

**FTA Recipient Award Toolkit
Section 5311(c)(2) Public Transportation on
Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit) Program
Specific Inclusions**



Federal Transit Administration

Fiscal Year 2026

Version Log

The following table records the history of modifications and successive editions of this document.

Version	Updates	Version Date
1.0	Developed a Section 5311(c)(2) program-specific toolkit from existing FTA resources.	05/08/2026

Legal Notice

Notice: This guidance document is not legally binding in its own right, and the Federal Transit Administration will not rely upon it as a separate basis for affirmative enforcement actions or other administrative penalties. Conformity with this document (as distinct from existing statutes and regulations) is voluntary only, and nonconformity will not affect rights and obligations under existing statutes and regulations. This toolkit does not relieve recipients of the need to thoroughly review relevant FTA program circulars and applicable Federal regulations. FTA does not require recipients to adhere to the recommendations in this document, except to the extent to which they cite Federal regulations.

Toolkit Purpose & Orientation

Overview

The **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Recipient Award Toolkit** may be used as reference material for developing applications for awards in the Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) and is intended to provide helpful information to recipients regarding application development, consistent with FTA Circulars and other information materials. This document, **Section 5311(c)(2) Program Specific Inclusions**, provides FTA recipients with recommendations for developing grant applications specific to the Section 5311(c)(2) grant program. This document offers program-specific guidance around program requirements (including eligibility and match requirements), recommended application inclusions, and application sample language.

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. FTA recommends that recipients consult the [TrAMS User Guide](#) while navigating TrAMS. Throughout the application development process, continue coordinating with assigned regional representatives to support areas requiring additional clarification beyond the TrAMS User Guide.

By following the recommended language and documentation standards outlined in the **FTA Recipient Award Toolkit**, recipients can:

- **Streamline Application Review:** These suggested approaches to application development, relevant to specific programs, are intended to help ensure that the key information in your application is clearly presented. This can reduce the possibility of later requests for clarification and can accelerate the path to a grant award.
- **Facilitate Grant Management:** Using a standardized format for critical program data within the application often makes managing the grant, from initial review through closeout, more efficient for both the recipient and FTA staff.

Toolkit Structure

This document is part of a larger **FTA Recipient Award Toolkit** which provides a framework for all TrAMS applications. All of the toolkit documents are linked on the FTA website at: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/applying/fta-recipient-award-toolkit>.

- **General Application Development Information:** provides recipients with an understanding of the processes, approaches, and best practices of a TrAMS award application, including preliminary work for application development; considerations for application planning; and key elements of an award, such as the executive summary, application projects, and budget descriptions.

- **Program Specific Inclusions:** expands on the General Application Development document by providing recipients with accessible information for application development for the grant programs listed below, including program descriptions, program-specific applicability requirements, match percentages for funding, and navigation support for FTA Program Circulars.
 - **Section 5307:** Urbanized Area Formula Program
 - **Section 5310:** Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
 - **Section 5311:** Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program
 - **Section 5311(c)(2):** Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit) Program
 - **Section 5337:** State of Good Repair Grants Program
 - **Section 5339:** Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program

Acronyms and definitions for terms used in this toolkit are provided in the applicable [FTA Circulars](#).

This toolkit is subject to change without notice. When available, hyperlinks to source documents are included so that users have access to the most up-to-date information.

Section 5311(c)(2): Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit) Program

Program Introduction and Application Considerations¹

Overview: FTA apportions Section 5311(c)(2) funding to Federally recognized Indian Tribes to provide public transportation service on and around Indian reservations or Tribal land in rural areas.

The following application considerations are unique to Section 5311(c)(2) funding:

5311(c)(2) Program Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5311(c)(2) includes both a formula program and a competitive grant program. Formula apportionments for the Tribal Transit Program (TTP) appear annually in the apportionment notice, while competitive opportunities are announced in a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and posted on Grants.gov.• FTA will announce selected projects for competitive award on the FTA Website or by direct communication from FTA to the recipient. When developing your TrAMS application for a competitive award, ensure that the project description, funding amount, and Discretionary ID in your TrAMS application matches the information provided within the FTA announcement or otherwise provided by FTA.

Executive Summary – Recommended Inclusions

To streamline application reviews, FTA recommends including the following Section 5311(c)(2) elements in the Executive Summary. These Executive Summary recommendations are specific to Section 5311(c)(2) and supplement the Recipient Award Toolkit – General Application Development Information document. FTA recommends that recipients include:

- A brief description of your application, as outlined within the **Executive Summary** section of the [Recipient Award Toolkit - General Application Development Information](#).
- For Tribes enrolled in the Tribal Transportation Self Governance Program (TTSGP), include the following acknowledgment within the Executive Summary:
 - The U.S. Department of Transportation and recipient, [name of Tribe], executed a Compact and a Multi-Year Funding Agreement on (date compact was signed), respectively, under the Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program (Self-Governance Program) codified at 49 C.F.R. part 29. By authority of these agreements, from [date of Compact] funds in any open grants and funds in new

¹ [FTA Circular C9040.1H Rural Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance](#) (Chapter 11, Pg. XI-1)

grants to the [name of Tribe] are subject to the terms of the Compact, Multi-Year Funding Agreement, and the Self-Governance Program. As authorized by the Self-Governance Program, the [name of Tribe] is authorized to draw down all available funds in this and other open or new grant awards. After such drawdowns by the [name of Tribe], the grants will be closed out.

