

## What the first round of FY2024 appropriations bills mean for infrastructure

[ Article originally appeared in <https://infrastructurereportcard.org> ]

By ASCE Staff

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

The FY 2024 THUD funding bill provides \$106.3 billion in total budgetary resources for the Department of Transportation (DOT). The bill cuts \$3.2 billion from the FY 2023 enacted levels across DOT and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs. It also rejects requests pertaining to some of the Biden-Harris Administration's initiatives, including funding for the Thriving Communities Program and the effort to electrify DOT's vehicle fleet.

Highlights of the bill include:

- \$62.9 billion in total budgetary resources for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which is \$69.8 million above FY 2023 enacted levels.
- \$20 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a figure that is \$1 billion higher than FY 2023 enacted levels. This figure includes \$12.7 billion for air traffic control operations and hiring efforts.
- \$16.6 billion for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which is \$365 million below the FY 2023 enacted level. The bill includes \$2.2 billion for Capital Investment Grants.

- \$2.9 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), which is \$434 million below the FY 2023 enacted levels. The bill reduces funding for Amtrak by \$25 million.
- \$1.2 billion for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and \$940.7 million for the Maritime Administration (MARAD), both of which are above last year's funding levels.
- \$345 million for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, which is less than half of the \$800 million the program received last year. However, when combined with advanced appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the program will be provided \$1.8 billion in FY 2024.

Commerce-Justice-Science

This bill signals that Congress is stepping back from previous increases in science and research funding and not following up with promises made in the CHIPS and Science Act.

- The National Science Foundation (NSF) will take a large reduction with lawmakers imposing a 3% cut to \$9.06 billion, some \$820 million below FY23. Agency officials will face some difficult decisions in determining how to manage its diminished appropriation, which is nearly \$2.3 billion

Continued on page 4



Construction of a federally funded bridge in Stamford, Connecticut. John Moore/Getty Images

## Unveiling Opportunity: The Best U.S. Metros for MBA Graduates to Launch Their Careers

[ Article originally appeared in [www.coworkingcafe.com](http://www.coworkingcafe.com) ]

By Laura Pop-Badiu

Considered by many a worthy investment, the Master of Business Administration degree (MBA) equips students with essential business and leadership skills and opens doors to a world of opportunities and invaluable experiences. Beyond the classroom, students and graduates gain access to prestigious faculty and a global network of professionals, not to mention unparalleled opportunities for internships, networking and career-building. An MBA degree not only increases one's marketability in a competitive global economy, but also develops the critical thinking and problem-solving skills that can define one's professional success.

We analyzed more than 100 metros across the U.S. to determine which ones offered the best environment and opportunities for MBA graduates from both a professional and personal standpoint. As such, we looked at the popu-

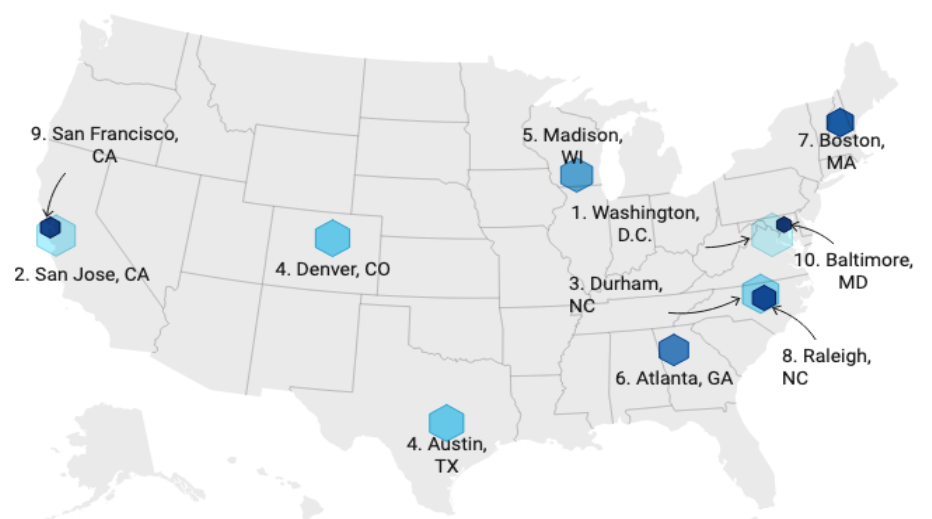
lation with a graduate/professional degree; the number of jobs available and the unemployment rate for the population with a bachelor's or higher; the median earnings for this segment; the share of employer-based health insurance; and more. We also counted the co-working spaces in each metro to determine their accessibility among a demographic that needs the professional in-office work experience in a remote-driven era.

