

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Tribal Transit Competitive Program

June 29, 2021

W. Jacarl Melton Tribal Transit Program Manager



U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration

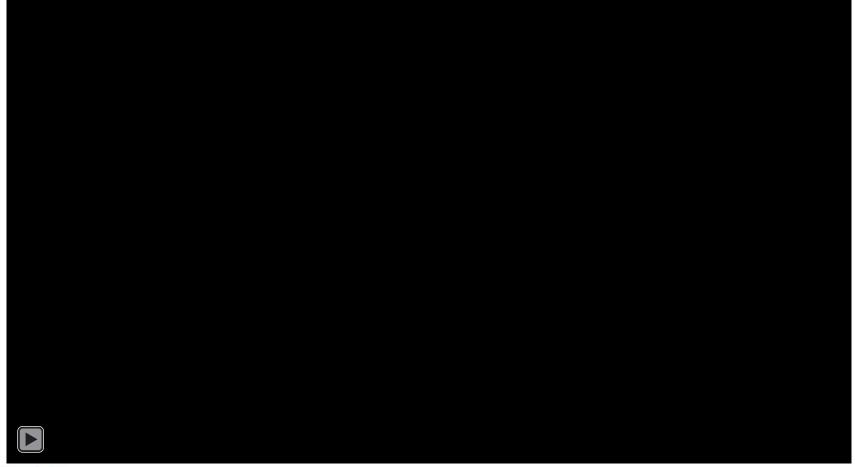
Agenda

- FTA Objectives
- TTP Overview
- Eligible Applicants
- Eligible Projects
- Evaluation Criteria
- Grant Application Overview





FY 2021 Tribal Transit Program Competitive Award





Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Objectives

- The Tribal Transit Program and its competitive award help FTA pursue its objectives by:
 - Providing timely and efficient investment in public transportation
 - Supporting the President's Build Back Better initiative to mobilize American ingenuity to build a modern infrastructure and an equitable, clean energy future
 - Advancing the goals of the January 20, 2021 <u>Executive</u>
 Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for
 Underserved Communities Through the Federal
 Government



Federal Register Notice

 FTA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on May 27, 2021

 Applications are due August 25th, 2021 at 11:59 PM ET



FTA Tribal Transit Program (TTP)

Objective

 Provide direct funding to federally recognized Indian tribes to provide public transportation service on and around Indian reservations or tribal land in rural areas

Eligible Recipients

- Federally recognized Indian tribes, or
- Alaska native villages, groups or communities as identified by the US Department of Interior



FTA TTP History

- The TTP is a set-aside of the Formula Grants for Rural Areas (49 US Code Section 5311)
- FY 2006: Competitive program created and funded at \$8 million to \$15 million a year (SAFETEA-LU)
- FY 2013: Formula program funded at \$25
 million a year and competitive program at \$5
 million a year (MAP-21)



Current Tribal Transit Program

- The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (FY 2016-FY 2020) continued the Tribal Transit Program and increased the amount made available under the formula program:
 - Formula Program: \$30 million per year
 - Competitive Program: \$5 million per year
 - TTP total: \$35 million per year



FY 2021 Tribal Transit Program

- \$10 million for TTP Competitive Program
 - \$5 million continued from FAST Act
 - \$5 million from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act
- Additional formula funding available:
 - FY 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act: \$30 million
 - FY 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act: \$30 million
 - FY 2021 ARP Act: \$30 million



FY 2021 Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

 Federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native villages, groups or communities as identified by the US Department of Interior in rural areas with a population of less than 50,000

Available Funding

 FTA may choose to fund the program for more or less than the announcement amount

Period of Availability

 Funds are available for obligation the year allocated plus two years (total of three years)



FY 2021 Eligible Projects

	Eligible Projects	Eligible Federal Share	Funding Availability
TTP Competitive Funds	• Planning √ \$25,000 cap	100%	3 years (Year of Allocation + 2)
	 Capital ✓ New Services ✓ Replacement (bus, equip, facility) ✓ Expansion (bus, equip, facility) 	100%*	
	 Operating ✓ All eligible tribes** 	100%*	

^{*} Change from 90% eligible federal share requirement



^{**} Change from only tribes receiving less than \$20,000 in TTP formula funds or not having existing transit service requirement

