



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

November 12, 2020



Dear Colleagues:

As the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) at the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (PIH), we recognize that the COVID-19 public health emergency has resulted in the need for reimagined delivery of essential services in communities across America. Low income individuals and families, people with disabilities, and older adults may be disproportionately affected by gaps in access to public transportation, disconnecting them from their communities and essential services. We write to share important information on how public transportation agencies, local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) may partner to address these gaps in their communities through the Interagency Transportation Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM). The Secretary of Transportation chairs the CCAM which is an interagency council comprised of 11 Federal member agencies, including HUD, that works to improve these targeted populations' access to transportation, including access to education, food, medical appointments and other essential services.

Importantly, FTA-funded assets and FTA funds, including \$25 billion in funding made available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, may be used to support these essential services, provided certain conditions are met. FTA's policy on incidental use allows for all FTA-funded vehicles, regardless of funding program, to be used for the delivery of essential services when it does not interfere with the provision of transit service. Additional information is provided on the [FTA Fact Sheet](#). As an example, some transit agencies have partnered with local municipalities, public housing authorities, and school districts to provide vehicles as mobile internet hotspots to make Wi-Fi access available for school children in targeted communities. FTA and HUD are joining together to educate communities on this initiative and encourage these partnerships across the country.

How can FTA and PIH-funded organizations and stakeholders get involved?

FTA's public transportation grantees, PHAs, tribes, and TDHEs are encouraged to:

- Partner locally to create strategies to provide critical and essential services for community members such as transportation to essential services and nontraditional services such as meal and grocery delivery.
- Work to identify opportunities to align public transportation funded assets (e.g., Wi-Fi enabled vehicles, routes, bus stops, etc.) with community needs during the COVID-19 public health emergency and beyond.
- Work to identify opportunities to leverage Federal funding from multiple CCAM agencies to meet community needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Share relevant data to help assess excess capacity, gaps in services, and community needs.


Where can I find information to get started?

- Join FTA and HUD for a webinar and listening session on Friday, November 13 at 3 p.m. EST. [Register](#)
- To find your local PHA, consult this [list](#).
- To find tribe/TDHEs, consult this [list](#).
- To find local public transportation agencies, consult this [list](#).
- To view profiles of your local transit provider(s), please visit the [National Transit Database](#) (NTD).

Additionally, PHAs, tribes and TDHEs are encouraged to reach out to the National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM). The NCMM is an FTA-funded national technical assistance center that can assist as a broker, connecting public housing authorities to their local public transportation provider(s). To be connected to yours, reach out to your NCMM regional liaison, visit: <https://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/ncmm-regional-liaisons/>.

Working together, local public transportation and public housing authorities can improve the availability, accessibility, and efficiency of essential services during this public health emergency. We strongly encourage these partnerships to provide meaningful change in your communities. Additional information can be found at www.transit.dot.gov/ccam/about/usdot-fta-and-hud-pih-partnership-covid-19-recovery.

Sincerely,



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