Introduction

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)’s Office of Program Management
- Rural and Targeted Programs Division
- Tribal Transit (49 § 5311(c)(1)) Program Manager
- Interim Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and People with Disabilities (49 § 5310) Program Manager

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(202)-366-0876
Agenda

• FTA Tribal Transit Program Overview
• Resources for Tribal Transit Programs
• FTA COVID-19 Response:
  – Funding flexibilities
  – Emergency Relief docket
  – Deadline extensions
• CARES Act transit funding for Tribes
FTA Tribal Transit Program

Formula ($30M annual)

- **Eligible Projects**
  - Capital, Planning, Operating
- **Eligible Federal Share**
  - 100% (no match required)
- **Recipients**
  - Federally Recognized Indian Tribes that have reported transit data to the most recent National Transit Database

Competitive ($5M annual)

- **Eligible Projects**
  - Capital, Planning, Operating in limited circumstances (for start-up or recipients of less than $20,000 in formula)
- **Eligible Federal Share**
  - 90% (unless financial hardship demonstrated)
- **Recipients**
  - Federally Recognized Indian Tribes
Common Tribal Transit Projects

- Fund the start-up costs of the first year of a new public transportation service on tribal lands.
- Fund the planning study for start-up public transportation service or for continued investment in public transportation.
- Fund the replacement of buses and vans.
- Fund the purchase of equipment necessary to clear roads used for transit service and transit facilities following winter storms.
- Fund the rehabilitation of transit maintenance or storage facilities.
- Fund the procurement of technology, including: data management/dispatch/booking platforms, GPS or other bus tracking devices, or security and surveillance systems.
FTA or Sponsored Resources for Technical Assistance

- **Tribal Liaisons in FTA Regional Offices**
- Tribal Transit Technical Assistance Assessments
- **Multiple Technical Assistance Centers**
  - Rural and Tribal Transit Programs
  - Mobility Management
  - Aging and Disability Transportation
  - Applied Technology
- **FTA’s Tribal Entities Landing Page**
Technical Assistance Centers

**National Center for Mobility Management**
website: [www.nc4mm.org](http://www.nc4mm.org) 1-866-846-6400
email: [info@nc4mm.org](mailto:info@nc4mm.org)  Annual Community Grants

**National Aging and Disability Transportation Center**
website: [www.nadtc.org](http://www.nadtc.org) 1-866-983-3222
email: [contact@nadtc.org](mailto:contact@nadtc.org)  Annual Community Grants

**Rural Transit Assistance Program**
website: [www.nationalrtap.org](http://www.nationalrtap.org) 1-888-589-6821
email: [info@nationalrtap.org](mailto:info@nationalrtap.org)

**National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT)**
[https://ctaa.org/about-n-catt/](https://ctaa.org/about-n-catt/)  Contact: [grossglaser@ctaa.org](mailto:grossglaser@ctaa.org)
# FTA or Sponsored Resources for Transit Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Opportunity</th>
<th>Next steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural Areas (5311) Formula Program</strong></td>
<td>Suballocation through State DOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enhanced Mobility (5310) Formula Program</strong></td>
<td>Suballocation through State DOT or MPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buses and Bus Facilities Program</strong></td>
<td>Suballocation through State DOT or MPO; competitive program annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone Program</strong></td>
<td>Apply by June 3, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Center for Mobility Management Community Grants</strong></td>
<td>Stay tuned for opportunity announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Technical Assistance Grants (National RTAP, NADTC)</strong></td>
<td>Stay tuned for opportunity announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tribal Transit Competitive Program FY 2020</strong></td>
<td>NOFO Release expected May or June 2020</td>
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</tbody>
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FTA Emergency Relief Program

Provides grants for:

- **Capital projects** to protect, repair, reconstruct, or replace public transportation-related equipment and facilities
- **Emergency operating costs** of public transportation equipment and facilities

**No permanent or annual appropriation to date**

- Receives funding when appropriated by Congress, often months after the event.