FY 2021 Planning Grant Projects

- Applicants should describe the need for and a general scope of the proposed study
- \$25,000 cap on planning grant awards
- Maximum 100% federal share
 - No local match is required



FY 2021 Capital Projects

- Capital Projects include but not limited to:
 - Purchase of expansion or replacement buses/vans
 - Bus-related equipment (fare equipment, communications devices, etc.)
 - Construction and rehabilitation of facilities (transit maintenance and administrative facilities)
 - Mobility Management
 - Wheelchair lifts and restraints
 - Passenger shelters and bus stop signs
 - Technology, including computer hardware or software
- Maximum 100% federal share
 - No local match is required



FY 2021

Operating Assistance Projects

- Costs directly related to the service operations and may include:
 - Fuel
 - Oil
 - Drivers' and Dispatchers' salaries and fringe benefits
 - Licenses
 - Service agreements with private providers of public transportation services
- Maximum 100% federal share
 - No local match is required



Evaluation Criteria

Important: Capital or Operating Assistance requests and Planning requests have different required Evaluation Criteria:

- FIVE required Evaluation Criteria for operating and capital assistance requests
- ONE required Evaluation Criteria for planning assistance



Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

- Five required sections:
 - Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization
 - Project Readiness
 - Demonstration of Need
 - Demonstration of Benefits
 - Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity



Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization

- Describe the planning document and/or the planning process conducted to identify the proposed project
- Provide a detailed project description
- Discuss level of support by community and/or tribal government



Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization (Cont.)

- Describe what opportunities for public participation were provided and how proposed/existing service has been coordinated with:
 - Human Service Agencies
 - Intercity Bus Transportation Providers
 - Other rural public transit providers
- Describe how mobility and client access needs of tribal human service agencies were considered



Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization (Cont.)

- Identify existing transportation services in and near the proposed or existing service area
 - Document in detail whether project will provide coordination opportunities
- Describe how the proposed/existing service complements rather than duplicates any currently available service
- Describe any other planning or coordination efforts not mentioned above



Project Readiness

- Identify if project is a <u>Categorical Exclusion (CE)</u> or the required environmental analysis has been initiated or completed
- Describe and document a project implementation plan (e.g. including initial design of facilities projects)
- Demonstrate that the project and project funds can be implemented and obligated quickly, if selected
- Demonstrate the ability to carry out the proposed project successfully
- Describe the implementation schedule for the project



Demonstration of Need

- FTA will consider whether the project represents a one-time or periodic need that cannot reasonably be funded from FTA program formula allocations or State and/or local resources
- All applications:
 - Destinations and services not currently accessible by transit
 - Needs for access to jobs or health care, special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities, income-based community, and those with any other mobility requirement
- Capital expansion projects: describe how current or growing demand for the service necessitates the expansion

Demonstration of Need (Cont.)

- Capital replacement projects: should include how the replacement may be necessary to maintain transit system in state of good repair
 - Age of asset
 - Condition of asset
 - Performance of asset
- If an applicant received a planning grant in previous fiscal years, it should indicate the status of the planning study and how the proposed project relates to that study



Demonstration of Benefits

- Identify expected or achieved project benefits
 - Existing Services:
 - Increased or sustained ridership and daily trips
 - Improved service, operations and coordination
 - Provide actual number of individual riders and trips
 - Improve the quality of life for tribe and surrounding communities
 - Start-up Projects:
 - Estimate number of daily one-way trips
 - Qualitative benefits to the tribe and surrounding community



Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity

- For FY 2021, no local match is needed
 - If included, the source must be identified
- Identify sustainable funding plan
 - Demonstrate how tribe plans to maintain operations once project is funded
 - Annual operating budget



Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity (Cont.)

