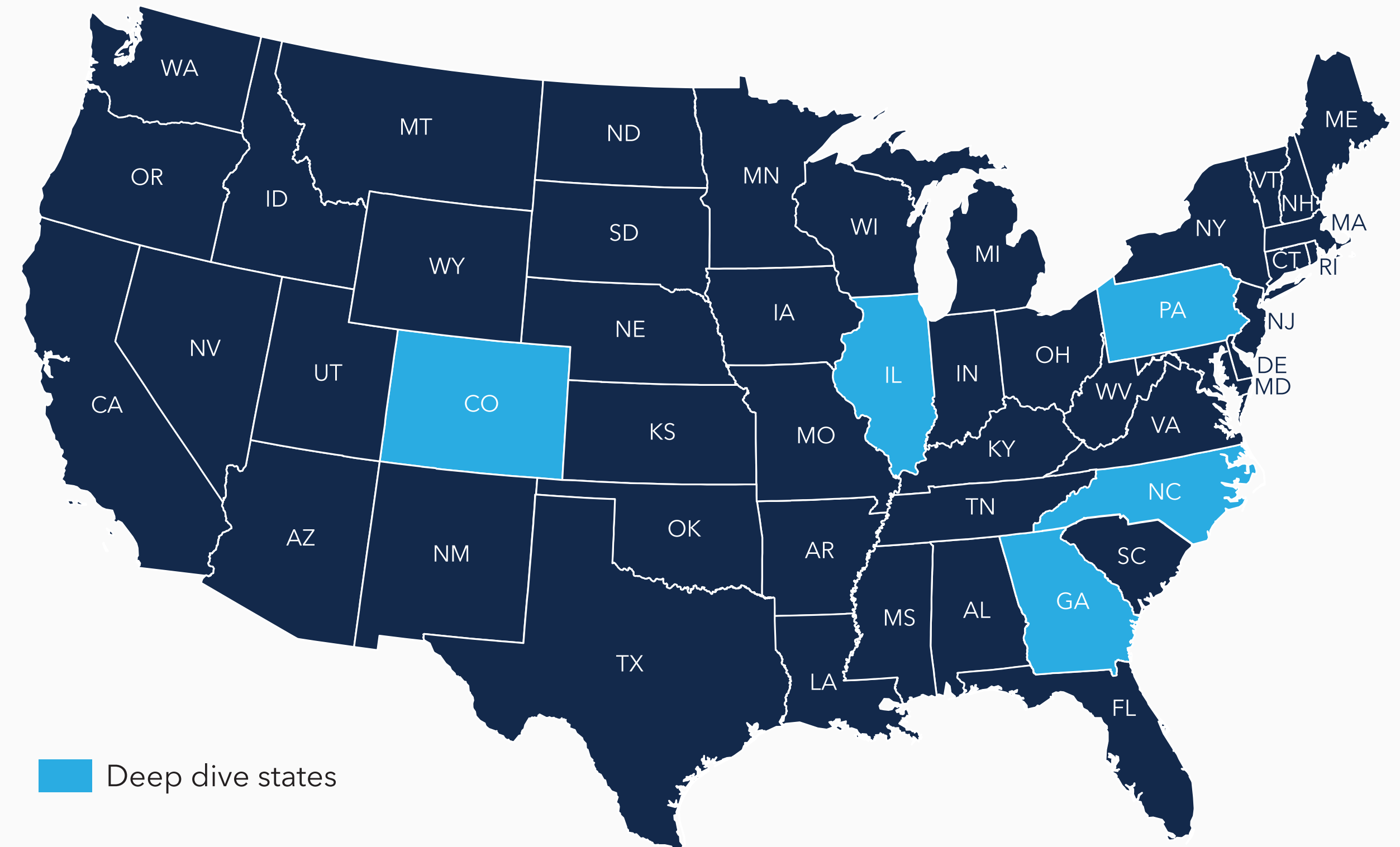
Deep dive into 5 states:

Past **spending trends on transportation** repairs versus expansion

Description of **legal, planning, and equity structures** to leverage

5 DEEP DIVE STATES

Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania are referred to as “deep dive” states. While this research focuses on these five states, many of the highlighted concerns and solutions are applicable to other states.



What data are in the appendixes?

