



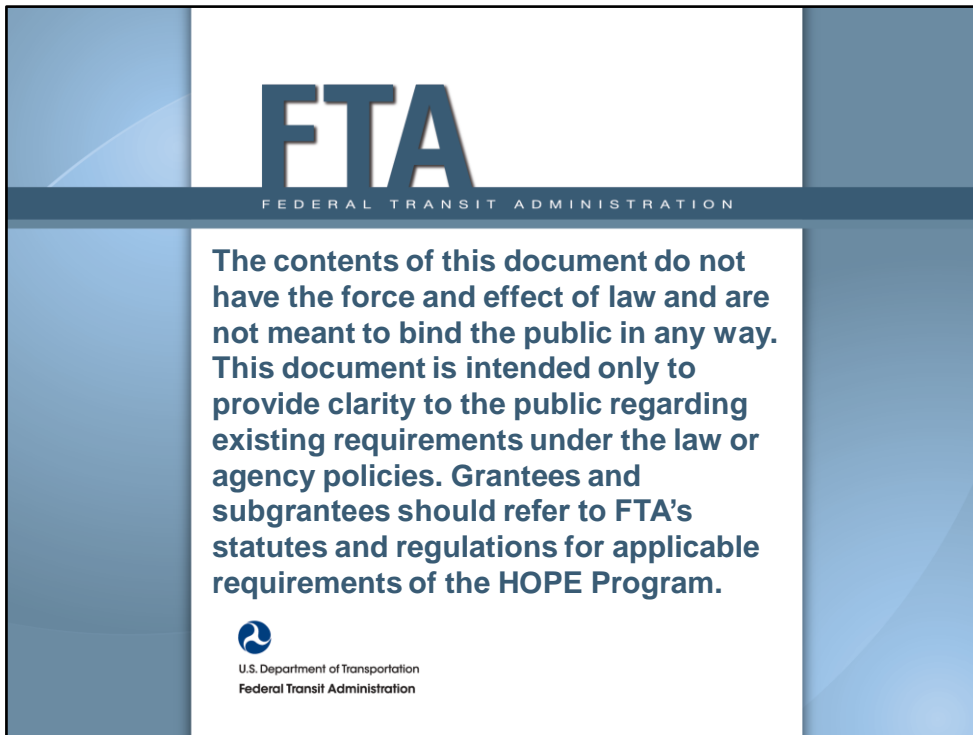
Katie welcomes everyone and gives opening housekeeping remarks and then turns over to Dwayne.

Hello Everyone,

My name is Dwayne Weeks and I am the Director of the Federal Transit Administration's Office of Planning. I want to welcome you to this webinar intended to introduce you to the new Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone Program discretionary grant program, also known as HOPE.

This is a new funding program created within the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations bill to provide \$8.5 million in funding for activities including planning, environmental, technical studies and financial planning to improve transit in places with persistent poverty.

During this webinar, representatives of the FTA Office of Planning Including Charlie Goodman, Tonya Holland, and Johnita Glover will present information about HOPE program including what the criteria are, eligible activities, and how to apply for a discretionary grant. I now introduce Charlie Goodman to do the first presentation of this webinar.



Hello, I am Charlie Goodman, and I am pleased to share information on the HOPE Program today and answer your questions.

But, before we get started, I need to share the Disclaimer shown on this slide, which states what this webinar does and does not do.

In short, the Webinar materials, while intended to provide useful guidance, do not have the force of law.

- a) Our presentation paraphrases Public Law 116-94, which appropriated funds for the HOPE Program;**
- b) We outline requirements for the application that are not expressly stated in the authorization, but are needed to implement it; and**
- c) We have included FAQs, which are generally considered guidance and not legally binding.**

Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE)

- Grants for planning, engineering, or development of technical or financing plans for projects eligible under Chapter 53 of Title 49 in “*areas of persistent poverty*”
- Funding opportunity with \$8.5 million available
- NOFO published March 3, 2020
- Resources available at www.transit.dot.gov/HOPE
- Applications due June 3, 2020 (try to apply early)
- Funding announcements anticipated Summer 2020



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Ok – now let’s get going.

- Let me start by saying this Webinar is being recorded and we expect to have this posted on FTA's HOPE Program webpage in the next few days.
- We will spend about 35 minutes going through the slides which describe the HOPE Program and how to apply, and then open it up to questions.
- At any time during the Webinar, feel free to type your questions into the Q and A part of the screen, although you may want to wait until we’re finished because many of your questions may get answered along the way.

On March 3, 2020, FTA announced the availability of \$8.5 million in HOPE funding, in the form of competitive grants, to improve transit services or facilities in areas of persistent poverty by supporting planning, engineering, technical studies, or financial plans.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the HOPE Program is posted to the webpage shown on the slide.

- Applications must be submitted via Grants.Gov by 11:59 pm eastern time on June 3, but we advise applicants to apply early to ensure their applications are fully processed. Note that Sec. Elaine L. Chao extended the original date of May 4 in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We expect that funding awards will be announced mid-Summer.

