

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom Programs

2012 Call for Projects

Questions and Answers

Applications Due: October 5, 2012

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On August 31, 2012, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) issued a Call for Projects to award Federal Transit Administration Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom Program funds to eligible entities and projects within the Dallas/Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. NCTCOG held two (2) pre-proposal workshops on Monday, September 10 and Wednesday, September 12, 2012, for prospective project sponsors to learn more about the Call for Projects and to ask questions about the programs or prospective projects.

Questions were taken at the workshops, as well as via phone, e-mail and fax, through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 21, 2012. Below are the responses:

Q: Do the chances of an agency's project getting selected decrease if the agency submits multiple proposals under the same program?

A: No, each project is scored independently based on the four areas addressed in the Project Understanding (Section II).

Q: Is there a word limit for the narrative sections of the application?

A: Yes. The word limit varies depending on the question asked. Agencies should provide required information as concisely as possible in the space provided.

Q: Would adding staff to a project be considered an operating expense and be reimbursed at 50%?

A: Yes, adding staff under the New Freedom and JA/RC Programs would be considered an operating expense and may be reimbursable at 50% of eligible costs. It may be categorized under "Salaries and Wages" in the Operating Expenses section on the budget. Please also address how the staff will be funded after the JA/RC or New Freedom project ends.

Q: Is there a limit to how long a client can receive trips to work on a Job Access project?

A: No, there is no time limit to how long an agency can provide work trips for a client. An agency can provide trips for clients for as long as the project is operating and awarded funds are available.

Q: In your presentation at the workshop, you talk about expanding fixed route public transit. Does that mean expanding current transit options or adding additional routes?

A: Both. Projects can propose to expand the current service routes or times that currently exist. Also, if there is a particular route you would like to implement because there is no existing route in a given area, this could be considered an eligible expense as well. The key is to demonstrate that the service wouldn't already or otherwise be funded if not by a JA/RC or New Freedom grant.

Q: When gathering partners, must there be a financial partnership or can we have letters of support from employers who support the need for a service? Is that appropriate to include in the application?

A: Partners do not have to contribute financially to the project. Time, resources and general support can be contributions. Letters of support from all partners, financial or otherwise should be included in the application submittal.

Q: Can clients of our services serve as partners on a project?

A. We are looking specifically for agencies to partner and work together. The scale and power of agencies working together to pool resources allows for a better and bigger impact for those who the project is proposing to serve.

Q: Would a project that develops a sensitivity training curriculum be an eligible New Freedom project?

A: Yes, this would be an eligible New Freedom project.

Q: If we are asking for vehicles in our proposal, how do we know what value (dollar amount) to use in our budget?

A: In the Application Information Packet, Appendix E provides a guide to vehicle types and estimated costs in order to help complete the Budget Worksheet.

Q: Why does the Submittal Form ask for the relevant Congressional and Legislative District(s) to my proposed project?

A: The application asks for this information because NCTCOG reports awards to elected officials about projects selected in their districts. This information is not used in the evaluation process. (Note: If the current legislative district assignments for your proposed project will change and/or migrate into other Districts with the November 2012 elections, please use the 2012 district designations.)

For other questions asked and answered through previous calls, please visit the [Past Calls](#) page at www.nctcog.org/jarc.