Appendix A

Scannable information on the federal agency in charge, total funding, and useful links

Appendix B

More details for **CO, GA, IL, NC,** and **PA**

Appendix C

Extensive list of resources

Appendix D

Relationship mapping worksheet

Transportation Highlighted Programs

Transportation Construction/Improvements	DOT \$324.1B		
Community-Based Transportation Grants	DOT \$11.5B	EPA \$3B	HUD (TBD)
Rural Areas Transportation Grants	DOT \$6.1B		
Safety & Climate Resilience	DOT \$31.2B		
Reduced Emissions & Alternative Fuels	DOT \$27.1B	EPA \$28B	

Energy & Buildings Highlighted Programs

Increasing Home Retrofits in Low-/Moderate-Income Communities: Weatherization & Electrification	DOE \$12.9B	HUD (TBD)	IRS (TBD)
Reduced Emissions & Climate Resiliency	DOE \$5.6B	EPA \$32B	
Clean Energy & Electrification Workforce Grants	DOE \$0.3B		
Improving Building Codes	DOE \$1.2B		

Five opportunities where local leaders must demand more

More money means real innovation is possible. Use this resource to raise expectations and secure commitments from state leaders to:

1

Deliver substantial support to deepen local capacity

2

Flex federal transportation funds for safer driving and enhanced walking, biking, public transit, and EV charging infrastructure

3

Build out the benefits of vehicle electrification

4

Maximize building decarbonization benefits, especially for underserved and BIPOC communities

5

Invest in workforce training and support

ASK YOUR STATE TO

1. Deliver substantial support to deepen local capacity

A range of state agencies can step up to support local efforts by:

Providing **matching funds** through state or discretionary federal resources for **transportation, buildings, and energy**

Acting as **fiscal agents** to manage the federal funds and required reporting

Convening **cohorts** by geography, scale, or issue to build a **robust pipeline** of innovative local projects

Targeting technical assistance resources where they're most needed, prioritizing **disadvantaged communities**

Lending agency expertise to **build capacity** (e.g., cost/benefit analysis, land use planning, zoning changes)

EXAMPLES

Ways that states are deepening local capacity

Targeting technical assistance resources where they're most needed:

- In February 2023, **CO** designated 14 Regional Navigators to address capacity gaps and help localities access infrastructure funding.
- **CT, DE, MA, and WA** offer models of backstopping municipal capacity, acting as fiscal sponsors for local projects, assisting with environmental impact statements, and/or contributing matching funds for federal discretionary grants.

Convening cohorts by geography, scale, or issue to build local project pipelines:

- Peer learning groups encourage local governments to develop bold, multiyear projects and diverse partnerships.
- Since 2013, **CA's** Competitive Active Transportation Program has bridged local capacity gaps by combining federal formula and state funds to support local projects that advance greenhouse gas reduction and safety goals.

ASK YOUR STATE TO

2. Flex federal transportation funds for safer driving and enhanced walking, biking, public transit, and EV charging infrastructure

States can flex federal funds from roads to:

- Transit, walking, biking, and electric vehicle investments—**up to 50%** of total from four large transportation formula programs
- Workforce training and supportive services like childcare—**up to 100%**

The average amount flexed is **only 4%**. Today, so much more is newly possible!

MORE THAN \$239 BILLION AVAILABLE FOR FLEXIBLE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS

Between 2022 and 2026, states can tap \$239 billion from four primary surface transportation programs (NHPP, STP, CMAQ, and CRP) to use for safer driving and enhanced walking, biking, public transit, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

TX \$23.6 B	NY \$10.1 B	MI \$6.3 B	NC \$6.3 B	VA \$6.2 B	NJ \$6.0 B	IN \$5.8 B	MO \$5.7 B	
	PA \$9.9 B	TN \$5.1 B	WA \$4.1 B	SC \$4.1 B	KY \$4.0 B	MN \$3.9 B	OK \$3.8 B	MA \$3.7 B
CA \$22.2 B	IL \$8.6 B	AL \$4.6 B	MD \$3.6 B	CT \$3.0 B	MT \$2.5 B	KS \$2.3 B	NM \$2.2 B	NV \$2.2 B
	OH \$8.1 B	WI \$4.6 B	CO \$3.3 B	OR \$3.0 B	UT \$2.1 B	WY \$1.6 B	ND \$1.5 B	RI \$1.3 B
	AZ \$4.4 B	AR \$3.1 B	IA \$3.0 B	MS \$2.9 B	NE \$1.7 B	VT \$1.2 B	HI \$1 B	NH \$1 B
FL \$11.4 B	GA \$7.8 B	LA \$4.2 B	AK \$3.0 B	WV \$2.6 B	ID \$1.7 B	ME \$1.1 B	DE \$1 B	DC \$1 B

How much are we talking, and what would that buy?