HOPE Program Introductory Webinar

- Goals and Objectives of HOPE
- Eligible Project Areas – “Persistent Poverty”
- Eligible Applicants and Project Activities
- Screening and Evaluation Criteria
- Applying for a HOPE Award
- Common Questions and Open Q/A

Today’s orientation to the HOPE Program will follow the topics on this slide –

- We will begin with a broad statement of goals and objectives for the Program
- And then we will describe the eligibility factors – where grant monies can be spent, who can apply, and the kinds of activities HOPE funds can support
- We will then describe the factors we will use in evaluating your proposals.
- Then, we will provide information for your use in applying for a HOPE award.
- And lastly, we will discuss some of the Common Questions we have fielded to date and *open it up for your questions.*

Goals for the HOPE Program

Improve *transit services /facilities* in areas of *persistent poverty* by planning, engineering, or development of technical or financing *plans for projects* that:

1. Reduce fatality rates on rural transportation infrastructure
2. Increase access to jobs and healthcare through enhanced transit options and improved facilities



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- **The HOPE Program supports projects that will improve transit services or facilities in areas of persistent poverty through planning, engineering, or development of technical, or financing plans for projects.**
- **Two key OUTCOMES of the HOPE Program are:**
 - **Improving SAFETY - Reduce fatality rates - particularly on rural transportation infrastructure, AND**
 - **Improving ACCESS TO JOBS AND HEALTHCARE through enhanced transit options and improved facilities**

Examples of Supporting Objectives

- improve system condition/reliability
- reduce vehicle emissions
- implement advanced technologies
- reduce regulatory barriers to affordable housing

Improve public transportation in areas of persistent poverty

- ***Selected Sample Objectives of the HOPE Program listed in the NOFO include:***
 - **improving the condition and reliability of facilities and services,**
 - **reducing vehicle emissions,**
 - **implementing advanced technologies, and**
 - **leveraging other initiatives that could lead to the reduction of barriers to affordable housing.**
- **And, the overarching aim is to improve public transportation in areas of persistent poverty.**

HOPE Program: Eligible Project Areas

“Areas of Persistent Poverty” are areas with Poverty Rates equal to or greater than 20 percent

- Counties with 20 percent or more of the population living in poverty over the past 30 years - from U.S. Census Historical County Level Poverty Estimates Tool : 1990 / 2000 / 2010
- or
- Census Tracts with 20 percent or higher poverty as measured by the 2013-2017 5-year data series from American Community Survey of the U.S. Census

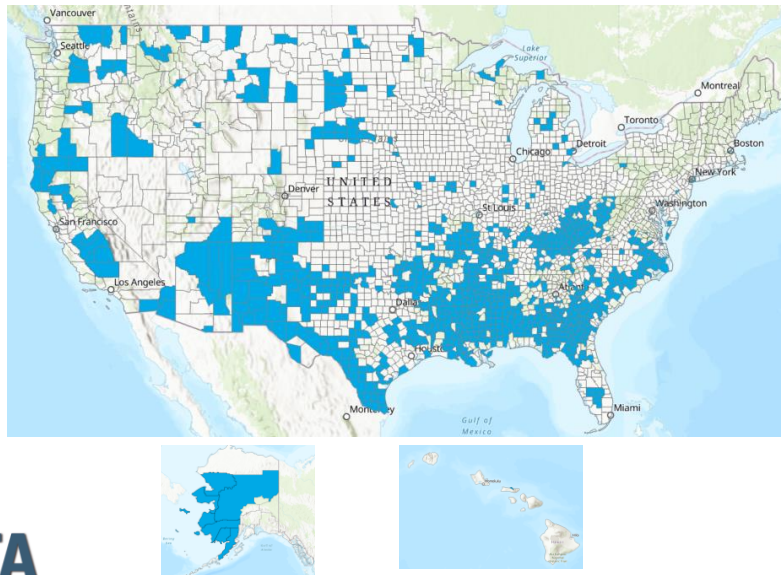
A key feature of the HOPE Program is its limitation to funding projects only in persistent poverty areas – areas with 20 % or greater poverty over a long period. The Eligible Project Areas are termed “Areas of Persistent Poverty,” and are defined as:

1) counties, which include cities, within which 20% or more of the population has been at or below the poverty line over the past 30 years. Data from the 1990, 2000, and 2010 decennial censuses and the 2013-2017 5-year data series from the American Community Survey are used to identify these areas.; and

2) Areas of persistent poverty also are defined in law as census tracts with poverty rates of 20% or higher, as documented in the 2013-2017 5-year data series from the American Community Survey.

Again, to be eligible for funding, proposed projects must serve areas of persistent poverty, as defined by these census data tables.

“Persistent Poverty” Counties/Cities



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- The qualifying counties and cities are shown on this map, admittedly at a scale too small to decipher – and total 904 jurisdictions in all with long-term poverty.
- FTA has posted this map, along with a listing of qualifying counties and cities, to the HOPE webpage (www.transit.dot.gov/HOPE).
- A map and list of qualifying census tracts would be impractical to post as there were more than 74,000 census tracts in the U.S. in 2010.
- When applying for a HOPE award, applicants will need to confirm that the location of their proposed projects is in an area determined to be of “persistent poverty.”