- Explain how project funds are used in coordination with other services for efficient utilization of funds:
 - Humans service transportation funding
 - Tribal Transportation Program funds (FHWA)
 - Title VI or Older American Act funds (HHS)
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs funds
 - In-kind contributions
 - Commitment of support from local businesses
 - Donations of land or equipment
 - Tribal or community support

Evaluation Criteria for Planning Grants

- In ONE required section, proposals should address two key points:
 - I. The tribes' long-term commitment to transit
 - 2. How the proposed study will be implemented and/or further tribal transit



Important Links

- FY 2021 Tribal Transit Program NOFO
- FY 2021 Tribal Transit Program on Grants.gov
- FY 2021 Tribal Transit Formula Allocations,
 Table 10
- FTA's Tribal Entities Landing Page
- Tribal Transit Program Competitive Award
 Webpage



Technical Assistance Centers



National Center for Mobility Management

www.nc4mm.org I-866-846-6400

email: info@nc4mm.org Annual Community Grants



National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

www.nadtc.org 1-866-983-3222

email: contact@nadtc.org Annual Community Grants



Rural Transit Assistance Program

www.nationalrtap.org I-888-589-6821

email: info@nationalrtap.org



National Center for Applied Transit Technology

<u>n-catt.org</u> 1-888-891-0590

Contact: grossglaser@ctaa.org

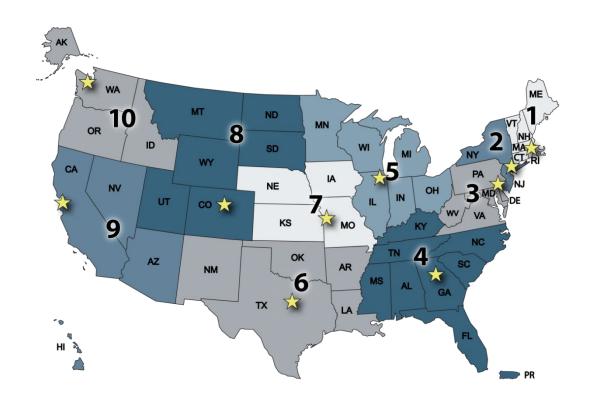
National Transit Institute (NTI)

- Provides training, education and clearinghouse services in support of public transportation
 - Short-form webinars
 - Multi-day in-person courses
- Some In-person <u>courses</u>:
 - Advancing Mobility Management
 - Grow Your Ridership by Welcoming Older Riders
 - Understanding ADA

Registration for all NTI courses and events is **free** to government and transportation agency employees



FTA Regional Tribal Liaisons



LINK: Contact Information for Tribal Liaisons at FTA Regional Offices



Contact Information

W. Jacarl Melton

Tribal Transit Program Manager

TribalTransit@dot.gov

(202) 366-2269

TTP Competitive Award Webpage:

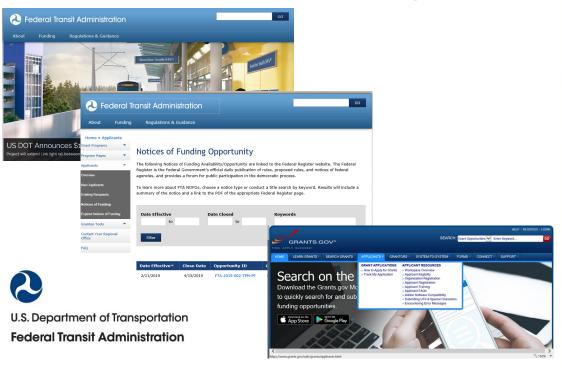
https://www.transit.dot.gov/tribal-transit



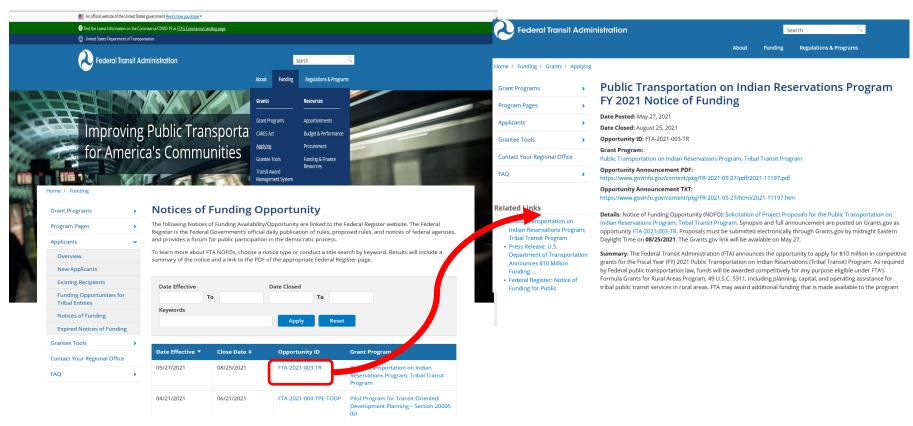


FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Applying for FTA Grant Opportunities in Grants.gov



FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity



FTA website:

Funding Opportunity Notices:

https://www.transit.dot.gov/

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

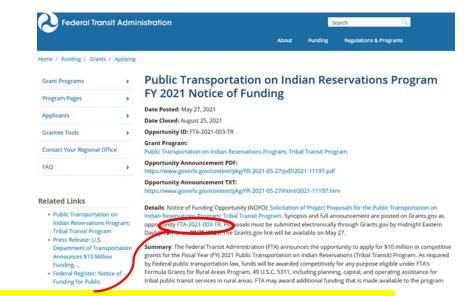


FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity

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.

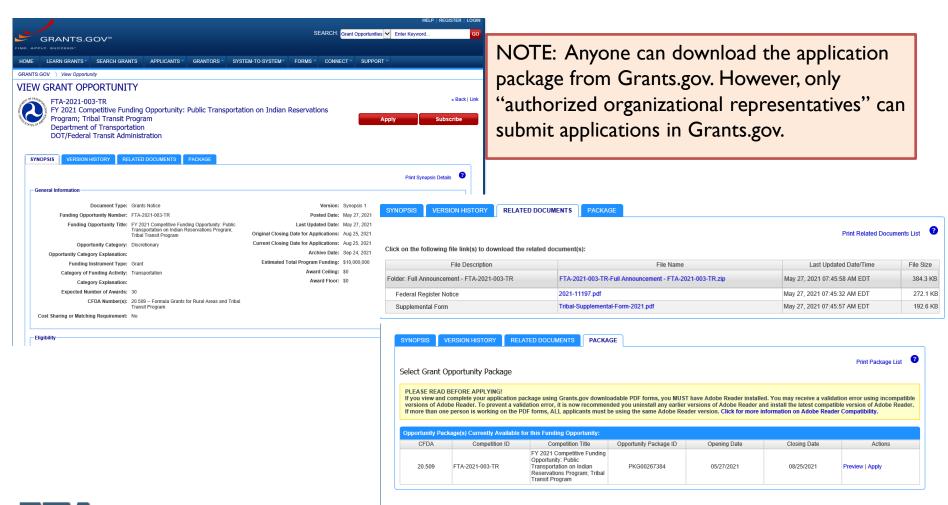


FTA NOFO provides a hyperlink to the Grants.gov opportunity notice, related documents and application package.

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

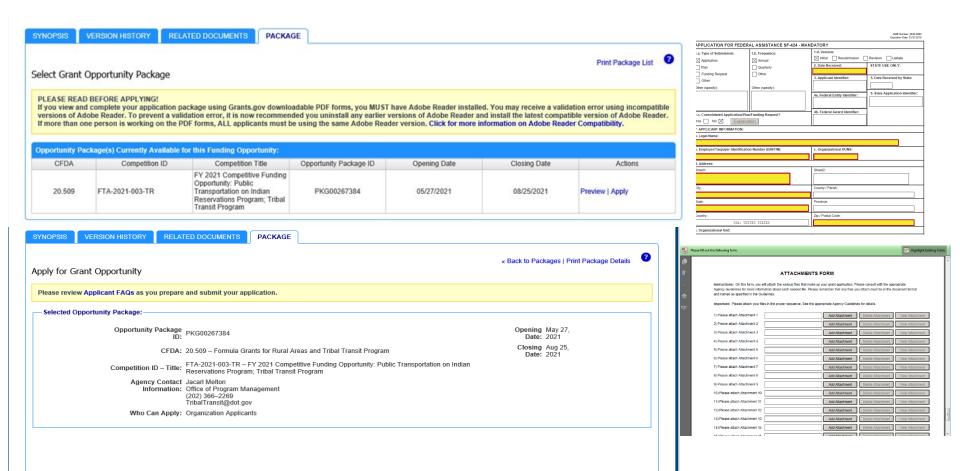


Download Application





Application Package





Application Package

Validate Form **Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program** (Tribal Transit Program) FY 2021 **Applicant and Proposal Profile** Section I. Applicant Information Is this a resubmission due to an invalid/error message from FTA? Yes No Organization Legal Name: FTA Recipient ID number (if applicable): Organization Chief Executive Officer: Is the applicant a federally recognized Indian Tribe or Alaska Native Village, Group, or Community and located in a rural Yes O No area with a population of 50,000 or less? Description of Service Provided and Areas Served: Section II. Project Information **CAUTION:** Do not use "Supplemental Form"

from prior years or create your own form. Please

use the file provided on the FTA website.

