

# FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

## **Federal Resources for Tribal Transit Programs and Federal Transit Administration Policy Updates**

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# 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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## 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.

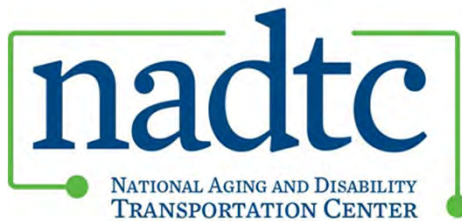
# FTA or Sponsored Resources for Technical Assistance

- [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/> Contact: [grossglaser@ctaa.org](mailto:grossglaser@ctaa.org)

# FTA or Sponsored Resources for Transit Funding

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



# FTA Emergency Relief Program



*Hurricane Sandy flooding, New York, NY - 2013*

## 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)

# FTA Emergency Relief Program



*Hurricane Harvey preparations, Houston, TX- 2017*

## 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

# Urbanized Area and Rural Area Formula Programs Emergency Relief Funds

- On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 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:

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## 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<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.regulations.gov)
- For all other questions, please email [FTAresponse@dot.gov](mailto:FTAresponse@dot.gov)

## For More Information

- FTA's website – please visit [transit.dot.gov](https://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](mailto:FTAResponse@dot.gov)
  - ECHO-Web technical support and inquiries: [FTA.ECHOWeb@dot.gov](mailto:FTA.ECHOWeb@dot.gov)



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[www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov)

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