HOPE Program: Eligible Applicants

*Eligible Recipients/Sub-Recipients of
49 U.S.C. 5307 / 49 U.S.C. 5310 / 49 U.S.C. 5311*

- Public Transportation Service Providers
- State or Local Governments
- Federally Recognized Native American Tribes
- Non-Profit Organizations (as sub-recipient)

(See NOFO Section C1)



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Eligible Applicants for HOPE funding must be able to be a Recipient or Sub-Recipient of FTA funding under the 5307, 5310, or 5311 Programs.

These include the following -

- **Public Transportation Service Providers**
- **State or local government entities and**
- **Federally Recognized Native American Tribes.**

And, that list also includes Non-Profit Organizations, who would be sub-recipients.

Section C of the NOFO contains all eligibility information, and a discussion of eligible applicants can be found in Section C1 of the NOFO.

HOPE Program: Eligible Activities

- Activities supporting projects eligible for funding under Chapter 53 of Title 49
- Planning/environmental linkages study
- Planning/engineering/technical/financing plans for:
 - Improved/new transit services, routes, facilities, etc.
 - Innovative technologies & low-no emission buses
 - Integrated fare collection systems
 - coordinated public transit human services

(See NOFO Section C3)



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Eligible Activities under HOPE are those that support projects that would be eligible for funding under Chapter 53 of Title 49.

These activities fall under the general categories of 1) Planning Studies, such as PEL to consider environmental aspects during the planning process, 2) Engineering Studies, 3) Technical Studies, or 4) a Financial Plan. Importantly, capital and operating expenses are not eligible for HOPE funding.

A short sample list of activities is shown on the slide:

- Planning/engineering/financing new or improved transit facilities or services
- Introducing innovative technologies or practices in transit service
- Planning for Low or No Emission buses, particularly with non-profit partners
- Planning for integrated fare collection systems
- Planning for coordinated public transit human service transportation, including to treatment centers to serve individuals affected by the opioid epidemic

A full discussion of eligible activities under the HOPE Program can be found in Section C3 of the NOFO.

HOPE Program: Grant Conditions

- Maximum individual award - \$850,000
- Minimum Federal Share - 90 percent of Total Cost
- Typical Sources of Match –
 - cash or in-kind contributions
 - transportation development credits (toll revenue credits)
 - advertising/concession sales
 - service agreement revenues
 - value capture
 - others



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(See NOFO Section C2)

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The NOFO indicates that FTA expects the maximum Federal award to be \$850,000, which is 10% of the total amount available for award.

We feel that this maximum award amount will enable awards to be made to as many separate projects as possible.

Federal funding for projects cannot be LESS THAN 90%, and there is no maximum Federal share.

And the eligible sources of non-Federal match, as shown on the slide, mirror those allowed as match for awards under most of FTA's other programs.

- cash or in-kind contributions
- transportation development credits (toll revenue credits)
- advertising/concession sales
- service agreement revenues
- value capture

A full discussion of possible cost-share arrangements can be found in Section C2 of the NOFO.

Submitting an Application

HOPE Application (Proposal) Process



- While the FTA webpage has all of the background information needed to support your application for HOPE funding, the actual application, or submission of your HOPE proposal, takes place through a government-wide system platform titled *Grants.Gov.*
- Grants.Gov is the government-wide portal for discretionary grant proposals, and the website is linked to the HOPE page on FTA's website and also is shown on the next slide.
- *A comprehensive overview of the procedures involved in applying for a HOPE award through Grants.Gov will be presented by Johnita a little later.*

Applying for a HOPE Award Grants.Gov (FTA-2020-011-TPE-HOPE)

SF-424 Mandatory & Supplemental Forms/Attachments

- 15-page limit for Forms & Attachments in Grants.Gov
- Application and Proposal Profile form - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=325038>
- Confirmation of location in “area of persistent poverty” www.transit.dot.gov/HOPE
- Partnerships encouraged



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- This slide provides basic information for applying for a HOPE award – including the web link to the Grants.Gov page
- You will need to complete SF-424 Mandatory and Supplemental Forms, and the total length of the completed supplemental form, documentation of partnerships, and funding commitments can be no more than 15 pages.
- As mentioned earlier, Grants.Gov is the portal for proposing a project for a HOPE award. When a HOPE award is announced, the winners will be asked to apply for grant funding through FTA’s Transit Awards Management System (TrAMS).
 - At the TrAMS stage of the process, applicants without experience in TrAMS will likely want to partner with the State or a designated recipient in their area to handle this administrative process.
 - But, if applicants anticipate this, they are encouraged to consider partnering with the State or a designated recipient from the outset - in actually submitting the HOPE funding proposal through Grants.Gov.
- And, although the closing date for applying is June 3 (at 11:59 pm), we strongly encourage you to prepare and submit your application ahead of time – perhaps a week earlier – in order to allow time to resolve any possible technological issues that could affect Grants.Gov processing of your application.
- Later in this Webinar, Johnita will provide more in depth discussion of the Grants.Gov application process.