**Southern Soar: 6 of 10 Top Metros for MBA Graduates are in the Nations' South, Led by Washington, D.C.**

While the top metros for pursuing a post-MBA career are spread across the nation, more than half of the top 10 are located in the South. Here, a mix of large shares of the population with MBA degrees, widespread job availability, and accessibility of health insurance makes the region enticing for both professional growth and personal fulfillment.

Continued on page 4

### Top U.S. Metros for MBA Students & Graduates



CoworkingCafe

Source: CoworkingCafe • Embed • Created with Datawrapper

# CERTIFICATION WORKSHOPS DBE/ACDBE 2-DAY SERIES



## DAY 1: VIRTUAL Zoom Meeting

June 12, 2024 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PST)

Overview of DBE/ACDBE Program & Updates | Identify NAICS Codes | Online Certification Portal

Register: <https://CUCPDBECertificationvirtual2024.eventbrite.com>



## DAY 2: IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

June 13, 2024 | 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM (PST)


### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

 Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)  
Auditorium, Building A  
3331 North First Street  
San Jose, CA, 95134



Register: <https://CUCPDBECertificationWorkshop2024.eventbrite.com>

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

 Los Angeles County Metropolitan  
Transportation Authority (METRO)  
1 Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/metroconnect-certification-workshop-in-person-only-tickets-866916710217>

### BENEFITS:

- Technical Assistance with DBE/ACDBE certifiers and Resource Partners
- Public Agency Networking
- DBE and Small Business Enterprise Supportive Services



Questions or translation assistance, contact Artemisé Davenport, [adavenport@goldengate.org](mailto:adavenport@goldengate.org)

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Publisher of Small Business Exchange weekly newspaper



# CALIFORNIA SUB-BID REQUEST ADS



**Mountain Cascade Inc.**  
555 Exchange Court, Livermore, CA 94550  
(925) 373-8370, Fax (925) 373-0940

**Project: Construction on State Highway in Fresno County near Kerman from Goldenrod Avenue to Brawley Avenue**  
**Contract No. 06-1F8304**  
Owner: Caltrans  
**Bid Date: May 3rd, 2024 @2:00 PM ELECTRONIC BID**  
DVBE Goal: 3%  
SBE Goal: 5%

**We are requesting quotes from all qualified DVBE/SBE Subcontractors and Suppliers but not limited to:** FABRIC AND OILS, CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS, TRAFFIC CONTROLS, COLD PLANE, AC DIKES, GRINDING, SIGNS ROADSIDE, THERMOPLASTIC TRAFFIC STRIPE & MARKING, PAINTED TRAFFIC STRIPE & MARKING, PAVEMENT MARKING, SIGNAL AND LIGHTING, DETECTOR, SWPP PLANNING, WATER TRUCK, SWEEPER, TRUCKER.

**Project Description:** The project includes, but not limited to, Cold Plane AC Pavement, RHMA-G and HMA (Type A)

**Engineers Estimate: \$3,460,000**

Plans and specs can be obtained at: <http://ppmoe.dot.ca.gov/des/oe/weekly-ads>

Or contact: [estimating@mountaincascade.com](mailto:estimating@mountaincascade.com)

Please feel free to contact Mountain Cascade, Inc. at 925.373.8370 with any questions concerning bonding, insurance, lines of credit, and job overview. We look forward to your response.