Flexible federal funds can be redeployed to deliver the travel options people deserve.

Each \$100 million in federal funds could support:



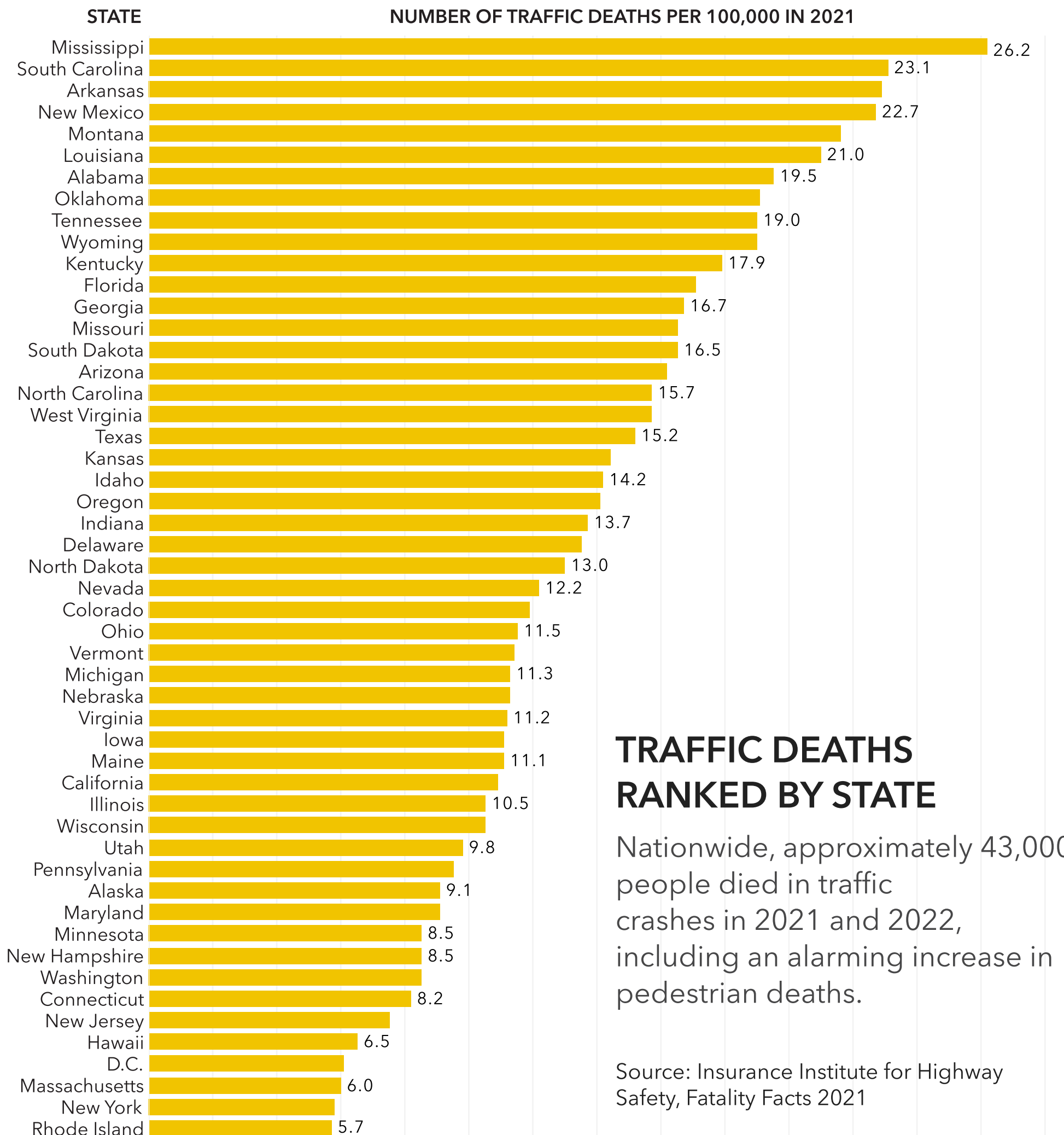
TRANSPORTATION FORMULA FUNDS ARE HIGHLY FLEXIBLE

States have broad discretion to redeploy transportation funds for safer driving and enhanced walking, bicycling, transit, and EV charging infrastructure. For illustration purposes, half of the growth in formula funds over five years could be invested in a substantial fleet of electric buses in the five deep dive states.

