

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

# The FY 2018 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program



July 10, 2018

## "The Route Ahead"

- Program Overview
- Previous Competitions
- Eligibility Criteria
- Evaluation Criteria
- Application Submission
- Q&A







# PROGRAM OVERVIEW



# **Program Description**

# What is the Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program?

- Section 5339(b) of Title 49, United States Code, as amended by the FAST Act, authorizes FTA to award grants "to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects including;
  - Replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing, or leasing buses or related equipment
  - Rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing busrelated facilities



# **2018 Important Program Dates**

- •NOFO Published: June 21, 2018
- Applications Due: August 6, 2018
- Project Evaluations: Late August
- Award Announcements: Tentatively Fall 2018



# **Funding Award Information**

- Projects will be selected on a <u>competitive</u> basis, consistent with the criteria outlined in the notice
- "In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider the age and condition of buses, bus fleets, related equipment, and bus related facilities"
- Funding available for obligation for year of award plus three.
- Pre-award authority starts on the date projects are announced on FTA's website; no costs may be incurred prior to announcement
- No applicant may receive more than 10% of the total available
- A minimum of 10% must be allocated to rural projects

# PREVIOUS COMPETITIONS



# **Previous Competitions**

	FY 2016	FY 2017
Number of Eligible Projects Received	284	453
5339(b) Funds Requested	\$1.64 billion	\$2 billion
Projects/Funds Awarded	61 projects/ 210.99M	139 projects/ \$264.5M



# **2017 Competition Highlights**

- Of the 453 eligible projects, 263 received an overall rating of Highly Recommended
- Awarded projects in 52 States/territories
- 56% went to Large Urban, 23% to Small Urban, and 21% to Rural applicants
- Average award was slightly over \$1.9M with 63 projects receiving their full federal amount requested



# **ELIGIBILITY**





## **Eligible Applicants:**

- Designated recipients that allocate funds to fixed route bus operators, State or local governmental entities that operate fixed route bus service, and Indian Tribes
- Rural areas must submit as part of a consolidated application through a State proposal
- Eligible sub-recipients include all otherwise eligible applicants and private nonprofit organizations engaged in public transportation



## **Eligible Projects**

- Replace, rehabilitate, purchase, or lease buses, vans and related equipment (including maintenance, IT equipment)
- Rehabilitate, purchase, construct, or lease bus-related facilities
- Costs incidental to the acquisition of buses or construction of a facility
- Workforce development activities
- Training at National Transit Institute (NTI)



# What is a Bus Facility?

#### FTA C-5100:

- FTA generally assists in building two kinds of facilities:
  - (1) facilities that support transit operations, such as maintenance garages and administrative buildings; and
  - (2) facilities that provide passenger amenities and extend into the built environment, such as bus or rail terminals, stations, shelters, and parkand-ride lots as well as intermodal facilities that include both transit and intercity bus or rail services.





## **Ineligible Projects**

- Operating expenses
- Preventive maintenance
- Other expanded capital eligibility items such as security drills or the establishment of a debt service reserve
- Previous project expenses
- Mobility Management
- Non-public transportation projects (e.g. school buses, prisoner transport, intra-facility shuttles, services not open to the general public)



## **Cost Sharing or Matching**

- Projects selected under this opportunity are eligible for a maximum 80% Federal share, with a 20% non-Federal match
- Clean Air Act (CAA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) eligible vehicles are eligible for a maximum 85% Federal/15% local match; and CAA and ADA eligible cost <u>directly</u> related to vehicle equipment or facilities are eligible for a 90% Federal/10% local match
- Eligible sources of local match are listed in the NOFO



# **EVALUATION CRITERIA**



## **Evaluation Criteria**

#### 1. Demonstration of Need

How will the proposed project address an unmet need for capital investment?

**How** will the proposed project enhance the safety of the transit system?

**How** will the proposed project <u>improve connectivity</u> of bus systems with other networks through the use of deployment-ready information technologies?

**How** the application is a one-time or periodic investment that cannot be reasonably be funded from FTA formula program allocations and State or local resources?

What substantiating evidence can be provided to support these statements?