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California License # 422496

**This is Part of a Good Faith Outreach. Your response is greatly appreciated**



**Mountain Cascade Inc.**  
555 Exchange Court, Livermore, CA 94550  
(925) 373-8370, Fax (925) 373-0940

**Project: Construction on State Highway in San Joaquin County in and near Tracy at Various Locations**  
**Contract No. 10-1Q7504**  
Owner: Caltrans  
**Bid Date: May 8th, 2024 @2:00 PM ELECTRONIC BID**  
DVBE Goal: 3%  
SBE Goal: 5%

**We are requesting quotes from all qualified DVBE/SBE Subcontractors and Suppliers but not limited to:** FABRIC AND OILS, CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS, TRAFFIC CONTROL, COLD PLANE, SLURRY SEAL, AC DIKES, GRINDING, SIGNS ROADSIDE, THERMOPLASTIC TRAFFIC STRIPE AND MARKING, PAINTED TRAFFIC STRIPE AND MARKING, PAVEMENT MARKING, SIGNAL AND LIGHTING, MESSAGES SIGNS, LIGHTING & SIGN ILLUMINATION, DETECTOR, RAMP METERING SYSTEM, NOISE MONITROING

**Project Description:** The project includes, but not limited to, Repair failed area, polymer modified asphalt binder (PMA) chip seal

**Engineers Estimate: \$2,320,000**

Plans and specs can be obtained at: <http://ppmoe.dot.ca.gov/des/oe/weekly-ads>

Or contact: [estimating@mountaincascade.com](mailto:estimating@mountaincascade.com)

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(925) 373-8370, Fax (925) 373-0940

**Project: Construction on State Highway in San Joaquin County at Chrisman Road Overcrossing**  
**Contract No. 10-1L1804**  
Owner: Caltrans  
**Bid Date: May 7th, 2024 @2:00 PM ELECTRONIC BID**  
DVBE Goal: 3%  
SBE Goal: 5%

**We are requesting quotes from all qualified DVBE/SBE Subcontractors and Suppliers but not limited to:** FABRIC AND OILS, CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS, TRAFFIC CONTROLS, COLD PLANE, CLEAR & GRUB, HYDRO SEEDING, AC DIKES, GRINDING, SIGNS ROADSIDE, CONCRETE CURB & SIDEWALK-MISC, METAL BEAM GUARD RAILING, METAL RAILING, THERMOPLASTIC TRAFFIC STRIPE & MARKING, PAINTED TRAFFIC STRIPE & MARKING, PAVEMENT MARKING, SIGNAL AND LIGHTING, MESSAGE SIGNS- LIGHTING & SIGN ILLUMINATION, DETECTOR, RAMP METERING SYSTEM, SWPP PLANNING, WATER TRUCK, SWEEPER, TRUCKER, HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE REMOVAL

**Project Description:** The project includes, but not limited to, Widening shoulders

**Engineers Estimate: \$1,010,000**

Plans and specs can be obtained at: <http://ppmoe.dot.ca.gov/des/oe/weekly-ads>

Or contact: [estimating@mountaincascade.com](mailto:estimating@mountaincascade.com)

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**Mountain Cascade Inc.**  
555 Exchange Court, Livermore, CA 94550  
(925) 373-8370, Fax (925) 373-0940

**Project: Construction on State Highway in Napa County in and near Napa from 0.2 miles north of Junction Route 12/29 to 0.2 miles north of Basalt road undercrossing**  
**Contract No. 04-2Y5004**  
Owner: Caltrans  
**Bid Date: May 16th, 2024 @2:00 PM ELECTRONIC BID**  
DVBE Goal: 3%  
SBE Goal: 25%

**We are requesting quotes from all qualified DVBE/SBE Subcontractors and Suppliers but not limited to:** FABRIC AND OILS, CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS, TRAFFIC CONTROL, COLD PLANE, AGGREGATE BASE, AC DIKE, GRINDING, SIGNS ROADSIDE, THERMOPLASTIC TRAFFIC STRIPE & MARKING, PAINTED TRAFFIC STRIPE AND MARKING, PAVEMENT MARKINGS, SIGNAL AND LIGHTING, MESSAGE SIGNS, LIGHTING AND SIGNS ILLUMINATION, DETECTOR, RAMP METERING SYSTEM, SWPP PLANNING, WATER TRUCK, SWEEPER, HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE REMOVAL, TRUCKER, NOISE MONITROING, PROFILER