DEEP DIVE STATES	INVESTMENT POOL*	INVESTMENT POOLS \$ IN NEW ELECTRIC BUSES	 = 90 new electric buses
COLORADO	\$384 M	 346 new electric buses	
GEORGIA	\$917 M	 825 new electric buses	
ILLINOIS	\$1 B	 900 new electric buses	
NORTH CAROLINA	\$741 M	 667 new electric buses	
PENNSYLVANIA	\$1.17 B	 1,053 new electric buses	

*calculated based on 50% of transportation funding growth increment

All states face a crisis of traffic fatalities, including pedestrians



TRAFFIC DEATHS RANKED BY STATE

Nationwide, approximately 43,000 people died in traffic crashes in 2021 and 2022, including an alarming increase in pedestrian deaths.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Fatality Facts 2021



Deadly trend

~43,000 people died in traffic crashes in 2021 and 2022—some of the highest figures in decades and much higher than in other developed countries.

6,546 pedestrians died in the U.S.

In 2020, almost 2 deaths per 100,000.



Urgent actions needed

States should adopt complete-street requirements for quality pedestrian facilities on all roadways, particularly for vulnerable users like cyclists and pedestrians, and prioritize high-crash corridors.

Federal street safety programs are a prototype for states to adopt similar programs.

ASK YOUR STATE TO

3. Build out the benefits of vehicle electrification

The **BIL** and **IRA** provide record funding for vehicle electrification via tax credits for individuals and funding for municipalities, school districts, and transit agencies.

Sources to tap to lower up-front costs and facilitate decarbonization of transportation, the nation's most polluting sector, include:



\$5 billion for zero-emission school buses and charging infrastructure



\$1 billion in grants for commercial fleets to transition to electric heavy-duty vehicles

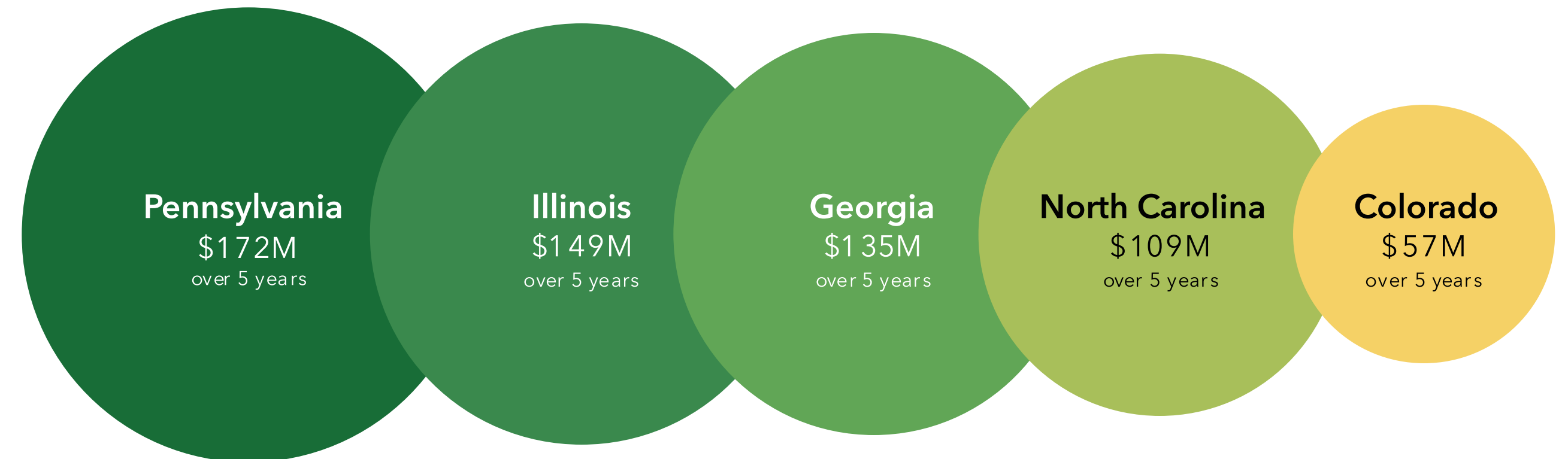


\$7.5 billion (formula and discretionary) for the build-out of public EV charging infrastructure

NEVI PLANS IN DEEP DIVE STATES

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program funds states to strategically deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and to build an integrated network to improve data collection, access, and dependability. All 50 states have developed implementation plans for the next five years.

