

# **Bond Case Briefs**

*Municipal Finance Law Since 1971*

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## **How States and Localities Can Use Data to Spend Federal Funds Wisely.**

**Applying an evidence-based approach to funding new infrastructure problems can ensure communities get the biggest bang for each federal buck.**

The \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver the nation's largest investment in roads, bridges, clean water, broadband, electric vehicles and rail in more than half a century. Now, state, city and county policymakers will have to decide how to prioritize, allocate and monitor the effectiveness of these infrastructure investments.

The challenges that state and local leaders face in managing this influx of federal funds are considerable and elicit many questions like: How will lawmakers allocate the record \$1.2 trillion investment? What guidelines and requirements will accompany these new resources? How do states make sure that these funds are directed in equitable and inclusive ways? And how can states approach these decisions in ways that deliver long-term fiscal responsibility and benefits—even when the money runs out?

For many years, The Pew Charitable Trusts has worked with state leaders on developing best practices for spending taxpayer dollars prudently, maintaining balanced budgets, investing in evidence-based policies, and planning for and mitigating other fiscal risks. Through our experience, we've learned a great deal about how states can use data and evidence to spend funds wisely. These experiences offer valuable and replicable lessons for state policymakers as they make decisions about the incoming infrastructure funds.

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### **Route Fifty**

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