

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT**

**Fiscal Year 2023 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (Tribal Transit Program) Project Selections**

**AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration**

**ACTION: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (Tribal Transit Program) Announcement of Project Selections and Implementation Guidance**

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**DATE OF APPROVAL:**

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the selection of projects funded under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (Tribal Transit Program) and provides administrative guidance on project implementation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Successful applicants should contact the appropriate FTA Regional Office for information regarding applying for the funds or program-specific information. A list of Tribal Transit Liaisons at Regional Offices can be found at: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/federal-transit-administrations-regional-tribal-liaisons>. Unsuccessful applicants may contact Elan Flippin-Jones, Office of Program Management at (202) 366-3800, or email: [TribalTransit@dot.gov](mailto:TribalTransit@dot.gov) within 30 days of this announcement to arrange a proposal debriefing. A TDD is available at 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/FIRS).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This program is authorized by Section 5311(c)(2) of Title 49, United States Code. Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5338(a)(2)(F) and (49 U.S.C. 5311(c)(1)(A), as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117–58, the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” or “BIL”)) authorized

\$8.9 million in FY 2023 for competitive allocations.

On March 28, 2023, FTA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (88 FR 18364) announcing the availability of \$8.9 million in competitive funding under the Tribal Transit Program. The NOFO stated that additional funds made available prior to project selection may be allocated to eligible projects. Eligible applicants included federally recognized Indian Tribes or Alaska Native Tribes, villages, groups, or communities as identified by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). These program funds will provide financial assistance for capital, operating, and planning projects to support existing public transportation service or establish new public transportation services in rural areas. In response to the NOFO, FTA received 41 eligible project proposals from 41 Tribes requesting \$19 million. Project proposals were evaluated based on each applicant's responsiveness to the program evaluation criteria outlined in the NOFO. FTA is funding 22 projects from 22 Tribes, as shown in Table 1, for a total of \$9.9 million.

Recipients selected for competitive funding should work with their FTA Regional Office to submit a grant application in FTA's Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) for the projects identified in the attached table to quickly obligate funds. Grant applications may only include eligible activities included in the original project application and identified for funding in the project description column of the project selections table. Funds must be used consistent with the competitive proposal and for the eligible purposes established in the NOFO and described in the FTA Circular 9040.1G.

In some cases, the funding allocation amount is less than the proposer's total requested amount. Planning projects were capped at \$25,000. For other allocations less than the requested amount, the recipient should work with the Regional Office to reduce

the scope or scale the project such that a complete phase or project is accomplished.

Recipients are reminded that program requirements can be found in the NOFO.

A discretionary project identification number has been assigned to each project for tracking purposes and must be used in the TrAMS application. Recipients with projects listed with multiple project identification numbers should contact their FTA Regional Office regarding grant application structure in TrAMS.

Selected projects are eligible to incur costs under pre-award authority no earlier than the date projects were publicly announced, **September 25, 2023**. Pre-award authority does not guarantee that project expenses incurred prior to the award of a grant will be eligible for reimbursement, as eligibility for reimbursement is contingent upon other requirements, such as planning and environmental requirements, having been met. For more about FTA's policy on pre-award authority, please see the Federal Register Notice FTA Fiscal Year 2023 Apportionments, Allocations, Program Information and Interim Guidance found in Vol. 88, No. 72 (April 14, 2023) and available on the FTA website at [FTA Fiscal Year 2023 Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information | FTA \(dot.gov\)](#). Post-award reporting requirements include submission of the Federal Financial Report and Milestone Progress Reports in TrAMS as appropriate (see FTA Circulars 5010.1E and 9040.1G). Recipients must comply with all applicable Federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, FTA circulars, and other Federal requirements in carrying out the project supported by the FTA grant. FTA emphasizes that recipients must follow all third-party procurement guidance, as described in FTA Circular 4220.1F. Funds allocated in this announcement must be obligated in a grant by September 30, 2026

Grant funding made available through this program may be included in a Tribal Transportation Self-Governance funding agreement if there is an existing Self-Governance compact in place between the Tribe and the U.S. Department of Transportation. If funds are transferred to a Tribal Self-Governance funding agreement, the funds will be subject to the requirements and provisions of the Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program regulation at 49 CFR part 29 and may be used only for the purpose for which they were awarded.

**TABLE 1  
FY 2023 TRIBAL TRANSIT PROJECT SELECTIONS**

<b>State</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Allocations</b>
AK	Village of Aniak	D2023-TRTR-100	Purchase ADA passenger van, maintenance costs, and salary for driver to establish transit system.	\$221,659
AK	Healy Lake Village	D2023-TRTR-101	Purchase ADA passenger van, maintenance costs, and salary for driver.	\$213,127
AK	Kenaitze Indian Tribe (IRA)	D2023-TRTR-102	Support the Express Route Bus Pilot with operating assistance for two service routes.	\$960,155
AK	Village of Iliamna	D2023-TRTR-103	Construct a transit building to house the Tribe's transit program vehicle fleet.	\$445,280
AK	Native Village of Unalakleet	D2023-TRTR-104	Fund the equipment for maintenance of the public transit corridors leading to assisted living facility.	\$1,411,464
AZ	Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians	D2023-TRTR-105	Replace vehicles that have met their useful life.	\$116,800
CA	Karuk Tribe Transportation Department	D2023-TRTR-106	Operations funding to support and manage Tribal transit system.	\$323,877
MN	The Prairie Island Indian Community	D2023-TRTR-107	Construct a transportation maintenance facility.	\$1,117,025
MT	Chippewa Cree Tribe	D2023-TRTR-108	Operating support for Tribal transit services.	\$206,326
NM	Jicarilla Apache Nation	D2023-TRTR-109	Design and construction of a restroom facility on Jicarilla Apache Nation public transit bus route.	\$629,707
NV	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	D2023-TRTR-110	Construct a bus barn for the Tribe's transit center.	\$1,217,812
NV	Reno-Sparks Indian Colony	D2023-TRTR-111	Purchase an ADA passenger transit vehicle and use funds for the operations of a new line of service.	\$630,253
NY	Seneca Nation of Indians	D2023-TRTR-112	Planning study for the Tribal transit circulator route.	\$25,000

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Allocations
NY	Oneida Indian Nation	D2023-TRTR-113	Transit planning study.	\$25,000
OK	Cherokee Nation	D2023-TRTR-114	Vehicle replacement.	\$449,386
OK	Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma	D2023-TRTR-115	Planning study to delineate service area, identify origins and destinations.	\$25,000
OK	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	D2023-TRTR-116 D2023-TRTR-117	Electric vehicle pilot project.	\$200,000
SD	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	D2023-TRTR-118 D2023-TRTR-119	Vehicle expansion for public transit services and operating assistance.	\$567,990
WA	Squaxin Island Tribe	D2023-TRTR-120 D2023-TRTR-121	Bus barn project to house transit vehicles.	\$411,795
WI	Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	D2023-TRTR-122 D2023-TRTR-123	Acquire a reliable and accessible transit vehicle.	\$150,000
WI	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	D2023-TRTR-124 D2023-TRTR-125	Purchase replacement vans.	\$540,000
WI	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians	D2023-TRTR-126	Planning study to support low-emission/e-bus conversion and infrastructure.	\$25,000
<b>Total Funds: \$9,912,656</b>				