Award Description – Recommended Inclusions

In the application **Award Description**, provide a brief description outlining the Purpose, Activities to be Performed, Expected Outcomes, Intended Beneficiaries, and Subrecipient Activities pertaining to the application.² A sample Award Description for a 5311(c)(2) application follows below; alter the details for your specific application:

- **Purpose:** The XXX Tribe will utilize this award to maintain existing transit services on the reservation.
- **Activities to be Performed:** Funds will be used to cover eligible operating expenses including driver salaries, fuel, items having a useful life of less than one year, and preventive maintenance.
- **Expected Outcomes:** Funding will permit the XXX Tribe to continue to provide service to tribal area.
- **Intended Beneficiaries:** XXX Tribe transit riders.
- **Subrecipients:** None

Budget Information – Eligible Program Activities & Match Requirements³

The following table describes activities eligible for Section 5311(c)(2) funding. List applicable local non-Federal funding match percentages in the **Project Budget**.

Eligible Activity	Description
Capital Activities ⁴	<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital projects eligible under Section 5311 include all projects listed under 49 USC 5302(4). Chapter IV (Pg. IV-4) of Circular 9040.1H contains a list of eligible capital activities.

² [FTA Circular C5010.1F Award Management Requirements](#) (Appendix B, Section 3, Pg. B-3)

³ [FTA Circular C9040.1H Rural Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance](#) (Chapter 4, Pg. IV-1)

⁴ [FTA Circular C9040.1H Rural Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance](#) (Chapter 4, Section 3, Pg. IV-4)

Eligible Activity	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect capital costs are eligible (provided that the recipient has an approved Indirect Cost Allocation Plan or indirect cost proposal). Additionally, refer to Chapter IV (Pg. IV-10) of Circular 9040.1H to confirm whether your award activities meet any unique eligibility considerations and circumstances for particular capital activities (e.g., requirements for fleet expansion or facilities). <p>Match Requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded at 100% Federal share, no local match is required.
<p>Planning⁵</p>	<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning activities are eligible under Section 5311 funding, provided that the planning activities are funded in conjunction with Section 5305 funds, for planning activities that are directed specifically to the needs of rural areas in non-metropolitan areas in the State.⁶ Document funds programmed for this purpose (e.g., rural planning) in the state’s statewide Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and check for consistency with Circular 8100.1D. <p>Match Requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded at 100% Federal share, no local match is required.
<p>Operating Assistance⁷</p>	<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only net operating expenses are eligible for assistance. Net operating expenses are those expenses that remain after the provider subtracts operating revenues from eligible Operating Expenses. Per page IV-16, Section 5 of Circular 9040.1H, at a minimum, the following items are considered as operating expenses: fuel, drivers’ salaries and fringe benefits, dispatcher salaries and fringe benefits, and licenses.

⁵ [FTA Circular C9040.1H Rural Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance](#) (Chapter 4, Section 2, Pg. IV-2)

⁶ [Program Guidance for Metropolitan Planning and State Planning and Research Program Grants \(8100.1D\) | FTA](#)

⁷ [FTA Circular C9040.1H Rural Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance](#) (Chapter 4, Section 5, Pg. IV-16)

Eligible Activity	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Chapter IV, Section 5 (Pg. IV-16) of Circular 9040.1H for additional information on eligibility of Operating Assistance. <p>Match Requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded at 100% Federal share, no local match is required.
Project Administration⁸	<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the Section 5311 program only, the State may treat project administrative expenses incurred by a local provider as a separate cost category from capital, planning, or operating expenses. A maximum of 10% of a project's budget may be used for project administration. Eligible project administrative costs may include but are not limited to general administrative expenses (e.g., salaries of the project director, secretary, and bookkeeper); marketing expenses; insurance premiums or payments to a self-insurance reserve; office supplies; facilities and equipment rental; standard overhead rates; and the costs of administering drug and alcohol testing. <p>Match Requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded at 100% Federal share, no local match is required.
Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Projects⁹	<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JARC project activities are focused on employment-related transportation and reverse commute transportation for low-income persons. Refer to Chapter IV, Section 7 (Pg. IV-18) of Circular 9040.1H for requirements for JARC funding and examples of eligible projects under JARC. <p>Match Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded at 100% Federal share, no local match is required.

⁸ [FTA Circular C9040.1H Rural Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance](#) (Chapter 4, Section 6, Pg. IV-17)

⁹ [FTA Circular C9040.1H Rural Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance](#) (Chapter 4, Section 7, Pg. IV-18)