



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration



FACT SHEET:
FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS
Chapter 53 Section 5311

	FY 2015/ MAP-21	FY 2016 (in millions)	FY 2017 (in millions)	FY 2018 (in millions)	FY 2019 (in millions)	FY 2020 (in millions)
5311 Rural Formula	\$543.8	\$552.6	\$564.8	\$577.7	\$591.1	\$604.8
Tribal Program	\$30.0	\$35.0	\$35.0	\$35.0	\$35.0	\$35.0
Appalachian Program	\$20.0	\$20.0	\$20.0	\$20.0	\$20.0	\$20.0
Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP)	\$12.1	\$12.4	\$12.6	\$12.9	\$13.2	\$13.5
5311 Program TOTAL	\$607.8	\$620.0	\$632.4	\$645.6	\$659.3	\$673.3
5340 Growing States*	\$73.7	\$77.5	\$79.5	\$81.5	\$83.6	\$85.6
TOTAL	\$681.5	\$697.5	\$711.9	\$727.1	\$742.9	\$758.9

*Estimated amount of additional funding from the Section 5340 formula for the 5311 program.

PROGRAM PURPOSE:

This program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states and federally recognized Indian tribes 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. It also provides funding for state and national training and technical assistance through the Rural Transportation Assistance Program.

Statutory References:

49 U.S.C. Section 5311 / Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST) Section 3007

Program Guidance: [FTA Circular C 9040.1G Formula Grants for Rural Areas: Program Guidance and Application Instructions.](#)

Eligible Recipients:

- States, Indian tribes or Alaskan Native villages, groups or communities identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Subrecipients: State or local government authorities, nonprofit organizations, operators of public transportation or intercity bus service that receives 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 Changed?

- In determining the amount of the unsubsidized portion of privately provided intercity bus service that connects feeder service that is eligible as in-kind local match, all operating and capital costs can now be included without revenue offset.
- Revenue from the sale of advertising and concessions may be used as local match.
- Recipients may now use up to 20% of their 5311 allocation (previously 10%) for the operation of paratransit service, if certain conditions are met

Funding:

Federal Share:

- 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.

Formula Details:

- 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.

Other:

Tribal Transit Program

- \$5 million competitive tribal program for each fiscal year on a competitive basis.
- \$30 million tribal formula program for tribes providing public transportation.

Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance Formula Program

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

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](#).

For additional information on FTA and the FAST Act, please visit: www.fta.dot.gov/fastact