NEVI \$ OVER 5 YEARS



Source: Colorado Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Department of Transportation, and Illinois Department of Transportation

EXAMPLE

Creative ways to provide more local EV capacity



Evie provides a free-floating, all-electric car-share service to the **Twin Cities**.

Gives access to more than 150 vehicles

Achieves equity for residents who have no private garage space for charging

Offers 70 charging locations with 280 connectors and 10 fast chargers for the **public to charge their own vehicles**

Is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, Xcel Energy, and the Metropolitan Council

PHOTO: Oregon DOT

ASK YOUR STATE TO

4. Maximize building electrification benefits, especially for underserved and BIPOC communities

More than \$80 billion in federal incentives, tax credits, financing, and flexible funding can be tapped to accelerate healthier, decarbonized buildings, especially in low-income households and communities.

Local leaders should cultivate relationships across state agencies, utilities, and lenders to leverage and “braid” funds, including:

- 1. Climate Pollution Reduction Grants**
- 2. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**
- 3. Green and Resilient Retrofit Program**
- 4. Community Change Grants**

Through the IRA, **\$5B** is available for home energy efficiency and electrification consumer rebates.

—
Individual states will receive \$59M-\$690M.

Don't neglect modernizing building codes!

More than \$1.2 billion is available to states and localities to upgrade to the latest model codes.

Help is overdue. For homes:

- ✓ 6 states have no energy standards
- ✓ 3 states have standards that date back 15 years or more

Improved building energy codes:

- ✓ Set performance standards that yield savings and better air quality
- ✓ Get buildings solar- and electric vehicle-ready

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING ENERGY CODE ADOPTION IN DEEP DIVE STATES

	Year of Residential Building Energy Code Adoption
COLORADO	NO STATEWIDE CODE
GEORGIA	2009 IECC
ILLINOIS	2009 IECC
NORTH CAROLINA	2009 IECC
PENNSYLVANIA	2018 IECC

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Building Energy Codes Program

ASK YOUR STATE TO

5. Invest in workforce training and support

Urgency meets opportunity!

There is an **unprecedented, growing demand for a skilled workforce across** the transportation and energy/building sectors:

- The BIL and IRA provide billions of dollars with far-reaching flexibility to invest in workforce activities and supports, such as **childcare** or **travel to job sites**.
- State infrastructure agencies can use this flexibility to fund workforce investments that build a larger and far more **diverse pipeline of workers** who are accessing quality jobs in modernized manufacturing, clean transport, and building electrification.

Recommendations from Eno Center for Transportation/Markle Foundation report:

1. Deepen cross-agency coordination

Infrastructure and workforce agencies should align investments in skill building with job trends, climate targets, and equity goals.

2. Augment workforce program funding

Direct expenditures and grants can boost workforce recruitment, training, and wraparound supports.

3. Embed into procurement

Standards for job quality, inclusion, and accountability are needed to guide state spending on infrastructure.

