Tribal Transit Competitive Program

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Agenda

- **History of TTP**
- **Program Purpose**
- **Eligible Applicants**
- **Eligible Projects**
- **Cost Sharing and Matching**
- **Evaluation Criteria**
- **Proposal Content/Supplemental Form**

Federal Register Notice

- FTA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on July 11, 2018.

- **Applications are due September 10, 2018 at 11:59 PM EST!**

FTA Tribal Transit Program

Tribal Transit Program (TTP)

- Objective
  - Provide direct funding to federally recognized Indian tribes to provide public transportation service on and around Indian reservations or tribal land in rural areas.

- Eligible Recipients
  - Federally recognized Indian tribes
  - Alaska native villages, groups or communities as identified by the US Department of Interior

History of FTA
Tribal Transit Program

- The TTP Program is part of the Formula Grants for Rural Areas, Section 5311 Chapter 53, Title 49 U.S. Code TTP.

- The TTP was created in 2006 and funded at $15M from 2006-2012.

- From 2013-2015, a formula program was funded at $25M and a discretionary program at $5M.

Current Tribal Transit Program

- The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) (FY 2016-2020)
- Continued the Tribal Transit Program and increased the amount made available under the formula program
- Formula Program : $30 Million per year
- Discretionary Program: $5 Million per year
- TTP now totals $35 Million per year

Eligible Applicants

- **Eligible applicants**
  - Federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities as identified by the US Dept. of Interior in rural areas with a population of less than 50,000

- **Available Funding**
  - Approximately $5 million in FY 2018 funds
  - FTA may choose to fund the program for more or less than the announcement amount

- **Funding Timeframe**
  - Funds are available the year allocated plus two years (total of three years).

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Eligible Projects

	Eligible Projects	Eligible Federal Share	Funding Availability
TTP Discretionary Funds	• **Planning** ✓ $25,000 cap	**100%**	**3 years** (Year of *Allocation* + 2)

	• **Capital**
	  ✓ New Services
	  ✓ Replacement (bus, equip, facility)
	  ✓ Expansion (bus, equip, facility)
		90%*	

	• **Operating**
	  ✓ Tribes receiving <$20,000 in TTP formula funds in a single fiscal year
	  ✓ No existing transit service
		90%*	

* *Denotes exception can be made for financial hardship cases.*

Eligible Capital Projects

- **Capital Projects include but not limited to**:
  - Purchase of expansion or replacement buses/vans
  - Bus related equipment (ITS, fare equipment, & communication devices)
  - Construction and rehabilitation of facilities, (bus maintenance and administrative facilities)
  - Mobility Management
  - Wheelchair lifts and restraints
  - Passenger shelters and bus stop signs
  - Technology Operational support such as computer hardware or software

Operating Assistance Projects

- **Operating Assistance defined as costs directly related to the service operations and at a minimum include:**
  - Fuel
  - Oil
  - Drivers' and Dispatchers salaries and fringe benefits
  - Licenses
- Service agreements with private providers of public transportation services

Planning Grant Projects

- Applicants should describe the need for and a general scope of the proposed study

- There is a $25,000 cap on planning grant awards

- Eligible federal share: 100%

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Match & Financial Commitment

- **Eligible Federal Share**: 90%
  - Exception for financial hardship cases
  - Waiver must be requested in application
- **FTA is interested in Tribes' financial commitment to proposed project**
  - Include a description of the Tribe's financial commitment to the proposed project in the proposal
- Indian tribes applying for capital replacement or expansion needs must demonstrate a sustainable source of operating funds for existing/expansion services

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests**
2. **Evaluation Criteria for Planning Grants**

Areas of Focus

- **Describe how your proposed project can:**

    – Enhances access to work, educational, and other training opportunities;

    – Supports partnerships that expand access to other governmental, health, medical, education, social, human service; and

    – Improves coordinated delivery of services.

Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital (O/C) Assistance Requests

5 Major categories:

1. Planning & Local Prioritization

2. Project Readiness

3. Demonstration of Need

4. Demonstration of Benefits

5. Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity

Evaluation Criteria O/C - Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization

- Describe the planning document and/or the planning process conducted to identify the proposed project
- Provide a detailed project description
- Identify existing transportation services in and near the proposed or existing service area
  - document in detail whether project will provide coordination opportunities

Evaluation Criteria O/C - Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization (Cont.)

- Discuss level of support by community and/or tribal government.

- Describe how mobility and client access needs of tribal human service agencies were considered.

- Describe what opportunities for public participation were provided and how proposed/existing service has been coordinated with

    - Human Service Agencies

    - Intercity Bus Transportation Providers

    - other rural public transit providers

Evaluation Criteria O/C - Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization (Cont.)

