



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration



**FACT SHEET:**  
**FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS**  
**SECTION 5311**

	<b>FY 2013 (in millions)</b>	<b>FY 2014 (in millions)</b>
5311 Grants	\$537.6	\$545.6
Tribal	30.0	30.0
Appalachian Region	20.0	20.0
Rural Transit Assistance Program	11.9	12.2
<b>5311 Program Total</b>	<b>\$599.5</b>	<b>\$607.8</b>

**Purpose**

This program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation in rural areas with populations less than 50,000, where many residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations.

**Statutory References**

49 U.S.C. Section 5311 / MAP-21 Section 20010

**Eligible Recipients**

- States, Indian tribes
- Subrecipients: State or local government authorities, nonprofit organizations, operators of public transportation or intercity bus service that receive funds indirectly through a recipient.



**Eligible Activities**

- Planning, capital, operating, job access and reverse commute projects, and the acquisition of public transportation services.

**What's New?**

- Low-income populations in rural areas now incorporated as a formula factor, similar to the repealed Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program.
- Planning is now an eligible activity.
- The Tribal program provides \$25 million in formula funds and \$5 million for discretionary awards.
- Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance Formula Program is a set-aside program.
- Administration, planning, and technical assistance set-aside for states reduced to 10% from 15%.
- Cost of unsubsidized portion of privately provided intercity bus service that connects feeder service is now eligible as in-kind local match.
- Certain expenditures by vanpool operators may be used as local match.

(cont.)

## Formula Grants for Rural Areas

### Funding

- Federal share is 80% for capital projects.
- Federal share is 50% for operating assistance.
- Federal share is 80% for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) non-fixed-route paratransit service, using up to 10% of a recipient's apportionment.

#### **Rural Formulas**

- 83.15% of funds apportioned based on land area and population in rural areas
- 16.85% of funds apportioned based on land area, revenue-vehicle miles, and low-income individuals in rural areas.

#### **Tribal Programs**

- \$5 million discretionary tribal program.
- \$25 million tribal formula program for tribes providing public transportation.
- Formula factors are vehicle revenue miles and number of low-income individuals residing on tribal lands.

#### **Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance Formula Program**

- \$20 million formula program for states in the Appalachian Region.

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For additional information on FTA and MAP-21, visit [www.fta.dot.gov/map21](http://www.fta.dot.gov/map21).