Initial Application Screening Criteria

- Confirmation of Project in “area of persistent poverty”
- Eligible Applicant and Eligible Activities
- Evidence of Local/Regional Support and Partnership
- Completed application must include:
 - Detailed Work Plan with Tasks and Deliverables
 - Milestone Schedule of Activities and Deliverables
 - Project Budget with Matching Funds Identified
 - Potential Impediments to successful completion and how they will be addressed

So, what are FTA Reviewers looking for in your proposals?

First is confirmation of eligibility –

- **of the Project Location – in an area of persistent poverty – it doesn’t need to be confined to that area, but a significant portion of the project area should be in an area of persistent poverty**
- **of the Applicant – as just discussed; AND**
- **of the proposed Activities – which will be described shortly.**

The completed Application must include the items shown on this slide –

- **Detailed Work Plan that identifies Tasks and Deliverables**
- **Detailed Schedule that indicates when work activities would occur and deliverables produced**
- **A Budget that identifies matching funds**
- **A discussion of possible impediments and how they would be overcome.**

Again, these are all described in the NOFO.

Formal Evaluation Criteria

1. Demonstrated Need for HOPE Program Funds
2. Anticipated Benefits of HOPE Program Award
3. Local Financial Commitment
4. Project Implementation Strategy
5. Technical, Legal, and Financial Capacity

From Applicant & Proposal Profile and
Attachments (Supplemental Form)

After initial Screening for eligibility, the Technical Evaluation will focus on the 5 formal Evaluation Criteria outlined in the NOFO to rate proposals. These are described in greater detail on the following slides.

I am now turning this over to Tonya Holland, who will describe the 5 Key Evaluation Factors by which applications for HOPE funding will be rated.

1) Demonstration of Need

.... the ***quality and extent to which applicants clearly demonstrate that the project would***

- support planning, engineering, or development of technical, or financing plans that would . . .
- result in a project eligible for funding under Chapter 53 of Title 49 U.S.C.



(See NOFO Section E. 1. a.)

First is Demonstration of Need.

This is the ***quality and extent to which applicants demonstrate*** how the proposed activities would support planning, engineering, or development of technical, or financing plans that would result in a project eligible for funding under Chapter 53 of Title 49 U.S.C.

A full discussion of all criteria used in reviewing applications can be found in Section E of the NOFO. This factor is described in Section E.1.a.

2) Demonstration of Benefits

... how *these sub-factors* are addressed:

- Improved transit system condition and reliability
- enhanced mobility and accessibility
- accelerated innovation
- vehicle emissions reductions
- reduced barriers to low income housing
- improved transportation in rural areas of persistent poverty

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(See NOFO Section E. 1. b.)

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Next is Demonstration of Benefits.

We will evaluate the potential for the proposed activities to improve or support:

- Improved system condition and reliability, such as reduced frequency of breakdowns or other service interruptions caused by the age and condition of the agency's bus fleet.
 - Enhanced Access and Mobility, such as through the elimination of gaps in the current route network.
 - Accelerating Innovation, like integrated fare payment systems, which support FTA's Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) initiative to introduce new technologies not commonly found in U.S. transit systems
 - Emissions Reductions
 - Reduced Barriers to Low Income Housing, and
 - OVERALL - Improving Transportation in Persistent Poverty Areas, such as in rural areas, which face unique challenges
- A full discussion of this criterion can be found in Section E.1.b. of the NOFO

3) Local Financial Commitment

- Source of the non-federal match
- Match available/committed now
- Documentation to confirm



(See NOFO Section E. 1. c.)

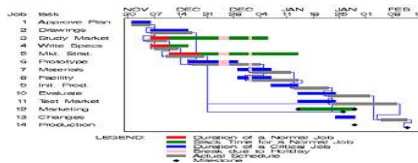
Under the 3rd Rating Factor, Local Financial Commitment –

- **Identification of the local cost share, as well as whether the non-Federal match is currently available or will need to be secured if the project is selected for funding.**
- **Applicants should submit evidence of the availability of funds for the project, for example by including a board resolution, letter of support from the State or other documentation of the source of local funds such as a budget document highlighting the line item or section committing funds to the proposed project.**
- **A full discussion of this criterion can be found in Section E.1.c. of the NOFO**

4) Project Implementation Strategy

Strength of the work plan, schedule and process:

- Detailed, feasible schedule with tasks/products
- Regional and/or local support
- Partnerships, including with non-public entities
- Partnerships' technical capability



(See NOFO Section E. 1. d.)

The 4th Rating Factor is Project Implementation, in which FTA will evaluate the strength of the work plan, schedule and process based on:

- 1) A detailed and feasible schedule;
- 2) Documented regional or local support for the proposed project in the form of letters from local and regional planning organizations, local governmental officials, public agencies and/or non-profit or private sector partners attesting to the need for the project.
- 3) Extent of partnerships, including with non-public sector entities; and
- 4) The partnerships' technical capability to develop, adopt and implement the plans.