Dramatic growth in demand for workers

Getting ready for growth

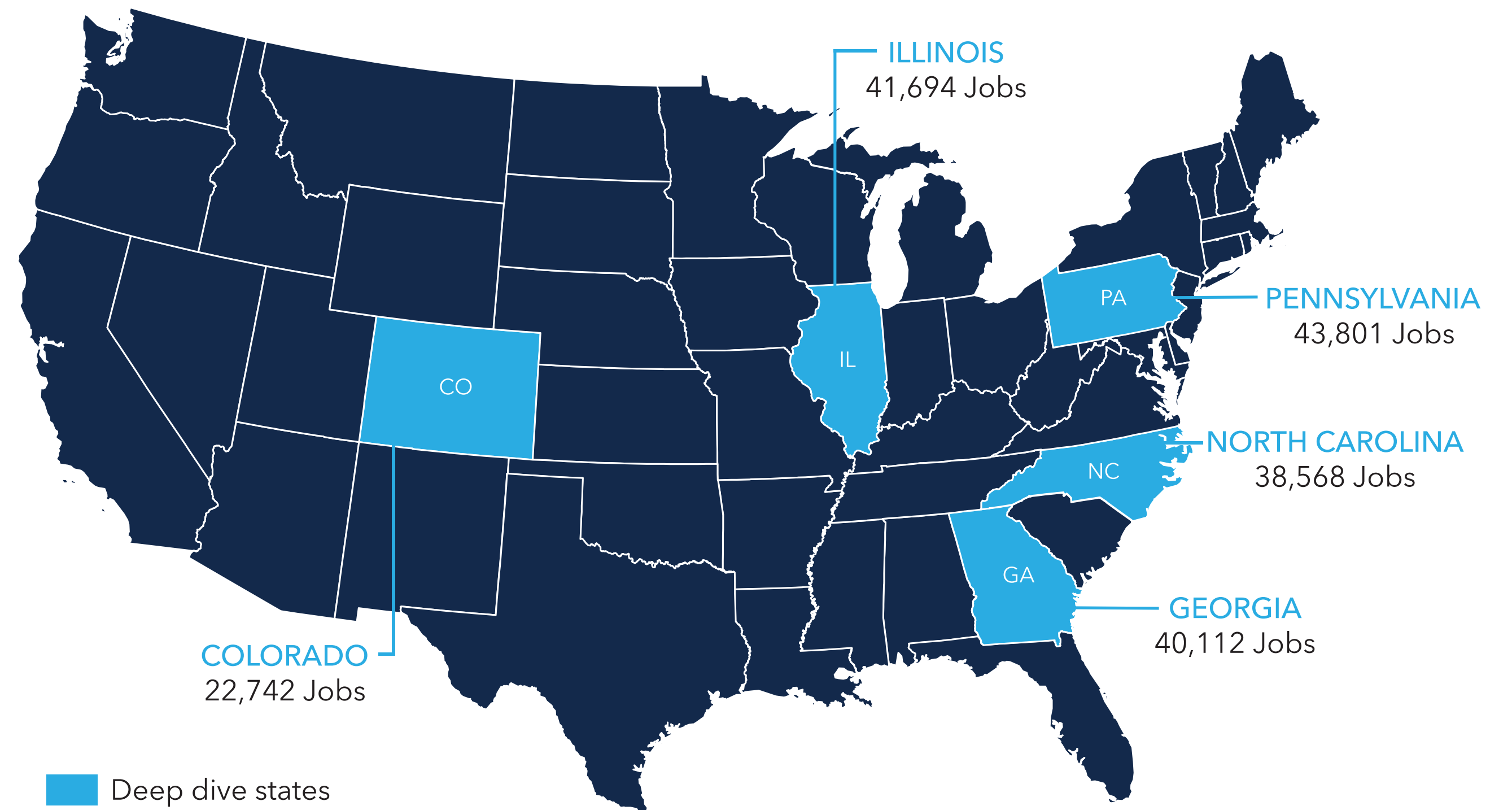
Local leaders can guide state economic development officials on locating ideal sites for industry.

Partnerships with employers and community colleges can prepare for worker shortages across top sectors.

Community organizations can help recruit a diverse workforce from disadvantaged communities.

GROWTH IN CLIMATE-RELATED JOBS

In the U.S. today, there are an estimated 16.6M jobs related to transportation and 8M jobs in renewable energy. Projections show an unprecedented demand for 32M more workers needed in the transportation sector and 20M more workers in the energy sector by 2030.



EXAMPLES

States investing in growing a clean energy workforce



In **Illinois**, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act created incentives to: 1) connect trainees with employers implementing whole-building retrofits; and 2) partner with community-based organizations to recruit workers from disadvantaged communities. Black workers represent only 7.7% of the clean energy workforce versus 14.7% of the population.



In **Georgia**, the state is capturing a large share (>6%) of the national private investment in EV/battery manufacturing and clean energy, and boasts the largest solar panel manufacturer in the hemisphere.



In **North Carolina**, Halifax Lighthouse Solar Energy Camp, Hampton Roads Workforce Council (spanning NC and VA), and North Carolina State University have attracted millions of federal workforce training dollars for energy and solar jobs.

This NRDC resource is for you!



Local advocates and local government officials like you know best because you are on the frontlines, fighting for healthier communities, neighborhood amenities, and the good jobs of the future. State leaders need your expertise and partnership to build the future we deserve.



Use the extensive data in this resource and appendixes to customize your case and access your community's just share of historic federal infrastructure funding to activate bold investments in better transportation, cleaner energy, and healthier buildings.



Focus on these five mega opportunities. Be proactive and persistent. Demand and achieve more. Communicate results that benefit all people and places!

PHOTO (center): Steve Hymon/Metro Los Angeles