



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



**FACT SHEET:**  
**ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**  
**Chapter 53 Section 5310**

	FY 2015/ MAP-21	FY 2016 (in millions)	FY 2017 (in millions)	FY 2018 (in millions)	FY 2019 (in millions)	FY 2020 (in millions)
5310 Formula Grants	\$258.3	\$262.95	\$268.21	\$273.84	\$279.65	\$285.58
Discretionary Pilot Program	<i>n/a</i>	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$3.50	\$3.50
<b>5310 Total</b>	\$258.3	\$264.95	\$271.21	\$277.09	\$283.15	\$289.08

**PROGRAM PURPOSE:**

To improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. This program supports transportation services planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities in all areas – large urbanized (over 200,000), small urbanized (50,000-200,000), and rural (under 50,000). Eligible projects include both traditional capital investment and nontraditional investment beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services.

**Statutory References:** 49 U.S.C. Section 5310 / FAST Act Section 3006

**Program Guidance:** [FTA Circular C. 9070.1G Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Guidance and Application Instructions.](#)

**Eligible Recipients:**

Formula funds are apportioned to direct recipients:

- States for rural and small urban areas (small UZAs) and designated recipients chosen by the Governor of the State for large urban areas (large UZAs); or
  - State or local governmental entities that operates a public transportation service.
- Direct recipients have flexibility in how they select subrecipient projects for funding, but their decision process must be clearly noted in a state/program management plan.
  - The selection process may be: Formula-based, Competitive, or Discretionary and subrecipients can include: States or local government authorities, private non-profit organizations, or operators of public transportation.

**Eligible Activities:**

- At least 55 percent of program funds must be used on capital or “traditional” 5310 projects. Examples include:

- Buses and vans; wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices; transit-related information technology systems including scheduling/routing/one-call systems; and mobility management programs.
- Acquisition of transportation services under a contract, lease, or other arrangement. Both capital and operating costs associated with contracted service are eligible capital expenses. User-side subsidies are considered one form of eligible arrangement. Funds may be requested for contracted services covering a time period of more than one year. The capital eligibility of acquisition of services as authorized in 49 U.S.C. 5310(b)(4) is limited to the Section 5310 program.
- The remaining 45 percent is for other “nontraditional” projects. Under MAP-21, the program was modified to include projects eligible under the former 5317 New Freedom program, described as: Capital and operating expenses for new public transportation services and alternatives beyond those required by the ADA, designed to assist individuals with disabilities and seniors. Examples include:
  - Travel training; volunteer driver programs; building an accessible path to a bus stop including curb-cuts, sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals or other accessible features; improving signage, or way-finding technology; incremental cost of providing same day service or door-to-door service; purchasing vehicles to support new accessible taxi, rides sharing and/or vanpooling programs; and mobility management.

### What’s Changed?

- A State or local governmental entity that operates a public transportation service and that is eligible to receive direct grants under 5311 or 5307 is now an eligible direct recipient for Section 5310 funds.
- FTA shall disseminate a collection of *Best Practices* to public transportation stakeholders on innovation, program models, new services delivery options, performance measure findings, and transit cooperative research program reports.
- Section 3006(b): a new discretionary pilot program for innovative coordinated access and mobility - open to 5310 recipients and subrecipients – to assist in financing innovative projects for the transportation disadvantaged that improve the coordination of transportation services and non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) services; such as: the deployment of coordination technology, projects that create or increase access to community One-Call/One-Click Centers, etc.
- Section 3006(c): Requires the interagency transportation Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) to create an updated strategic plan on transportation coordination across federal agencies, and develop a cost-sharing policy

### Funding:

#### Federal Share:

- Federal share is 80 percent for capital projects.
- Federal share is 50 percent for operating assistance.

#### Formula Details:

- Based on Census data, the formula funds are apportioned to each State based on the number of older adults and individuals with disabilities and allocated by area:
  - Large UZAs: 60%
  - Small UZAs: 20%
  - Rural: 20%
  - States can transfer small urban or rural allocations to large UZA’s but not the other way around.

Other:

- Match can come from other Federal (non-DOT) funds. This can allow local communities to implement programs with 100 percent federal funding. One example is Older Americans Act (OAA) Title IIIB Supportive Services Funds:  
<https://acl.gov/about-acl/authorizing-statutes/older-americans-act>
- 5310 program recipients may partner with meal delivery programs such as the OAA-funded meal programs (to find local programs, visit: [www.Eldercare.gov](http://www.Eldercare.gov)) and the USDA Summer Food Service Program <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-sfsp>. Transit service providers receiving 5310 funds may coordinate and assist in providing meal delivery services on a regular basis if they do not conflict with the provision of transit services.
- FTA requires its formula grantees to provide half fare service for fixed route service supported with FTA funds to older adults and individuals with disabilities who present a Medicare card:  
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/civil-rights-ada/half-fare-triennial-guidance-fy2011>
- A person whose addiction to drugs poses a substantial limitation on one or more major life activities is a person with a disability and is eligible to receive transportation through the Section 5310 program, including to a drug treatment center.

**For Additional Information on FTA and the FAST Act, please visit: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/fast>**