#### 2. Demonstration of Benefits

**How** will the proposed project improve the condition of the transit system?

**How** will the proposed project <u>improve the reliability</u> of transit service?

**How** will the proposed project enhance access and mobility?

What substantiating evidence can be provided to support these statements?



## **Evaluation Criteria**

#### 3. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization

**How** is the proposed project consistent with local and regional long range planning documents

**How** is the proposed project consistent with local government priorities?

What substantiating evidence can be provided to support these statements?

\*Additional consideration given to *letters of support* 

\*\*Applicants may also address system, asset, or specific performance measures tracked by the applicant.

#### 4. Local Financial Commitment

When will the local funds be fully secured?

What is the source of the local share?

What substantiating evidence can be provided to support these statements?



# **Evaluation Criteria**

#### 5. Project Implementation Strategy

**How** soon can the proposed project be obligated?

**How** complete is the proposed project timeline?

**How** reasonable is the proposed project timeline?

What environmental work has been done?

What procedural steps remain to project implementation?

#### 6. Technical, Legal & Financial Capacity

Does the applicant have the **know-how** to carry out the proposed project?

**What** open technical, legal, or financial capacity issues exist, if any, and how does the applicant plan to address them?



# FY17 vs. FY18 NOFO: Key Addition

- SECTION F: REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS
- "the FTA Administrator will consider the following key Departmental objectives:
  - Supporting economic vitality at the national and regional level;
  - Utilizing alternative funding sources and innovative financing models to attract non-Federal sources of infrastructure investment;
  - Accounting for the life-cycle costs of the project to promote the state of good repair;
  - Using innovative approaches to improve safety and expedite project delivery; and,
  - Holding grant recipients accountable for their performance and achieving specific, measurable outcomes identified by grant applicants."



# **Application Pitfalls**

- Ineligibility: applicants and projects
- Priorities/outcomes not aligned with criteria
- Lack of evidence substantiating project outcome claims in narrative
- Not citing evidence in narratives
- Not providing statutorily-mandated match
- Late submission



# **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**



# **Application and Submission Information**

Federal Register: <a href="https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-25/pdf/2018-13554.pdf">https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-25/pdf/2018-13554.pdf</a>

#### **Application Information:**

https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/applying/notices-funding/buses-and-bus-facilities-infrastructure-investment-program-fy-2018

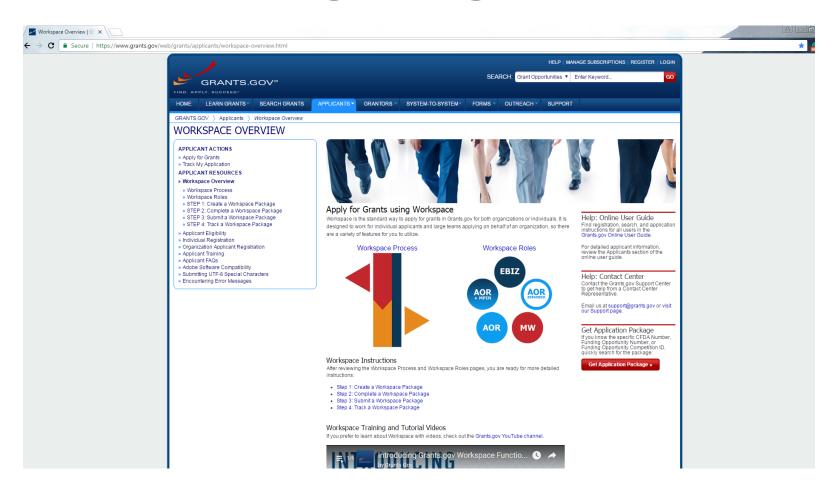
#### Applications must include:

- 1. SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
- 2. Supplemental Form
- 3. Supporting Documentation

Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by 11:59 PM EDT on August 6, 2018 Late applications may not be accepted.