A full discussion of this criterion can be found in Section E.1.d. of the NOFO

5) Technical, Legal and Financial Capacity

...technical, legal and financial capacity

- Review of oversight assessments and records
- Outstanding technical / legal / financial issues



(See NOFO Section E. 1. e.)

The 5th and final Rating Factor considers the applicant's technical, legal and financial capacity to undertake the project.

- FTA will review relevant oversight assessments and records to determine whether there are any outstanding legal, technical or financial issues with the applicant that would affect the outcome of the proposed project, AND
- Applicants with outstanding issues will want to explain how corrective actions taken will mitigate negative impacts on the proposed project.
- A full discussion of this criterion can be found in Section E.1.e. of the NOFO

Other Considerations for Review and Selection of Awards

1. Departmental Objectives
2. Other Possible Points to Consider

Following are additional points that may be considered in framing the overall program of projects for award.

Consideration of Departmental Objectives

1. Supporting Economic Vitality
2. Leveraged Funds/Innovative Finance
3. Reducing Regulatory Barriers
4. Support for Opportunity Zones
<https://www.transportation.gov/opportunity-zones>
5. Safety and Expedited Delivery
6. Performance Management

To some degree, the reviews may consider how these Departmental objectives are addressed by projects:

1. Supporting economic vitality at the national and regional level;
2. Utilizing alternative funding sources and innovative financing models to attract non-Federal sources of infrastructure investment;
3. Identifying proposed actions that reduce regulatory barriers that unnecessarily raise the costs of housing development or impede the development of affordable housing;
4. Locating projects in a qualified opportunity zone
5. Improving safety and expediting project delivery; and
6. Holding grant recipients accountable for their performance by identifying measurable outcomes and tracking progress

Other Possible Considerations

- Geographic spread and range of size of awards
- Scalability of proposed activities
- Performance criteria for tracking outcomes
- Applicant's receipt of other competitive awards

Finally, the makeup of all projects selected for award may be influenced by other considerations such as these on the slide:

- **Geographic spread of awards across the U.S.**
- **Diversity in the size of award recipients**
- **Scalability of proposed activities – can some lesser level of support still produce a useful product**
- **Performance criteria for tracking outcomes – how will grantees monitor the effectiveness of their work, and**
- **Applicant's receipt of other competitive awards.**

Screenshot of HOPE Webpage

Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone Program

Overview


Rural transportation networks play a vital role in supporting our national economic vitality. In keeping with the U.S. Department of Transportation's focus on addressing the deteriorating conditions and disproportionately high fatality rates on our rural transportation infrastructure, FTA's Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) Program supports projects that will address the transportation challenges faced by areas of persistent poverty.


Related Links

- [HOPE Program FY2020 Notice of Funding](#)
- [Federal Register Notice](#)
- [HOPE FAQs](#)

Related Documents

- [Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone Program Fact Sheet](#)
- [HOPE Areas of Persistent Poverty Eligible Counties \(Continental US\)](#)
- [HOPE Areas of Persistent Poverty Eligible Counties \(Alaska and Hawaii\)](#)
- [HOPE Areas of Persistent Poverty Eligible Counties List](#)





www.transit.dot.gov/HOPE

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All information on the HOPE Program is on FTA's HOPE webpage. A screenshot is shown on this slide.

- This page has links to the NOFO and supporting reference materials, including a Fact Sheet, FAQs, and maps and lists of counties and cities determined to be in persistent poverty.

I will now turn it over to Johnita Glover, who will provide information you need to know when applying for a HOPE award.



This portion of the webinar is to

- Provide an orientation on the resources available to applicant organizations on the
 - o FTA Website
 - o Grants.gov website
 - o And the Application Process

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity

FTA website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/>

Funding Opportunity Notices: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices>

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FTA Funding opportunities are published on the FTA website, the federal register, and on Grants.gov website.

We recommend applicants begin their search and application process on the FTA Funding Opportunities (NOFO) web page. Using the NOFO page as your start, provides links to related information and links to websites and resources to assist with the application process.

- To locate the NOFO page, go to the FTA Home page: (FTA.DOT.GOV),
- o At top of webpage, Click on “Funding” and
- o select “applying”
- o and then click on “Notices of Funding” on the left side of page.

The “Notices of Funding” page provides links to all the current or active FTA opportunities available

- Click on the “Opportunity ID” which is hyperlinked to the FTA website NOFO summary page

- If you Click on “Grant Program” this link brings you to the “Program” page which is sponsoring the discretionary funding and soliciting applicants.

If you are searching for old or “expired notices,” they are available on a separate menu directly under the “Notices of Funding”

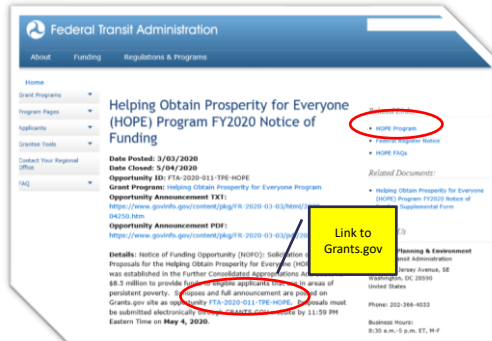
FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity

FTA NOFO Page contains:

- Summary Description
 - Application requirements
 - Eligibility
- Supplemental Form
- Links to Grants.gov
- Links to Program Information
- Other references and links

Link and Instructions for attaching the supplemental form to the SF-424: All applicants must complete the attached supplemental form and attach it to their submission in GRANTS.GOV.