**Project Description:** The project includes, but not limited to, cold plane asphalt concrete pavement and overlay with RHMA- G

**Engineers Estimate: \$2,690,000**

Plans and specs can be obtained at: <http://ppmoe.dot.ca.gov/des/oe/weekly-ads>

Or contact: [estimating@mountaincascade.com](mailto:estimating@mountaincascade.com)

Please feel free to contact Mountain Cascade, Inc. at 925.373.8370 with any questions concerning bonding, insurance, lines of credit, and job overview. We look forward to your response.

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**Mountain Cascade Inc.**  
555 Exchange Court, Livermore, CA 94550  
(925) 373-8370, Fax (925) 373-0940

**Project: Construction of State Highway in Sonoma County and Napa County near Schellville from Sonoma Creek Bridge to Napa County Line and from 0.3 Miles East of Sonoma County Line to Duhig Road**  
**Contract No. 04-0Y2604**  
Owner: Caltrans  
**Bid Date: May 15th, 2024 @2:00 PM ELECTRONIC BID**  
DVBE Goal: 3%  
SBE Goal: 25%

**We are requesting quotes from all qualified DVBE/SBE Subcontractors and Suppliers but not limited to:** ASPHALT, FABRIC AND OILS, CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS, TRAFFIC CONTROLS, COLD PLANE, AGGREGATES BASE, GRINDING, SIGNS ROADSIDE, THERMOPLASTIC TRAFFIC STRIPE AND MARKING, PAVEMENT MARKING, SIGNALS AND LIGHTING, MESSAGE SIGNS, LIGHTING & SIGN ILLUMINATION, DETECTOR, RAMP METERING SYSTEM, SWPP PLANNING, WATER TRUCK, SWEEPER, HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE REMOVAL, TRUCKER, NIOSE MONITOR, PROFILER GRINDER

**Project Description:** The project includes, but not limited to, Cold plane asphalt concrete pavement and overlay with RHMA-G

**Engineers Estimate: \$3,080,000**

Plans and specs can be obtained at: <http://ppmoe.dot.ca.gov/des/oe/weekly-ads>

Or contact: [estimating@mountaincascade.com](mailto:estimating@mountaincascade.com)

Please feel free to contact Mountain Cascade, Inc. at 925.373.8370 with any questions concerning bonding, insurance, lines of credit, and job overview. We look forward to your response.

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5225 Hellyer Avenue, Suite #220, San Jose, CA 95138  
Phone (408) 574-1400 • Fax (408) 365-9548  
Contact: Sheree Schoenherr  
Email: [estimating@graniterock.com](mailto:estimating@graniterock.com)

REQUESTING SUB-QUOTES FROM QUALIFIED SBE & DVBE SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS/TRUCKERS FOR:

**Construction on State Highway in Santa Clara County in San Jose and Mountain View from Guadalupe River Bridge to North Shoreline Boulevard Overcrossing**  
**Contract Number: 04-2Y5504**  
Owner: Caltrans  
Location: San Jose, CA, HWY 101  
Engineers' Estimate: \$1,920,000  
**BID DATE: May 14, 2024 @ 2:00 PM**

Items of work include but are not limited to: **Lead Compliance Plan, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control, Stationary Impact Attenuator Vehicle, PCMS, Water Pollution Control Program, Temporary Drainage Inlet Protection, Street Sweeping, Noise Monitoring, Tack Coat, Pavement Markers, Striping and Trucking.**

Granite Rock Company 'Graniterock' is signatory to Operating Engineers, Laborers, Teamsters, Carpenters and Cement Masons unions. 100% performance and payment bonds will be required from a qualified surety company for the full amount of the subcontract price. Bonding assistance is available. Graniterock will pay bond premium up to 1.5%. In addition to bonding assistance, subcontractors are encouraged to contact Graniterock Estimating with questions regarding obtaining lines of credit, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies, or with any questions you may have. Subcontractors must possess a current contractor's license, DIR number, insurance and worker's compensation coverage. Subcontractors will be required to enter into our standard contract. Graniterock intends to work cooperatively with all qualified firms seeking work on this project.