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.

Authorized for Local Reproduction	Standard Form 424 Mandatory (Effective 08/2005) Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102			
ATTACHMENTS FORM				
Instructions: On this form, you will attach the various files that make up your grant application. Please consult with the appropriate Agency Guidelines for more information about each needed file. Please remember that any files you attach must be in the document format and named as specified in the Guidelines.				
Important: Please attach your files in the proper sequence. See the appropriate Agency Guidelines for details.				
1) Please attach Attachment 1	Add Attachment View Attachment			
2) Please attach Attachment 2	Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment			
3) Please attach Attachment 3	Add Attachment View Attachment			
4) Please attach Attachment 4	Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment			
5) Please attach Attachment 5	Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment			
6) Please attach Attachment 6	Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment			
7) Please attach Attachment 7	Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment			
8) Please attach Attachment 8	Add Attachment			
9) Please attach Attachment 9	Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment			
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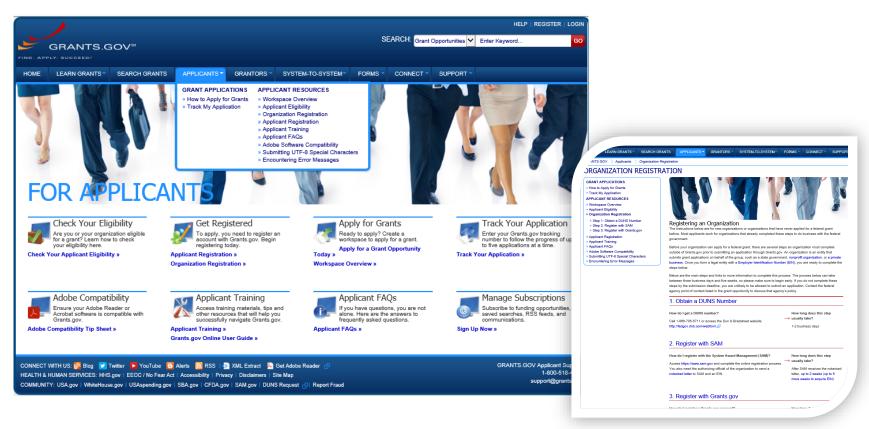
Grants.gov - Applicants



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



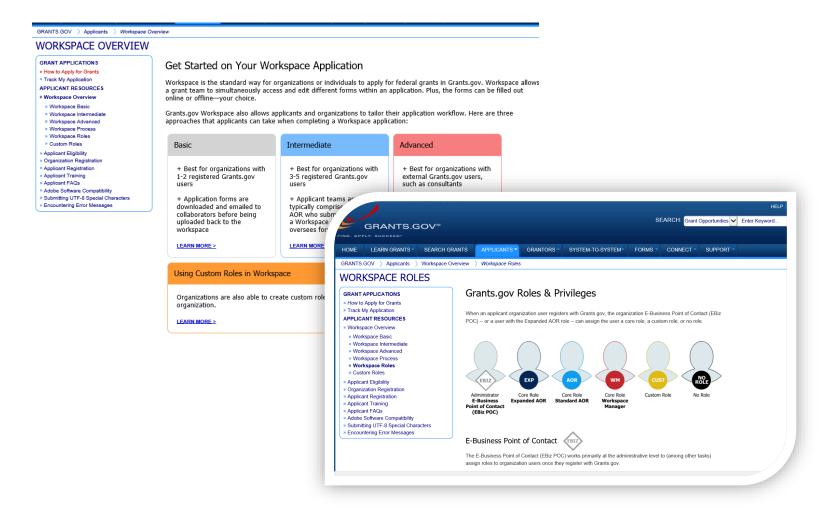
Applicant – Organization Registration



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



Workspace in Grants.gov





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 (800) 518-4726
 support@grants.gov



Questions?

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