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices>



FTA NOFO provides hyperlinks to Grants.gov opportunity notice, related documents, and application package.

As stated – the FTA NOFO page contains a summary of the opportunity announcement, important dates, such as application deadline, brief explanation of eligibility requirements, and links to the Grants.gov site. Additionally, it has the FTA Supplemental Form, Federal Register Notice, and other relevant information about FTA programs which may assist applicants in developing and submitting a successful proposal or “application.”

The Supplemental Form is a fillable PDF, which is a FTA product, it is used to capture the key elements of the applicant’s proposal. This form contains fill in blanks for information, which will be used by FTA to evaluate the proposed projects and funding requested. This form must be attached to the application in Grants.gov in order to receive consideration.

- PLEASE DO NOT use forms from prior years or attempt to create your own PDF form in lieu of the “supplemental form” that we have provided specifically for this opportunity.
- Please use only the current forms provided on the FTA website or in grants.gov.
- DO NOT attempt to attach images or scanned copies of the supplemental form or information. The PDF form must be completed with typed text and attached to the application in Grants.gov.

You can navigate directly to the Grants.gov site by clicking the blue hyperlinked “opportunity ID” on the NOFO Page.

Download Application

NOTE: Anyone can download the application package from Grants.gov. However, only “authorized organizational representatives” can submit applications in Grants.gov.

File Description	File Name	Last Updated Date/Time	File Size
Folder - Full Announcement - FTA-2020-011-TPE-HOPE	FTA-2020-011-TPE-HOPE-Full Announcement - FTA-2020-011-TPE-HOPE.zip	Mar 01, 2020 04:05:10 PM EST	388.4 KB
Federal Register Notice	FRN 2020-04709.pdf	Mar 01, 2020 04:01:18 PM EST	273.4 KB
Supplemental Form	HOPE-Supplemental Form 2020.pdf	Mar 01, 2020 04:04:33 PM EST	195.5 KB

Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions
20-505 FTA-2020-011-TPE-HOPE	PN020200786	03/03/2020	05/04/2020	Package Apply

Once you click the blue hyperlinked “opportunity ID” on the NOFO Page you will be taken to the Grants.gov Site.

The Grants.gov “Grant Opportunity” page contains four (4) tabs:

- the Synopsis,
- Version History,
- Related Documents,
- and PACKAGE.

This is also the page when you can begin to “apply” for this funding opportunity.

- The synopsis tab provides similar information which we published on the FTA website but also shows if any changes have been posted. Additionally, it provides key dates and related regulatory references.
- The Version History tab – is just that, a history of any changes made since the original announcement.
- The Related Documents tab – leads to a folder which contains documents related to the funding opportunity. It includes items such as the Federal Register Notice, the FTA supplemental form to be used for submitting the proposal or application, or other related documents.
- The “Package” tab – contains the references and links to download and / or apply for this opportunity.

Please NOTE that anyone can download the application package, but only individuals who have been designated in Grants.gov as “authorized organizational representatives” can SUBMIT an application.

Application Package

Application Package

SYNOPSIS | VERSION HISTORY | RELATED DOCUMENTS | **PACKAGE** | Print Package List

Select Grant Opportunity Package

PLEASE READ BEFORE APPLYING!
If you view and complete your application package using Grants.gov downloadable PDF forms, you MUST have Adobe Reader installed. You may receive a validation error using incompatible versions of Adobe Reader. To prevent a validation error, it is now recommended you uninstall any earlier versions of Adobe Reader and install the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the PDF forms, ALL applicants must be using the same Adobe Reader version. Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility.

CFDA	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions
20.505	FTA-2020-011-TPE-HOPE	FT 2020 Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone Program	PK000258786	03/03/2020	05/04/2020	Preview Apply

Preview Opportunity Package Details

Opportunity Package Details:

Agency Contact Information: Charles Goodman
Office of Planning and Environment
202-366-1944
e-mail: Charles.Goodman@dot.gov
Who Can Apply: Organization Applicants

PACKAGE FORMS: Download

Mandatory Forms (Click to Preview)	Optional Forms (Click to Preview)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SF-424 Mandatory Form [V1.2] Grants.gov Lobbying Form [V1.1] Attachments [V1.2] 	

ATTACHMENTS FORM

1) Please attach Attachment 1
2) Please attach Attachment 2
3) Please attach Attachment 3
4) Please attach Attachment 4
5) Please attach Attachment 5
6) Please attach Attachment 6
7) Please attach Attachment 7
8) Please attach Attachment 8
9) Please attach Attachment 9
10) Please attach Attachment 10
11) Please attach Attachment 11
12) Please attach Attachment 12
13) Please attach Attachment 13
14) Please attach Attachment 14