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# What the first round of FY2024 appropriations bills mean for infrastructure

## Continued from page 1

less than the \$11.3 billion the White House had requested.

Last year, Congress significantly increased NSF's budget and earmarked funds for the agency's new Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) directorate, aimed at speeding discoveries to the marketplace. Lawmakers declined to replenish those funds this year and they gave NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan responsibility for deciding how to apportion the cut, noting that he need not give special treatment to TIP, which was envisioned to grow rapidly under legislation previously passed by Congress.

- The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) also has its budget reduced with overall funding of \$1.46 billion, down about 10% from the enacted FY23 level of \$1.627 billion.
- Funding for NIST measurement labs and research increased to \$1.1 billion from \$953 million last year; however, this includes \$222.8 million in "earmarks," or projects selected for funding by members of Congress. Additionally, the bills provide up to \$10 million for NIST to establish a U.S. Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute and to implement NIST's responsibilities under the landmark Artificial Intelligence Executive Order released last year.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) budget will rise slightly in the deal to \$6.4 billion, up from last year's \$6.2 billion, and significantly

less than the Administration's request of \$6.8 billion. The gains were not reflected in the agency's primary research arm, which saw its operating budget fall from \$687 million to \$656 million.

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) would receive \$24.87 billion, 2% less than 2023 and 8.5% less than the \$27.19 billion requested by the Administration. Within that total, the agency's earth sciences and biological sciences programs remain flat. NASA's planetary science program drops 15% to \$2.7 billion.
- The Department of Energy – Office of Science is allocated \$8.24 billion, \$540 million below the President's request, but \$140 million more than 2023. Much of that increase, or \$92 million, goes to DOE's Basic Energy Sciences program, which rises 3.6% to \$2.62 billion. Advanced computing, biology and environmental research, and nuclear physics programs all see decreases, with the largest cut of 4.9%, or \$52 million, to \$1 billion, coming in the computing program.

## Energy & Water Development

The bill includes \$58.2 billion for the Energy & Water Development Division. While the bill does provide increases for key federal agencies like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it reduces funds for key accounts and programs vital to strengthening the nation's energy and water resources infrastructure.

- S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Construction account received \$1.8 billion, which is \$300 million below FY 2023.

- USACE's Water Infrastructure Finance Program (CWIFP) received \$7.2 million which is equal to the FY '23 level. These funds will allow the program to begin providing financing for non-federal dam safety projects, in accordance with IJA.
- The National Levee Safety Program did not receive FY24 funding in the bill, aside from \$1 million to continue improvements of the National Levee Database.
- The Department of Energy's Electricity Account received \$280 million, which is \$70 million below the enacted level. These funds will support technologies that enhance grid resilience and efficiency and strengthen the capability to incorporate clean energy technologies.
- The Bureau of Reclamation received \$1.92 billion, which is \$451 million above the Biden Administration's budget request, but \$31 million below the enacted level. Bureau of Reclamation funds support water conservation, restoration, and other water resources projects in western states affected by significant drought conditions.

## Interior & Environment

The bill provides \$38.9 billion for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies division, along with \$2.6 billion in additional funding to combat wildfires. It represents a \$1.5 billion cut to the FY23 enacted level and does not support needed funding increases for key infrastructure programs:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received \$9.16 billion, \$942 million less than FY 2023.
- EPA's State Revolving Fund programs were funded at FY 2023 levels, with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) receiving \$1.639 billion, and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) receiving \$1.126 billion.
- Out of these funding levels, Community Project Funding (Congressionally Directed Spending, or earmarks) \$787.65 million was set aside for CWSRF projects, and \$631.66 million was set aside for DWSRF projects, further reducing the amount of program funds allocated directly to states to support financing for water infrastructure capital improvement projects.
- EPA Brownfields cleanup projects received \$98 million, \$2 million less than FY 2023.
- EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program received \$72.27 million, an increase of \$3.4 million to support low-interest financing for water infrastructure projects.
- The National Park Service received \$3.325 billion, \$150 million less than FY 2023.

