Agenda

• Program Purpose
• Eligible Applicants
• Eligible Projects
• Cost Sharing and Matching
• Evaluation Criteria
• Proposal Content/Supplemental Form
Program Purpose

• The Tribal Transit Program (TTP) provides direct funding to federally recognized Indian tribes for the purpose of providing public transportation service on and around Indian reservations in rural areas.

• SAFETEA-LU indicated that TTP funds set aside for tribes are not meant to replace or reduce funds tribes receive from States through FTA’s Section 5311 program.

• Funds Available in FY 2012: Approximately $15 million*

*Subject to funding availability
Eligible Applicants

• Federally Recognized Indian Tribes
• Alaska Native Villages
• Groups or Communities as identified by the U.S. Dept of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

**NOTE:** Eligible applicants must be located in rural and small urban areas with populations under 50,000 not identified as an urbanized area by the Bureau of the Census.
Eligible Projects

• Capital, Operating, and Operational Planning Expenses for:
  – New Transit Service (Start-up)
  – Continuation or Expansions of existing transit services;

• Planning Grants ($25,000) for planning studies
Eligible 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)
  
  – Operational support such as computer hardware or software
  
  – Wheelchair lifts and restraints
  
  – Passenger shelters and bus stop signs
  
  – Service agreements with private providers of public transportation services.
Eligible Projects (Cont’d)

• Operating Expenses are those costs directly related to the service operations and at a minimum include:
  – Fuel
  – Oil
  – Drivers’ and Dispatchers salaries and fringe benefits
  – Licenses
Cost Sharing and Matching

• 100% Federal Share of Project Costs

• FTA is interested in Tribe’s financial commitment to proposed project
  – Request Tribes include a description of their financial commitment to the proposed project in the proposal.
Evaluation Criteria

• **Evaluation Criteria for Start-up Projects and Enhancements to Existing Services:**

1. Planning & Local Prioritization
2. Demonstration of Need
3. Demonstration of Benefits
4. Continuation of Transit Projects Funded with FY2006-FY2011 (applies to existing services)
5. Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity

• **Evaluation Criteria for Planning Grants:**

1. Need and General Scope of Proposed Study
2. What is the Long-Term commitment to Tribal Transit?
3. How will the proposed study implement and/or further Tribal Transit?

Please refer to the complete list of criteria in the Federal Register Notice of Funding Availability
Evaluation Criteria for Start-up Projects and Enhancements to Existing Services (Cont’d)

• 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
  – Discuss Level of Support by Community and/or Tribal Government
  – Describe how mobility and client access needs of tribal human service agencies were considered
Evaluation Criteria for Start-up Projects and Enhancements to Existing Services (Cont’d)

• Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization
  – 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
  – Describe how the proposed/existing service complements rather than duplicates any currently available service
  – Describe the implementation schedule for the project including
    • Timeframe
    • Staffing
    • Procurement
  – Describe any other planning or coordination efforts not mentioned above
Evaluation Criteria for Start-up Projects and Enhancements to Existing Services (Cont’d)

• Demonstration of Need
  – Discuss how proposed/existing service will or are addressing the 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 other mobility
  – Continuation proposals should include
    • Ridership data
    • Description of service
    • How service is meeting the needs of the tribe?
    • How TTP funds are needed to continue services?
    • How tribe would be impacted by reduced resources, including potential disruptions, cancellation or reduction of service?

NOTE: If a planning grant was awarded in prior years, provide the status of the planning study.
Evaluation Criteria for Start-up Projects and Enhancements to Existing Services (Cont’d)

• 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

• Start-up Projects
  – Estimate number of daily one-way trips
  – Other less quantifiable benefits to the tribe and surrounding community
Evaluation Criteria for Continuation of Transit Projects with FY2006 – FY2011 TTP Funding

• Demonstrate the project(s) are in an active status
  – Currently operating and exhibited effective grant management on the project

• Describe the status of previous TTP awards and grants, including:
  – Services currently being provided
  – How requested funding will complement or is necessary to maintain existing service

• Indicate whether project was not selected for prior year funding and note any impacts to service due to lack of an award.
Evaluation Criteria for Start-up Projects and Enhancements to Existing Services (Cont’d)

• Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity
  – Identify other funding sources used to support service
    • Human service transportation funding
    • Indian Reservation Roads
    • Other FTA Programs (JARC, New Freedom, Section 5311, 5310, 5309)
    • In-kind contributions
    • Commitment of support from local businesses
    • Donations of land or equipment

  – If applicable, describe how prior year TTP funds have been spent to date to support the service
Evaluation Criteria for Start-up Projects and Enhancements to Existing Services (Cont’d)

• Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity
  – Demonstrate how TTP funding will supplement current funding sources
    – Describe to what extent new project funding or funding for existing service leverages other funding
  – Describe ability to manage programs by mentioning existing programs administered in any area of expertise such as human service transportation
Evaluation Criteria for Planning Grants

• Need and General Scope of Proposed Study

• What is the Long-Term commitment to Tribal Transit?

• How will the proposed study implement and/or further Tribal Transit?
Applying through Grants.Gov

- Grants.gov home page
  Find & Apply

- Apply for Grants
  [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp)

- Registration Checklist
  [http://www.grants.gov/assets/OrganizationRegCheck.pdf](http://www.grants.gov/assets/OrganizationRegCheck.pdf)

In order to apply for a grant, you and/or your organization must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Registration can take between three-five business days or as long as two weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner.
Go to Grants.gov and click **Find Grant Opportunities** on the left hand navigation.
Applying
Application instructions are available in the NOFA announcement and in the application download in Grants.gov.

Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Program

The synopsis for this grant opportunity is detailed below, following this paragraph. This synopsis contains all of the updates to this document that have been posted as of 03/12/2012. If updates have been made to the opportunity synopsis, update information is provided below the synopsis.

If you would like to receive notifications of changes to the grant opportunity click send me change notification emails. The only thing you need to provide for this service is your email address. No other information is requested.

Any inconsistency between the original printed document and the disk or electronic document shall be resolved by giving precedence to the printed document.

Eligible Applicants: "Direct Indian Tribes are eligible to submit proposals as part of Tribes. States and Direct Receivers are not eligible for this opportunity.

Link and Instructions for attaching the supplemental form to the SF-424. All applicants must complete the supplemental form and attach it to their submission in GRANTS.GOV. See attached instructions for searching and attaching forms in Grants.gov.
Applying for an Opportunity

Click the download link in the “Instructions and Application” column shown above to open the “Application Instructions” and “Application Package” download window.
Download and save the Application Package to your computer. The application will download and open as a fillable SF424 in PDF format. You must move SF424 Mandatory Form and the Attachments from the “Mandatory Documents” box to the “Mandatory Documents for Submission” box.
You MUST attach the correct Supplemental Form to the SF424 or the proposal will be invalid and not reviewed by FTA.
Supplemental Form

- All fields on a Supplemental Form MUST be filled out, unless instructed otherwise. Leaving fields blank will mark your submission as invalid.

- Use the Validate Form button located at the top right hand corner of the supplemental form to make sure no required fields were left blank.

- The sum of the Budget Line items listed in the Supplemental Form must match the Estimated Funding amount in the SF424 form. If these amounts do not match, DGS will mark the submission as invalid.
Application Status

• After application submission
  – Grants.gov emails notices within 24-48 hours after submission
    • Grants.gov sends Validation email verifying “successful” submission
    • OR “rejection” due to errors
  – Upon transmission to FTA
    • FTA will email if there are issues with supplemental forms
Grants.gov Info and Resources

• Applicant User Guide - detailed guide to registration, finding and applying for grant opportunities.

• Grants.gov home page – Find & Apply
  – http://grants.gov/

• Apply for Grants
  – http://www07.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp

• Registration Checklist

• Grants.gov Customer Service
  – http://www07.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp
Help in Application Process

- For Grants.gov applications issues:
  - Grants.gov Contact Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to help with issues regarding Grants.gov.
  - Email support@grants.gov
  - Call 1-800-518-4726
For FTA Program Information

[Website Link]

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Or
Office of Program Management
(202) 366-2053

Applications Due: May 10, 2012 (11:59pm Eastern)
Questions and Answers