**Three supplemental appropriations:**

- **Hurricane Sandy** in 2013 ($10.9 billion)
- **Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria** in 2018 ($330 million)
- Major declared disasters in **calendar year 2018** ($10.5 million)

All funds remain available “until expended”
FTA Emergency Relief Program

Eligible Recipients

• States
• Territories
• Tribal governments
• FTA Direct Recipients

Eligible Expenses

1. **Disaster Response**: Emergency or temporary operations

2. **Disaster Recovery and Rebuilding**: Projects to temporarily or permanently repair or replace transit assets

3. **Disaster Resilience**: Projects that address a vulnerability

Hurricane Harvey preparations, Houston, TX - 2017
Urbanized Area and Rural Area Formula Programs Emergency Relief Funds

- On March 13th, FTA announced expanded eligibility and increased federal shares for the Urbanized Area (5307) and Rural Area (5311) formula programs
- Under FTA’s Emergency Relief (ER) Program, Urbanized Area and Rural Area formula funds may be used for expenses related to a declared emergency
  - Federal public transportation law does not provide similar authorities for other grant programs
- This action gave all recipients the flexibility to use Urbanized Area and Rural Area formula funds previously apportioned for capital and operating expenses directly related to COVID-19 response with an increased federal share of up to 80%
- This option remains available for COVID-19 response, in addition to the availability of CARES Act funds
FTA Emergency Relief Program

- FTA has established an Emergency Relief docket that allows transit providers in states where the Governor has declared an emergency related to COVID-19 to request temporary relief from Federal requirements under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as well as any non-statutory FTA requirements.

Questions? Contact:
Tom Wilson
FTA Emergency Relief Program Manager
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Thomas.Wilson@dot.gov
CARES Act of 2020

• Since initial reports of the novel coronavirus in December, more than 1 million people have tested positive for COVID-19

• Transit providers have seen a drastic decrease in ridership and revenue as a result of social distancing, while incurring unplanned costs for health and safety

• On March 27\textsuperscript{th}, the CARES Act was signed into law providing $2 trillion in support for a variety of industries affected by COVID-19, including the transit industry
CARES PROVIDES $25B for TRANSIT

• The CARES Act provides an unprecedented $25 billion in funding to support the transit industry response to COVID-19
  – Urbanized Area Formula Program (49 USC 5307): $22.7 billion
  – Formula Grants for Rural Areas (49 USC 5311): $2.2 billion
    • Includes $30 million for Tribal Transit formula program
  – $75 million for administration and oversight
Urbanized Area and Rural Area Formula Program Activities are Eligible

• Beginning January 20, 2020, all activities normally eligible under the Urbanized Area (49 USC 5307) and Rural Area (49 USC 5311) formula programs are eligible for CARES Act funding, including:
  – Planning
  – Capital (preventive maintenance, rolling stock, equipment, etc.)
  – Operating
Operating Expenses Also Eligible

• Operating expenses for all recipients, including large urbanized areas, are eligible beginning January 20, 2020
  – Includes paying administrative leave of operations personnel due to reductions in service or quarantine
  – There is no limit on the amount of funds that may be used for operating expenses
  – There is no limit on the amount of funds that may be used for paratransit service
  – Charter service in response to the COVID-19 emergency may be provided for up to 45 days without a waiver
Funding Features

• 100 percent federal share for all projects funded by CARES Act

• Pre-award authority for all projects starting on January 20, 2020
  – Expenses may be incurred prior to grant award

• Funds are available until expended
  – No lapse date
  – Recipients are encouraged to use funds expeditiously
Emergency Relief Docket

• Appropriate for grantees who need to ask for additional regulatory or statutory relief above and beyond what is already provided, based on their specific circumstances
• Docket FTA-2020-0001 at www.regulations.gov
• For all other questions, please email FTAresponse@dot.gov
For More Information

• FTA’s website – please visit transit.dot.gov
  – FAQs are posted with more on the way
  – CARES Act apportionment tables for Urbanized Area, Rural Area, and Tribal Transit are available now
  – A recorded webinar is posted

• CARES Act Apportionment Notice to be published in the Federal Register

• Email support:
  – Questions on federal requirements and funding eligibility: FTAResponse@dot.gov
  – ECHO-Web technical support and inquiries: FTA.ECHOWeb@dot.gov