- Describe how the proposed/existing service complements rather than duplicates any currently available service

- Describe any other planning or coordination efforts not mentioned above

Evaluation Criteria O/C – Project Readiness

- Project is a [Categorical Exclusion (CE)](#) or the required environmental analysis has been initiated or completed

- Project implementation plans are complete, including initial design of facilities projects

- Project funds can be obligated and the project can be implemented quickly, if selected

- Demonstrate the ability to carry out the proposed project successfully

- Describe the implementation schedule for the project

Evaluation Criteria O/C – Demonstration of Need

- Demonstrate the transit needs of the tribe/discuss how the proposed transit improvements or new service will address identified transit needs

- Include information such as
  - Destinations and services not currently accessible by transit
  - Needs for access to jobs or health care, special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities, income-based community, and those with any other mobility requirement

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Evaluation Criteria O/C – Demonstration of Need (Cont.)

- Describe how current or growing demand for the service necessitates the expansion/degree of how the current project is addressing current capacity constraint

- Capital replacement requests should include how the replacement may be necessary to maintain transit system in state of good repair
    - Age of asset
    - Condition of asset
    - Performance of asset

- If an applicant received a planning grant in previous fiscal years, it should indicate the status of the planning study and how the proposed project relates to that study

Evaluation Criteria O/C – Demonstration of Benefits

– Identify expected or achieved project benefits

- Existing Services
  - Increased or sustained ridership & daily trips
  - Improved service, operations, & coordination
  - Provide actual number of individual riders & trips
  - Improve the quality of life for tribe /surrounding communities

- Start-up Projects
  - Estimate number of daily one-way trips
  - Other less quantifiable benefits to the tribe and surrounding community

Evaluation Criteria O/C - Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity

- Identify source of local match
  - If requesting waiver based on financial hardship, submit budget and sources of other revenue. Demonstrate financial hardship

- Identify sustainable funding plan
  - Demonstrate how tribe plans to maintain operations once project is funded
  - Annual operating budget

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Evaluation Criteria O/C - Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity (Cont.)

- ## Identify other funding sources used to support service
  - Humans service transportation funding
  - Tribal Transportation Program funds (FHWA)
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs funds
  - Other FTA Programs (Section 5311, 5310, 5339)
  - In-kind contributions
  - Commitment of support from local businesses
  - Donations of land or equipment
  - Tribal or community support

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Evaluation Criteria O/C - Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity (Cont.)

- Demonstrate how TTP funding will not replace existing funding sources

- Demonstrate that the tribe will provide non-financial support to project

- Demonstrate a sustainable funding plan

- Explain how project funds are used in coordination with other services for efficient utilization of funds

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Evaluation Criteria for Planning Grants

- Proposals should address two key issues:
  - The tribes' long term commitment to transit
  - How the proposed study will be implemented and/or advance Tribal Transit

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Requirements under TTP

- Common Grant Rule (49 CFR part 18);

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990;

- Drug and Alcohol Testing Requirements (49 CFR part 655);

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);

Requirements under TTP

- Charter Service and School Bus Transportation Requirements in (49 CFR parts 604 and 605);

- NTD Reporting Requirement (49 U.S.C. 5335);

- Bus Testing (49 CFR part 665);

- Labor Protection requirement from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL); and

- Buy America requirements.

Important Documents

- **[Tribal Transit Program NOFO](#)** - **Published July 11, 2018**

- **[FY 2018 Tribal Transit Program Supplemental Form](#)**

- **[FY 2018 Tribal Transit Formula Allocations-Table 10](#)**

- **[TTP Webpage](#)**

Applying through Grants.Gov

Grants.gov home page

http://www.grants.gov/

In order to apply for a grant, you and/or your organization must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Registration can take three to five business days or as long as two weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner.

Applying through Grants.gov

Training Opportunities

- National Transit Institute
  https://www.ntionline.com/courses/

- National Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP)
  http://nationalrtap.org/Tribal-Transit

- FTA Website
  https://www.transit.dot.gov/

- FTA Regional and Headquarters Staff

FTA Region Contacts

Region Number	Name of Contact	Phone Number	Email Address
1 Cambridge, MA	Sergio Coronado	617-494-2792	sergio.coronado@dot.gov
2 New York, NY	James Goveia	212-668-2170	james.goveia@dot.gov
3 Philadelphia, PA	No Tribal Liaison within the Region		
4 Atlanta, GA	Valencia Williams	404-865-5475	valencia.williams@dot.gov
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TTP Webpage:

https://www.transit.dot.gov/tribal-transit

Discussion/ Questions?

Federal Transit
Administration

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