Visit the link for the full article:

<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/appropriations-bills-fy2024-infrastructure/>

# The Best U.S. Metros for MBA Graduates to Launch Their Careers

## Continued from page 1

### 1. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV – Total Points: 67.4

With more than one-quarter of its population holding a graduate or professional degree (the second-highest among the metros analyzed), Washington, D.C. stood out for its highly educated workforce and great rankings across the board. Specifically, the metro area offered the highest share of jobs for MBA occupations out of the total jobs (almost 14%), coupled with impressive median earnings of \$125,616 annually. Meanwhile, the abundance and density of coworking spaces also facilitate networking and collaboration opportunities, which come as great benefits to MBA students and graduates.

Additionally, Washington, D.C. is renowned for its prestigious MBA programs offered by institutions like George Washington University and Georgetown University, thereby ensuring access to quality education and resources for aspiring business leaders. Furthermore, the city's political climate adds yet another dimension to career opportunities by making it an ideal hub for anyone seeking professional growth.

### 2. San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA – Total Points: 64.6

San Jose secured its runner-up position as a top destination for MBAs with the absolute highest

share of the population holding graduate/professional degrees at nearly 28%. The metro also led the nation in terms of median earnings for MBA graduates, boasting an impressive \$160,000 annually. Plus, with almost 10% of all jobs being MBA occupations, San Jose remains a hotbed for employment in business-related fields. At the same time, the metro also prioritizes employee well-being with 76% of its workforce having health insurance coverage — the second-highest percentage among the analyzed metros.

What's more, as one of the ultimate tech hubs globally, San Jose offers unparalleled opportunities for MBA graduates to immerse themselves in the dynamic and innovative landscape of technology and entrepreneurship. Here, the San Jose State University is known for its successful MBA program. And, with a plethora of major employers and a vibrant business ecosystem, San Jose continues to attract top talent and cement its reputation as a premier destination for business students and graduates.

### 3. Durham-Chapel Hill, NC – Total Points: 60.8

The Durham metro area emerged as a top choice for MBA students and graduates with a notable 23% of its population possessing an educational degree. Moreover, the metro logged an extraor-

dinarly low unemployment rate (only 1.2%) among graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher. Notably, despite being a part of a busy metro area, Durham is also an affordable and appealing destination due to its lower cost of living compared to other major metros. The metro also has a large concentration of coworking spaces, which helps business professionals and entrepreneurs collaborate and network.

As part of the Research Triangle, Durham also benefits from a rich ecosystem of innovation and research, further enhancing its appeal as a hub for aspiring and/or MBA graduates. Plus, with a renowned MBA program at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the city offers access to quality education and resources.

### 4. Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO & Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX – Total Points: 60.4 (Tie)

Coming in fourth for best metros for MBA pursuits, Denver has a strong entrepreneurial spirit, which is highlighted by its hefty number of new business applications per 100,000 residents — an impressive 2,160 per year. This showcases the number of businesses that enter the market every year and helps create a robust job market, which is evidenced in the metro's high number of MBA occupation positions

(9% of the total jobs). Denver also led the nation in terms of coworking space density with five available to every 100,000 residents. And, the Mile High City offers aspiring business leaders access to prestigious MBA programs at institutions like Daniels College of Business and CU Denver Business School.

Tied with Denver, the Austin metro area is yet another ideal destination for an MBA education and career due to high rankings in multiple categories. More precisely, Austin had the second-highest number of jobs for MBA occupations (10% of total jobs), surpassed only by Washington, D.C. Accordingly, 19% of the metro's population had a graduate or professional degree, signaling a highly educated workforce. At the same time, a high share of workers here (more than 72%) benefit from health insurance. There are also countless career advancement opportunities in the area, enabled by Austin's rich business and tech ecosystem.

Visit the link for the full article:

<https://www.coworkingcafe.com/blog/the-best-us-metros-for-mba-graduates/>