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This slide shows the contents of the “Application Package” available in Grants.gov which includes:

- The mandatory SF-424,
- The Lobbying Form,
- and the Attachment Form used to attach supporting materials for the application

Please note that the “application package” does not include the FTA Supplemental form

Application Package

Reset Form v1.0 Validate Form

Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) Program

Applicant and Proposal Profile

Is this a resubmission due to an invalid/error message from FTA? Yes No

Section I. Applicant Information

Organization Legal Name:

FTA Recipient ID:

Organization Chief Executive Officer (Name and Direct Phone Number):

Project Location: Small Urban (199,999 to 50,000) Large Urban (200,000 or greater) Rural (Less than 50,000)

Specify the County/Cities and State where the project is located. Please refer to list posted to www.transit.dot.gov/HOPE to determine eligibility.

The “Attachment Form” shown below is included in the SF-424 Grant Application Package in Grants.gov.

Please attach the **FTA Supplemental Form** to the **Attachment Form** shown below when submitting in Grants.gov.

Attachments: On this form, you will attach the various files that make up your grant application. Please consult with the appropriate Agency Contacts for more information about each attachment. Please remember that only files you attach must be in the document format and number as specified in the Instructions.

Important: Please attach your files in the proper sequence. See the appropriate Agency Contact for details.

1) Please attach Attachment 1

2) Please attach Attachment 2

3) Please attach Attachment 3

4) Please attach Attachment 4

5) Please attach Attachment 5

6) Please attach Attachment 6

7) Please attach Attachment 7

8) Please attach Attachment 8

CAUTION: Do not use “Supplemental Form” from prior years or create your own form. Please use the file provided on the FTA website.



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This slide depicts a screen shot of the FTA supplemental form. Each opportunity has its own form. The supplemental form must be downloaded separately from FTA site or from within the “related documents” tab. The form is to be attached to the application or the “Attachments” form. The “attachment Form” is a way for applicants to include documents supporting their application.

The supplemental form is a fillable-PDF used to capture the information FTA needs to evaluate the proposed project.

Please, do not attach “scanned copies” of the supplemental form. The PDF must be filled in with text, otherwise FTA will reject the application. Also...DO NOT submit forms from Prior Years or from other Programs.

Grants.gov – Applicants

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html>

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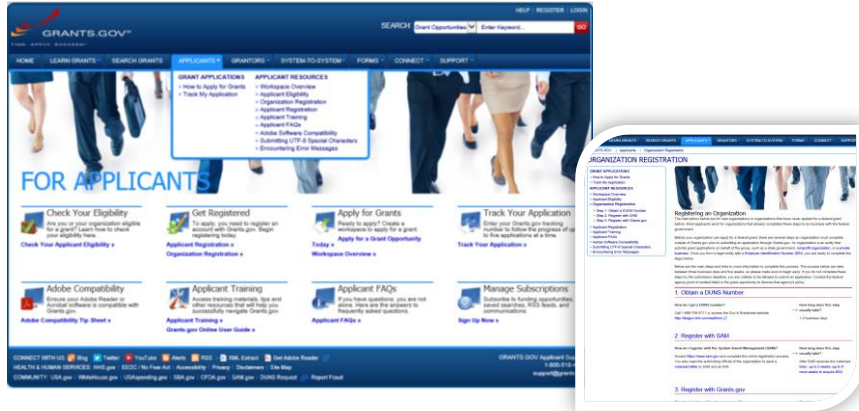
Applicants who have not previously applied on Grants.gov must visit Grants.gov and click the “Applicants” tab.

Applicants who have previously applied are still encouraged to review the Applicants Tab in Grants.gov to make sure they have the latest information about the application process.

The Applicants Tab will walk you through process of registering on Grants.gov as well as help you check to make sure you have the correct or compatible version of Adobe Acrobat. This site will also provide you with training on use of Grants.gov.

PLEASE NOTE that there is an “Adobe Compatibility” check on this site to ensure that applicants are using the correct version and software packages in order to submit their applications. This site also provides the option to download the software if needed. There are many instances were applicants frequently encounter “technical issues” with submitting their applications because they are using a different version of Adobe Acrobat from what is specified by Grants.gov

Applicant – Organization Registration



Organizations must register in Grants.gov in order to submit applications

For new applicants to Grants.gov or federal funds, the Grants.gov site assists organizations with the registration process in the System for Award Management (SAM) and with obtaining DUNS registration.

Workspace in Grants.gov

The image shows two screenshots from the Grants.gov website. The top screenshot is titled "Workspace Overview" and includes a "Get Started on Your Workspace Application" section. It lists three approaches: Basic (for 1-2 users), Intermediate (for 3-5 users), and Advanced (for organizations with external users). The bottom screenshot is titled "Workspace Roles" and shows "Grants.gov Roles & Privileges" with icons for Administrator, E-Business Point of Contact, Workspace Manager, and Custom Role.

