

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2013 CALL FOR PROJECTS

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) FUNDING
AVAILABLE FOR:

§5310 - ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

§5316 - JOB ACCESS/REVERSE COMMUTE
PROGRAM

§5317 - NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS DUE: NOVEMBER 15, 2013

On October 4, 2013, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) issued a Call for Projects to award Federal Transit Administration funds from three programs to eligible entities and projects with the Dallas/Fort Worth Metropolitan area. NCTCOG held three (3) pre-proposal workshops between October 21-23 for prospective applicants 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 and email, through 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6, 2013.



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

1. Would Hunt County transportation projects be eligible?

Answer: Providers serving non-urbanized areas may submit projects if the proposed project focuses on connections to the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington urbanized area or the Denton-Lewisville urbanized area.

2. A “one-stop call center” is referenced as an eligible expense, is this considered a capital expense eligible under the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program?

Answer: Yes, a “one-stop call center” is a mobility management activity that is considered a capital expense.

3. What are the total amounts available for each program?

Answer: Funding is available for two distinct urbanized areas. The total amount available for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program is \$1,075,184; the Job Access/Reverse Commute Program has \$107,611 available; and the New Freedom Program has \$1,235,125 available. More information on the eligible expenses and urbanized areas for which funding is available can be reviewed at www.nctcog.org/ftafunding or in the Application Information Packet.

4. When will the local funds need to be available?

Answer: Information about sources of local funds must be included in the project submittal and should be listed in the second box of each worksheet in the Project Budget Workbook for each funding program sought for your project. Applicants must identify whether funds are secured or not, and provide supporting documentation. If your agency is awarded funding and enters into a contract, expenses incurred must be paid for entirely by the agency before requesting reimbursement for the eligible Federal portion. Local funds will therefore need to be available when the project begins in order for the project to incur expenses.

5. If a portion of local funding is confirmed only if the project is awarded funding, is the local match considered secured?

Answer: If part of your funding is coming from a source that will commit funds only when the project is awarded funds, that source is considered secured. Be sure to include a support letter from that source detailing the commitment in your project submittal.

6. Will transportation development credits (TDCs) be calculated for us on the budget form?

Answer: The amount of TDCs needed will be equivalent to the local match portion of a capital or planning expense. For example, a project may include \$50,000 for mobility management activities. Enter this amount in the appropriate line item under the Capital Expenses section of the budget. The form will calculate the federal share (\$40,000) and the local share (\$10,000). If your agency intends to use TDCs for the local share, note this under the “Sources of Local Match” section of the form in the following way:

Source - Mobility Management; Type – TDC; Secured – No; Amount – 10,000.

If the project is awarded funding and the award includes TDCs for this budget item, NCTCOG will revise the federal award to \$50,000 to cover the entire Mobility Management budget line item cost.

7. Will NCTCOG perform all vehicle procurements?

Answer: If your agency's procurement process has been approved by NCTCOG, or your agency is an FTA designated recipient, then your agency may procure the vehicles. Otherwise, NCTCOG will procure the vehicles. Please reference Appendix C in the Application Information Packet for more information on the types of vehicles NCTCOG procures and their estimated costs.

8. If an agency was awarded Section 5310 funds through previous commitments, are they still eligible to apply for Section 5310 funding available through this call?

Answer: Yes.

9. Were previous Section 5310 commitments funded through the "Other Section 5310" or "Traditional Section 5310" project funds?

Answer: Previous Section 5310 commitments were fulfilled through the "Other Section 5310" project type where up to 45% of program funds may be utilized for operating expenses.

10. Are previous commitments funded through the Section 5310 Program already allocated to projects or are they on hold?

Answer: Funding for previous commitments has been allocated to specific projects.

11. How is "suburban" defined?

Answer: Suburban can be defined as a smaller community or outlying part of a city or town that is not in one of our region's major cities such as Dallas, Fort Worth or Denton. You may also define suburban based on population and population density.

12. In the New Freedom Program, what are some examples of projects that go beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) minimum requirements?

Answer: Examples of projects that go beyond the minimum ADA requirements may include providing paratransit services past the ¾ mile requirement, increasing wheelchair passenger seating capacity on buses, and most mobility management type projects.

13. What does "non-duplicative" mean? What if you want to collaborate with an agency that is already doing something?

Answer: Duplicative service meets the transportation needs of the same population in the same geographic area as an existing service. Coordinating and collaborating with another agency that is serving a similar group or providing a service that may be expanded with your agency's participation is encouraged.

14. We have four vans with wheelchair lifts. Three of the vans were purchased with TXDOT funds. If we ask for preventive maintenance funds from the 5310 funding, can we ask for all four vans or just the three purchased with TXDOT funds?

Answer: For Section 5310 Projects only: Since the new Section 5310 Program replaces the TxDOT Section 5310 program from which agencies were awarded vehicles in prior years, it is reasonable to request preventive maintenance funding through this call for the primary vehicles that will be used in the provision of service outlined in your application, regardless of who paid for them originally. However, please remember that you must be able to document where all of the federal dollars are spent as new funds should not be co-mingled with existing funds.

15. Once you have been approved, is there a time frame in which the money must be used to purchase the capital item?

Answer: NCTCOG expects agencies awarded funding to adhere to the timeline indicated in the project proposal. Procurements of capital items should be built into the timeline and milestones of the project accordingly.

16. Has all the funding for the Job Access/Reverse Commute (JA/RC) Program in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington urbanized area been awarded?

Answer: Yes, all the JA/RC funding for the Dallas-Fort Worth urbanized area was awarded through the 2012 Call for Projects. This program will also cease to exist as a standalone program under the new transportation law, MAP-21. Instead, JA/RC project type activities will be eligible under the urbanized and rural area formula grant programs (Section 5307 and 5311).

17. Is it reasonable to assume that \$1 equals 1 TDC?

Answer: While the value may not be equivalent, it is reasonable to assume a one-to-one ratio when accounting for the number of TDCs an agency should request.

18. Will transportation development credits (TDCs) be available through this Call for Projects?

Answer: Yes, TDCs are available through this Call for Projects for capital and planning expenses only.

19. How will TDCs be allocated to projects?

Answer: The Regional Transportation Council has adopted a policy on TDCs and the policy can be referenced at http://www.nctcog.org/trans/committees/rtc/Item_4.rtc071113.pdf. TDCs are available for strategic award to small transit providers and projects serving transit-dependent individuals. TDCs may be allocated through funding requests such as a Call for Projects.

20. Are there a shortage of TDCs in the North Texas region?

Answer: NCTCOG is not aware of a shortage of TDCs.

21. How is the review committee that evaluates proposals selected?

Answer: There is no formal application process to be a member of the project review committee. NCTCOG identifies stakeholders throughout the region that do not have an interest in submitting a project or have a vested interest with an agency submitting a project. NCTCOG staff may also identify individuals with an interest in serving transit-dependent populations that have been involved in Access North Texas initiatives. Further, NCTCOG project staff will also serve as part of the review committee.