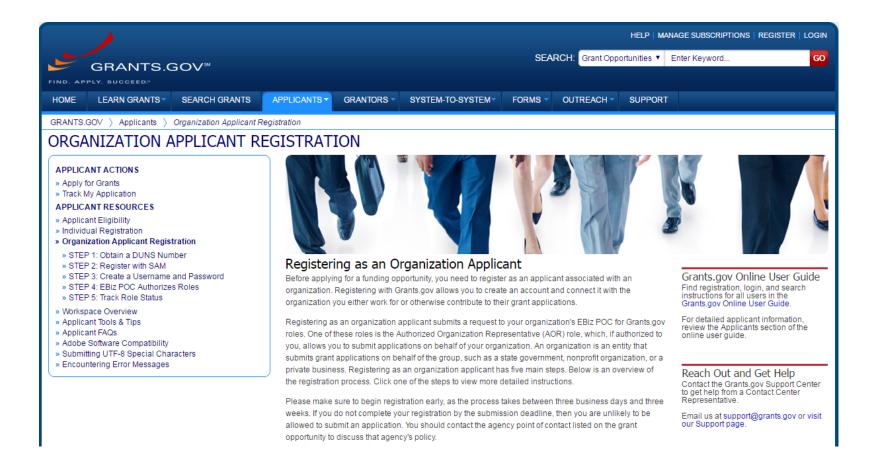


# **Grants.gov Registration**



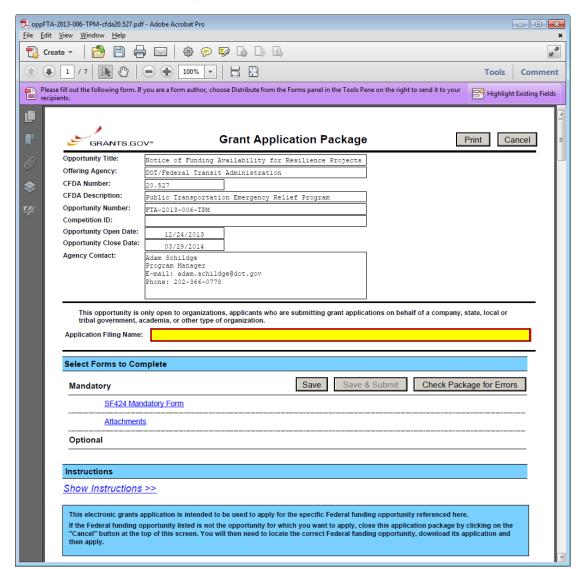


# **Grants.gov Registration**



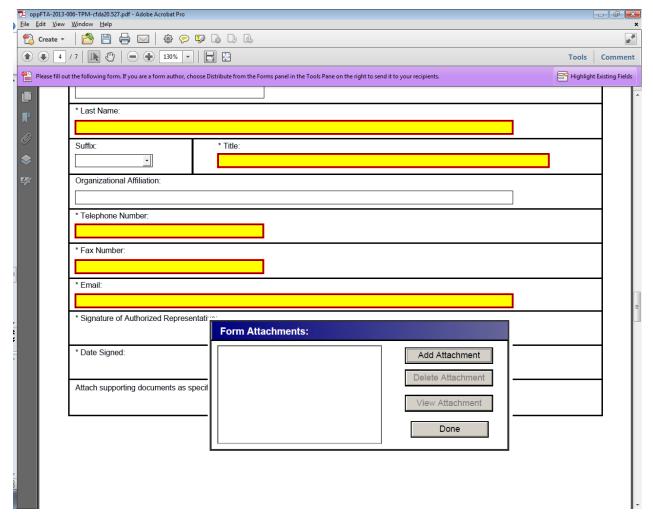


## SF-424 Form





# SF-424 Form





# **Supplemental Form**

v1.0 Reset Form Validate Form FY 2018 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure **Investment Program 5339(b) Applicant and Proposal Profile** Is this a resubmission due to an invalid/error message from FTA? Yes No Section I. Applicant Information Organization Legal Name: FTA Recipient ID: Applicant Eligibility: Designated recipient ○ State Tribe (Federally recognized Native American Tribe)



# Key's to Success

- Follow the NOFO
- Qualitative and Quantitative Information
- Provide evidence to support your statements
- Where have you been, where are you now, and where would you like to go?
- How will you judge success?





# READY...SET...SUBMIT!







# Questions

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Website: <a href="https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/applying/notices-funding/buses-and-bus-facilities-infrastructure-investment-program-fy-2018">https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/applying/notices-funding/buses-and-bus-facilities-infrastructure-investment-program-fy-2018</a>

