Tribal Transit Grant
Program 5311 (c)(1)(A)
June 12, 2013

Élan Flippin
Transportation Program Specialist
Agenda

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

• Eligible applicants
  – Federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities as identified by the US Dept. of Interior

• Available Funding
  – Approximately $5 million in FY 2013

• Funding Availability
  – Funds are available the year allocated plus two years (total of three years).
Eligible Projects

• Eligible Projects
  – Planning – capped at $25,000
  – Capital – replacement and expansion needs
  – Operating Assistance; limited to:
    • Start-up/New Systems with no transit
    • For existing transit:
      – Tribes that received $0 under the formula program, but can demonstrate they operate public transportation
      – Tribes that only received formula funds under Tier 3
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. (list can be found in circular 9040)

• **Indian tribes applying for capital replacement or expansion needs must demonstrate a sustainable source of operating funds for existing/expansion services**
Eligible Projects

• Operating Assistance 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

• **Eligible Federal Share**: 90 percent
  – Exception for financial hardship cases

• **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 – Two sets of criteria

• Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests:
  1. Planning & Local Prioritization
  2. Project Readiness
  3. Demonstration of Need
  4. Demonstration of Benefits
  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?

**Planning Grants do not require 1-5
Please refer to the complete list of criteria in the Federal Register Notice of Funding Availability
Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

• **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 Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

• **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
    • Period
    • Staffing
    • Procurement
  – Describe any other planning or coordination efforts not mentioned above
Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

• **Project Readiness**
  – Project is a Categorical Exclusion (CE) or the required environmental work has been initiated or completed
    • Environmental Assessment (EA)
    • Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
  – 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
Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

• **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 other mobility needs
  – Describe how current or growing demand for the service necessitates the expansion/degree of how the current project is addressing current capacity constraint
Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

• Demonstration of Need (continued)
  – Capital replacement requests should include how the replacement may be necessary to maintain the transit system in a 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 for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

• Demonstration of Benefits
  – Identify expected or achieved project benefits

• Existing Services (as applicable)
  – 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 Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

- **Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity**
  - Identify source of local match
    - If requesting waiver based on financial hardship, submit budget/sources of other revenue
  - Identify other funding sources used to support service
    - Humans 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
Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

- **Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity**
  - Demonstrate how TTP funding will not replace existing funding sources
  - Tribe’s ability to demonstrate a sustainable funding plan
  - Project funds are used in coordination with other services for efficient utilization of funds
Evaluation Criteria for Planning Grants

- What is the tribe’s long term commitment to transit?
- How the proposed study will be implemented and/or further Tribal Transit?
Supplemental Form

Applicant and Proposal Profile
Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program

Section I. Applicant Information

Is this a resubmission due to an invalid/error message from FTA? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Organization Legal Name:

FTA Recipient ID Number
(if applicable):

Applicant Eligibility: ☐ Alaska Native Village
☐ Federally Recognized Indian Tribe

Description of current services provided (if applicable):

Description of current areas served (if applicable):
Important Documents for Applicants

• Tribal Transit Program NOFA
• Tribal Transit Program Supplemental Form
Applying through Grants.Gov

- Find & Apply on Grants.gov home page
- Registration Checklist
  - [http://grants.gov/assets/organizationregcheck_092112.pdf](http://grants.gov/assets/organizationregcheck_092112.pdf)
- **Applicant User Guide**
- Apply for Grants
  - [http://grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp](http://grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp)
- **Completing a Grants.gov Application**
  Watch an overview on how to apply.
- Grants.gov Applicant FAQs
  - [http://grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faqs.jsp](http://grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faqs.jsp)

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.
FTA NOFA and Links

- **NOFA on the FTA website**

- **Federal Register NOFA in PDF and Text**

- **Supplemental Form**

- **Instructions for searching and attaching forms:**


---

**Details:**


**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.
Download Application Package

The “Synopsis” page displays details about the opportunity and provides links to materials in Grants.gov.

To download select forms or instructions, click on the Full Announcement as shown below.

To download the application package, click the Application link at the top right corner of the Synopsis page.
Download Application Package

Click the **download** link located in the **Instructions and Application** column.
Download Application Package

DOWNLOAD OPPORTUNITY INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION

You have chosen to download the application for the following opportunity:

CFDA Number: 20.509: Formula Grants for Other Than Urbanized Areas
Opportunity Number: FTA-2013-002-TPM-TRTR: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations
Competition ID: FTA-2013-002-TPM-TRTR
Competition Title: Solicitation of Project Proposals: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Program
Agency: DOT/Federal Transit Administration
Opening Date: 05/09/2013
Closing Date: 07/08/2013

To download an application, you will need to submit an email address so we can notify you in the event this opportunity changes. Your email address will allow us to email you in the event this opportunity changes.

Email: 
Confirm Email: 
Would you like to receive synopsis modification notices as well? Yes 
No, I do not wish to provide my email address

Since you did not subscribe, you will not be notified of any future changes to this opportunity. If you would like to receive notifications, please click here.

Download the instructions and application by selecting the download links below. While the instructions or application files may open directly, you may save the files to your computer for future reference and use. You do not need Internet access to read the instructions or the application once you save them to your computer.

1. Download Application Instructions
2. Download Application Package
Download Application Package

The “Attachment Form” is included in the SF-424 Grant Application Package download in Grants.gov.

Please attach the FTA Supplemental Form (Applicant and Proposal Profile - Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program) to the Attachment Form shown below when submitting in Grants.gov.
Help

• **HELP with Grants.gov**
  For issues related to working in Grants.gov, please visit the self-help portal at [www.grants.gov/iportal](http://www.grants.gov/iportal). If you need additional assistance, the Grants.gov Contact Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to help you with issues regarding Grants.gov and can be reached by Email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov) or call 1-800-518-4726.

• **HELP with Applicant Eligibility or Program Issues**

  **CONTACT**: Elan Flippin, Tribal Transit Program, Office of Program Management (202) 366-3800, e-mail: elan.flippin@dot.gov