ARP Additional Assistance Funding
NOFO
September 23, 2021

Office of Program Management
Federal Transit Administration
FTA Support for COVID-19 Response

• Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act: $25 billion
• Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA): $14 billion
• American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act: $30.5 billion
Funding Description

• The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), enacted on March 11, 2021, provided a total of $30.46 billion to support the transit industry’s response to COVID-19.

• Of that total, ARP appropriated $2.2 billion in discretionary funding for transit agencies that need additional assistance to respond to COVID-19.
Important Dates

• NOFO published Sept. 7, 2021
• Applications due: Nov. 8, 2021, 11:59 p.m.
• Evaluation and rating of applications: November 2021 to March 2022
• Announcement of selected projects: March 2022 (120 days after application deadline, as required by ARP)
ARP Additional Assistance Funding Award Information

• $2,207,561,294 appropriated
• No minimum or maximum grant award amount, although FTA may cap the amount a single recipient or State may receive as part of the selection process.
• No local match allowed.
Eligible Applicants

• Eligible recipients of Urbanized Area Formula funds (49 USC 5307) or Rural Area Formula funds (49 USC 5311) who, as a result of COVID–19, need additional assistance.

• Only designated and direct recipients of Sections 5307 and 5311 formula funding may apply directly to FTA, including States and Indian tribes.

• A designated or direct recipient may apply on behalf of one or more public transportation subrecipients of Urbanized Area and Rural Area Formula funding.
Eligible Projects

• Operating costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, and sanitization combating the spread of pathogens on transit systems, and debt service payments incurred to maintain operations and avoid layoffs and furloughs.

• As required by ARP, Additional Assistance funding is available only for operating expenses.

• Operating expenses definition: costs necessary to operate, maintain, and manage a public transportation system. Examples: driver salaries, fuel, and items having a useful life of less than one year, including personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. Preventive maintenance is considered an operating expense for the purposes of Additional Assistance Funding.
Eligible Projects (continued)

- Actual and anticipated expenses incurred on or after January 20, 2020 are eligible. FTA does not expect there to be sufficient funding to support shortfalls beyond September 30, 2023. However, this does not preclude applicants from submitting such requests.
- Capital projects are not eligible.
Criteria

Reduction in Farebox or Other Sources of Revenue

• Applicants must provide 2018 fare revenue and non-Federal revenue that supported operations.

• Applicants also must provide actual or projected farebox and non-Federal revenue used or needed for operations for each of the given Federal fiscal years (FFYs) identified in the supplemental form.

• The narrative should identify the reason for any differences between the 2018 amounts and the actual or projected amounts for the time period for which you are requesting assistance.
Criteria

Estimate of Financial Need

• The applicant must provide their 2018 operating expense total as reported to the National Transit Database (NTD) to establish a baseline for the request.
• The applicant also must provide the amount of CARES Act, CRRSAA, and ARP funding allocated to it.
• Applicants then must provide their operating expense total for each FFY for which they are requesting funding. Applicants should also provide the amount of Federal funding used or projected to be used toward operating expenses in each year.
Criteria

Estimate of Financial Need (continued)

• The applicant must attach completed CARES Act, CRRSAA, and ARP split letters or allocation announcements to the application. Failure to include this information will result in the total amount of CARES Act, CRRSAA, and ARP funding allocated to the urbanized area(s) or state being considered available to the applicant or its subrecipients to address the additional funding needs identified in the application.

• In the narrative section of the report, the applicant must describe (1) how actual and/or projected revenues have fallen short of 2018 revenues, as a percentage of 2018 operating expenses; (2) how much of the lost revenues has been or will be replaced by CARES Act, CRRSAA, and ARP funding; (3) how the requested assistance will support unmet operating expense needs, after fully using CARES Act, CRRSAA, and ARP funding; and (4) how the requested assistance will not displace regular formula grant assistance from FTA.
Criteria

Demonstration of Expenditure of CARES Act Funding

• The applicant must demonstrate that it has expended 90 percent of the CARES Act funding allocated to the applicant no later than the application deadline. The applicant must include the amount of CARES Act funding it received or was allocated and documentation supporting disbursement of at least 90 percent of its CARES Act allocations.
Criteria

Project Spending Plan

• Responses will be reviewed based on the extent to which the funding is ready to be obligated by September 30, 2023, and disbursed by September 30, 2029, as well as whether the applicant’s proposed spending plans are reasonable and complete.
Review and Selection Process

• A technical evaluation committee will review proposals based on the NOFO criteria.
• Based on the findings of the technical evaluation committee, the FTA Administrator will determine the final allocation of funding.
• Other considerations: In determining the allocation of funds, FTA also may consider geographic diversity, diversity in the size of the transit systems receiving funding, and an applicant’s immediate funding need.
• FTA intends to fund projects with financial needs before September 30, 2023, before funding projects with needs after that date.
Applying for FTA Grant Opportunities in Grants.gov
FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity

FTA website:  https://www.transit.dot.gov/
Funding Opportunity Notices:  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

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

FTA NOFO provides hyperlinks to Grants.gov opportunity notice, related documents, and application package.
NOTE: Anyone can download the application package from Grants.gov. However, only “authorized organizational representatives” can submit applications in Grants.gov.

Select the appropriate application package based on whether you are seeking ARP 5307 or ARP 5311 funding.
Application Package
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.

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

### American Rescue Plan - Additional Assistance Funding

**Applicant and Proposal Profile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization Legal Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTA Recipient ID Number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization Chief Executive Officer (Name and Direct Phone Number)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant Eligibility</td>
<td>Recipient of 5307 Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recipient of 5311 Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Location</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small Urbanized Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Urbanized Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official census bureau urbanized area name (if applicable)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UZA’s designated recipient, if not the applicant (if applicable)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

WORKSPACE OVERVIEW

Get Started on Your Workspace Application

Workspace is the standard way for organizations or individuals to apply for federal grants in Grants.gov. Workspace allows a grant team to simultaneously access and edit different forms within an application. Plus, the forms can be filled out online or offline—your choice.

Grants.gov Workspace also allows applicants and organizations to tailor their application workflow. Here are three approaches that applicants can take when completing a Workspace application:

Basic
- Best for organizations with 1-2 registered Grants.gov users
- Application forms are downloaded and emailed to collaborators before being uploaded back to the workspace

Intermediate
- Best for organizations with 3-5 registered Grants.gov users
- Applicant teams are typically comprised of an AOR who submits, as well as a Workspace Owner who oversees form completion

Advanced
- Best for organizations with external Grants.gov users such as consultants
- Workspace Owner manages form completion
- Workspace Owner sets subforms

Using Custom Roles in Workspace

Organizations are also able to create custom roles and assign these roles to the users affiliated with the organization.

LEARN MORE >
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
Questions and Answers
Contact Info

FTAarpassistance@dot.gov