

Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Opportunity ID: FTA-2022-012-TRI

[Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)

NOTE: It is FTA's intent and expectation that the list of FAQs will evolve over time. We encourage all interested parties to revisit this FAQs posting on a periodic basis as appropriate.

1. How many awards will be announced through this competition?

- a. FTA will announce one award for a single Program Lead to execute the Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program.

2. Who is eligible to apply?

- a. Eligible applicants for the Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program are:
- b. Departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government, including Federal laboratories
- c. Non-profit organizations;
- d. For-profit organizations;
- e. Institutions of higher education including research universities, particularly those with Minority Serving Institution status; and
- f. Technical and community colleges

These applicants must serve as the lead organization to deliver all components of the Demonstration Program, including assembly of project partners and recruitment and selection of localities to participate in the demonstration effort.

3. Do I have to be an existing FTA grantee to eligible to apply for this NOFO?

- a. You do not need to be an existing FTA grantee to compete for this NOFO. If you are an eligible applicant, you are eligible to apply. Please note that if you are not an existing FTA grantee, you will need to become one if selected for award and will be responsible for compliance with any applicable Federal requirements.

4. Is there a cost sharing or matching requirement?

- a. FTA may fund up to 100% for the Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program. Therefore, applicants may apply without a cost share. If applicants choose to apply with a cost share, applicants must provide the local share of the net project in cash, or in-kind, and must document in its application the source of the local match.

5. What are the primary responsibilities of the Program Lead for the Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program?

- a. The Program Lead for the Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program will be responsible for several components, including:
 - i. Leading a two-stage competition to recruit, select, design, and support demonstrations to ensure mobility access.
 - ii. Facilitating and managing demonstrations, including recurring communication and interaction to share findings and lessons learned;
 - iii. Establishing a Research Advisory Committee to review the research framework and methodology, data collection plan, and preliminary and final findings, and offer feedback to ensure the Demonstration answers the most appropriate research questions in the most valid and impactful ways; and
 - iv. Data collection and analysis to support to address current research questions, amongst others.

6. Are eligible applicants expected to partner with organizations to implement the Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program?

- a. There is no expectation for eligible applicants to partner with organizations to implement the Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program. However, given the unique nature of the Program and the required components, we encourage all eligible applicants to reach out to interested parties to support the implementation and management of this Program.

7. Will FTA host a webinar for potential applicants?

- a. FTA hosted a webinar for potential applicants on Wednesday, August 24, 2022. You can access a recording of the webinar [here](#).

8. When does the competition close?

- a. Proposals must be submitted electronically through GRANTS.GOV website by midnight Eastern Time on October 11, 2022. Any agency intending to apply should initiate the process of registering on the Grants.gov site immediately to ensure completion of registration before the submission deadline. Applications received after the deadline may not be considered for funding.

9. When is FTA expected to announce the award?

- a. FTA is expected to announce the award in Fall/Winter 2022.

10. How is the funding administered?

- a. Funding to the successful applicant is administered through an FTA cooperative agreement, managed through the FTA Research, Demonstration, and Innovation office. The cooperative agreement will be managed through FTA's Transit Award Management System (TrAMS).

11. Would it be considered a conflict of interest for the entity selected as the Program Lead to sell or advocate for their own products or services to program participants (such as demonstration communities)?

- a. Yes. FTA considers it a conflict of interest for the Program Lead to advocate for or sell its own products to program participants. The Program Lead must work with the demonstration programs to support their use of products or services that best meet the community's needs, and support the goals of FTA's Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program participants.

12. Would it be considered a conflict of interest in selecting program participants if some participants are currently engaged in business or partnership with the Program Lead?

- a. Yes. FTA considers this a conflict of interest since FTA expects the Program Lead to conduct a full and open process to select demonstration communities in accordance with the two-stage competitive process outlined in the Mobility, Access, and Transportation Insecurity NOFO.

13. Can an eligible program lead apply a fee (profit) on top of direct costs related to executing the work of the MATI Program?

- a. The MATI Program Lead will be engaged in a Cooperative Agreement with the FTA. As such a Program Lead may only be reimbursed for direct costs and allowable indirect costs per 2 CFR 200.400.

14. What is FTA's expectation of Program Lead accountability for individual program participants (e.g., program participant fails to deliver on activity/project)?

- a. As stated in the NOFO, the Program Lead is responsible for overall program management, coordination, and adherence to project timelines. This includes all aspects of resource management, compliance, and reporting, including oversight for all subrecipients. FTA expects the competitively selected program participants to possess the technical capacity to deliver demonstration deployments successfully. However, in the event a program participant is unable to complete critical milestones, FTA expects the Program Lead to work with FTA and the program participant to sustain or responsibly transition the affected demonstration.

15. The MATI NOFO indicates that demonstrations should be conducted in "urban" areas. How does FTA define urban areas?

- a. The term "urban area" means an area that includes a municipality or other built-up place that the Secretary, after considering local patterns and trends of urban growth, decides is appropriate for a local public transportation system to serve individuals in the locality. 49 U.S.C. § 5302(23). For purposes of this NOFO, "urbanized areas" meet the definition of urban area. The term "urbanized area" means an area encompassing a population of not less than 50,000 people that has been defined and designated in the most recent decennial census as an "urbanized area" by the Secretary of Commerce. Id. at § 5302(24).