Registered Organizations can create a “workspace” in which “grant proposal teams” can collaborate in developing the application proposal and associated documents. This workspace eliminates the need for emailing documents between team members. Grants.gov has been enhanced to allow applicant organizations the “work space” in which assigned individuals can collaborate, share files, and perform varied tasks to develop the application. This is also the place from which Authorized Organization Representative can submit the completed application to Grants.gov. Please review the “Workspace” information in Grants.gov and identify the type of “workspace” and team members who will prepare your application. Please review the Roles and Privileges and remember that only the Authorized Organization Representative can submit the application.

FTA is accepting applications submitted via Grants.gov from “Organizations” and not “Individuals.” Such organizations must be registered in Grants.gov. All the information and pertinent links are available on the “APPLICANT” tab of the Grants.gov site.

Web Addresses

- FTA Funding Opportunities:
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices>
- Grants.gov:
 - <http://www.grants.gov/>
 - <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html>
- Contact Grants.gov Support Center to get help with Grants.gov issues:
GRANTS.GOV Applicant Support
1-800-518-4726
support@grants.gov

Last, If you encounter any technical issues or problems while working on the application or submitting the application please address those concerns to Grants.gov.

“Program related questions or issues” should be addressed to the FTA Program Manager.

Common Questions - Eligibility

1. Is a transit study for a multi-county area within which only some of the counties qualify as 'persistent poverty' eligible for HOPE funding?

Yes. If an applicant chooses to study the entire multi-county area, the application should particularly demonstrate how the proposed study will benefit the counties of persistent poverty, in addition to the larger region.

Thanks Johnita – In this final section of the Webinar, we will open it up to your questions. And, to prime the pump for that, we'll start with a few Questions we have already received and the Responses we provided.

1. Is a transit study for a multi-county area within which only some of the counties qualify as 'persistent poverty' areas eligible for HOPE funding?

Yes. If an applicant chooses to study the entire multi-county area, the application should particularly demonstrate how the proposed study will benefit the counties of persistent poverty, in addition to the larger region.

Common Questions - Eligibility

2. Would a project in a persistent poverty census tract be eligible for funding even if the county where it is located does not qualify?

Yes. The applicant should demonstrate that the project is in an area that meets the definition of a persistent poverty area because it is in a census tract that qualifies.

The applicant should particularly demonstrate how the proposed study will benefit the 'persistent poverty' area within the overall study area

2. The NOFO states that projects located in counties with persistent poverty are eligible for HOPE funding. But, the NOFO also mentions that census tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or greater, as measured by the 2013-2017, 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau, are eligible. Would a project in a persistent poverty census tract be eligible for funding even if the county where it is located does not qualify?

- Yes. If the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed project is in an area that meets the definition of an area of persistent poverty because it is in a census tract that has greater than or equal to 20 percent poverty in the 2013-2017 American Community Survey five-year estimate, *FTA will consider that application for funding.*
- The applicant should demonstrate that the project is in an area that meets the definition of a persistent poverty area because it is in a census tract that qualifies.
- The applicant should particularly demonstrate how the proposed study will benefit the 'persistent poverty' area within the overall study area

Common Questions - Eligibility

3. **Are tribal governments, rural planning organizations, or economic development agencies eligible to receive HOPE funding?**

Yes. They should coordinate with a Section 5307 / 5310 / 5311 recipient or with the State Department of Transportation to prepare the application.

If not eligible to receive Section 5307, 5310, or 5311 funds, they should obtain partnership agreements with eligible entities.



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3. **May tribal governments or rural planning organizations or economic development agencies apply for HOPE funding?**

Yes. They should coordinate with a recipient of Section 5307, 5310, or 5311 funds or with the State Department of Transportation to develop the application.

And, if they are not eligible to receive funding from those FTA programs, they should partner with entities that are eligible.

Common Questions - Eligibility

4. Can HOPE funding be used to purchase buses, improve equipment or facilities, or support the operating and maintenance costs of transit services?

No. The HOPE Program can only support planning, engineering, or development of technical or financing plans for transit projects and services.

HOPE funds cannot be used for capital improvements or to support operations and maintenance activities.

4. Can HOPE funding be used to purchase buses, improve equipment or facilities, or support the operating and maintenance costs of transit services?

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Common Questions - Funding

5. Can my transit agency propose to use “in-kind” match?

Yes. In-kind match is permissible provided the source is documented.

5. Can my transit agency propose to use “in-kind” match?

Yes. In-kind match is permissible provided the source is documented. This slide basically repeats a concept we stated earlier – that in-kind match is perfectly acceptable, but we ask that applicants identify the source.

Open Session: Q & A

Please enter your questions in the Q & A box



Now, we will devote the remainder of our time to answering your questions.

I will now turn it over to Katie at the Volpe Center to facilitate this Open Question/Answer session.

Thank You!

For more information about the program, visit
<http://www.transit.dot.gov/HOPE>

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- **After Q/A, Katie will transition back to Dwayne to wrap up today's session.**
- **Thank you – again – for your interest in the HOPE Program and for your participation in this Webinar. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.transit.dot.gov/HOPE>**
- **And, here is the contact information for each of us who presented today – Charlie, Tonya, and Johnita**
- **Katie will now shut it down.**