



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

## **STREAMLINED REQUIREMENTS FOR TRIBAL APPLICANTS TO THE FY24 BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES COMPETITIVE PROGRAM AND LOW- OR NO-EMISSION PROGRAM**

On February 8, 2024, the Federal Transit Administration announced the availability of \$1.5 billion in FY24 funding to support state, local and Tribal efforts to buy or modernize buses, improve bus facilities, and support workforce development. Of this, \$390 million is authorized under the Buses and Bus Facilities (Bus) Competitive Program, and \$1.1 billion is authorized under the Low- or No-Emission Grant (Low-No) Program.

New in FY24, the funding opportunity introduces streamlined requirements for federally recognized Indian Tribes requesting less than \$1 million in Federal funds, making it easier for Tribes with relatively small requests to apply to either or both programs.

### **What are the streamlined requirements?**

Tribes requesting less than \$1 million in Federal funds will not need to provide full narrative responses to four of the six evaluation criteria as indicated below:

1. Demonstration of Need: Narrative (and supporting documentation, if applicable) required.
2. Demonstration of Benefits: Narrative not required.
3. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization: Narrative not required but (if applicable) Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan is required.
4. Local Financial Commitment: Narrative (and supporting documentation, if applicable) required.
5. Project Implementation Strategy: Narrative is not required but a project timeline and (if applicable) a description of project partners' qualifications are required.
6. Technical Legal, and Financial Capacity: Narrative not required.

Additionally, Tribal applicants requesting less than \$1 million do not need to provide narratives on any of the additional considerations discussed in Section IV of the Supplemental Form.

The Supplemental Form will automatically gray out any evaluation criteria and additional consideration narrative boxes not required when an applicant indicates it is a Tribe requesting less than \$1 million. Tribal applicants should review the Supplemental Form closely before submission to ensure all required fields are filled.



**Section I. Applicant Information (NOFO Section C.1)**

Organization Legal Name:

FTA Recipient ID Number:

Organization Chief Executive Officer:  
(name and direct phone number)

Applicant Eligibility: ☐ Direct or Designated Recipient  
☐ State  
☐ Local Governmental Authority  
☐ Federally Recognized Indian Tribe

Is the Federal requested amount less than \$1 million? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Figure 1: Tribal applicants requesting less than \$1 million should indicate this in Section I of the Supplemental Form under “Applicant Eligibility.”**

### **Are Tribes able to request \$1 million or more?**

Tribes may request \$1 million or more and would instead be subject to the standard application requirements. Tribal applications for \$1 million or more must include narrative responses to all six evaluation criteria, and should provide narratives to the additional considerations if they wish to be considered for priority consideration.

### **Can Tribes split a request for more than \$1 million into multiple applications in order to be subject to the streamlined requirements?**

While all applicants, including Tribal applicants, may submit multiple applications, Tribal applicants must still provide full narrative responses if their total Federal request across all applications exceeds \$1 million. Because of this, Tribal applicants should instead consider submitting a single comprehensive application for their full request, and noting in the application whether they are willing to accept a smaller scaled amount.

### **How do Tribes apply?**

The [FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) describes the application process and requirements. Applicants must submit their application on Grants.Gov by April 25 at 11:59 pm ET. The grant opportunities are under Opportunity IDs [FTA-2024-TPM-004-BUS](#) for Bus Competitive and [FTA-2024-TPM-003-LWNO](#) for Low-No.

### **Where can I find more information?**

Interested applicants should review the [FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for additional information, including program eligibility and application requirements. The program webpages ([Bus Competitive](#) and [Low-No](#)) as well as the [FAQ](#) also provide further information.

Additionally, FTA is hosting two webinars to provide information to potential applicants, including a review of program eligibility, an overview of the evaluation criteria and selection considerations, and the submission process. The presentation slides and a recording of the

February 22 webinar, which was a general session for all applicants, are posted on the Bus Competitive and Low-No program webpages. The session on March 5, 2024 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET will include a Q&A session focused on rural and Tribal applicants, and the recording will also be posted to the program webpages. Attendees may register [here](#).

Applicants may also email [FTALowNoBusNOFO@dot.gov](mailto:FTALowNoBusNOFO@dot.gov) with any further questions.

*The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Potential applicants should refer to FTA's statutes and regulations for applicable requirements.*

*Last updated February 26, 2024.*