

FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

5339 Bus & Low-No Competitive Programs Joint Webinar

April 19th, 2016



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of the Funding Competitions in this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
 - Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities (49 U.S.C. 5339(b))
 - Low or No Emission (Low-No) Grants (49 U.S.C. 5339(c))
- Application Requirements and Forms
- Questions and Answers

FTA Staff Introductions

- **Adam Schildge**, Division Chief, Urban Programs
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Overview of NOFO – Bus and Bus Facilities

- **Notice of Funding Opportunity published: March 29, 2016**
- **Applications Due: May 13, 2016**
 - Application Package can be found at www.grants.gov by searching for keyword “BUS PROGRAM”. Applicants must register on www.grants.gov **at least 2-4 weeks prior** to applying.
- **Project Evaluation Period : May – July 2016**
- **Award Announcements: Late Summer 2016**

Overview of NOFO – Bus and Bus Facilities

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Bus Program is to improve the condition of the nation's public transportation bus fleets, expand transportation access to employment, educational, and healthcare facilities, and to improve mobility options in rural and urban areas throughout the country.

Policy Priorities

In accordance with the statutory requirement that FTA must "consider the age and condition of buses, bus fleets, related equipment, and bus-related facilities", FTA will prioritize projects that demonstrate how they will address significant repair and maintenance needs, improve the safety of transit systems, deploy connective projects that include advanced technologies to connect bus systems with other networks, and create of ladders of opportunity.

FTA is also interested in projects that use up to 0.5 percent of the award for workforce development activities and 0.5 percent for training at NTI.

Overview of NOFO – Bus and Bus Facilities

Funding Availability

- Approximately \$211 million has been made available for bus and bus facilities projects that support the criteria laid out in the NOFO.
- Projects will be selected on a competitive basis, consistent with the criteria outlined in the notice.
- No single applicant may receive more than ten percent of the total available.
- A minimum of ten percent will be allocated to rural projects.
- Funding is available for obligation for year of award plus three years.

Federal Share

- Projects selected under this opportunity are eligible for a maximum 80% Federal share, with a 20% non-Federal match.
- CAA and ADA eligible vehicles are eligible for a maximum 85% Federal/15% local match; and CAA and ADA eligible cost related to vehicle equipment or facilities are eligible for a 90% Federal/10% local match.

Overview of NOFO – Bus and Bus Facilities

Eligible Applicants

- Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program direct recipients, States, or federally recognized Indian Tribes are eligible to submit proposals for this initiative.
- Rural areas must submit as part of a consolidated application.
- Eligible sub-recipients include public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and private providers engaged in public transportation.

Overview of NOFO – Bus and Bus Facilities

Eligible Expenses

- Purchase, replacement, or rehabilitation of buses and vans, bus related equipment
- Replacement, construction, expansion or rehabilitation of bus-related facilities
- Intermodal facilities [must have adjacent connectivity with bus service]
- Costs incidental to the acquisition of buses or construction of a facility

Ineligible Expenses

- Operating expenses
- Preventive maintenance
- Other expanded capital eligibility items such as security drills or the establishment of a debt service reserve
- Previous project expenses
- Mobility Management

Overview of NOFO – Bus and Bus Facilities

Evaluation Criteria

1. Demonstration of Need
2. Demonstration of Benefits
3. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization
4. Local Financial Commitment
5. Project Implementation Strategy
6. Technical, Legal & Financial Capacity

Overview of NOFO – Low-No

- **Notice of Funding Opportunity published: March 29, 2016**
- **Applications Due: May 13, 2016**
 - Application Package can be found at www.grants.gov by searching for keyword “Low or No Emissions” or “Low-No.” Applicants must register on www.grants.gov at least 2-4 weeks prior to applying.
- **Projects Evaluations : May – July 2016**
- **Award Announcements: Late Summer 2016**

Overview of NOFO – Low-No

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Low-No Program is to support the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicle technologies, thereby reducing local air pollution and direct carbon emissions, and to support the deployment of technologically advanced U.S.-made transit buses that have been largely proven in testing and demonstrations, but are not yet widely deployed in transit fleets.

Policy Priorities

The applicant must demonstrate how the proposed project will support the following Low-No Program objectives: (1) Reduce Direct Carbon Emissions; (2) Reduce Particulate Emissions; (3) Support Deployment of Advanced Propulsion Technologies; (4) Demonstrate Successful Revenue Operation of New Technologies.

FTA is also interested in projects that use up to 0.5 percent of the award for workforce development activities and 0.5 percent for training at NTI.

Overview of NOFO – Low-No

Definition of Low or No Emission Bus

- A low or no-emission bus is defined as a passenger vehicle used to provide public transportation that significantly reduces energy consumption, air pollution, or direct carbon emissions, when compared to a standard vehicle. This includes zero-emission transit buses, which are defined as buses that produce no direct carbon emissions and no particulate matter emissions under any and all possible operational modes and conditions.

Program Requirements

- Projects are not required to be in an air quality non-attainment area
- Applicants may propose a partnership with specific manufacturers
- Proposed vehicles must make greater reductions in energy consumption and harmful emissions, including direct carbon emissions, than comparable standard buses or other low or no emission buses. (49 USC 5339(c)(5)(A))
- All proposed projects must be part of the intended recipient's long-term integrated fleet management plan. (49 USC 5339(c)(5)(B))

Overview of NOFO – Low-No

Funding Availability

- Approximately \$55 million has been made available for low or no emission bus and bus facilities projects that support the criteria laid out in the Bus Program Funding Opportunity.
- Projects will be selected on a competitive basis, consistent with the criteria outlined in the notice.
- Funding is available for obligation for year of award plus three years.

Federal Share

- Vehicles are eligible for a maximum 85% Federal/15% non-Federal match.
- Low or no emission bus related equipment or facilities are eligible for a 90% Federal/10% non-Federal match.

Overview of NOFO – Low-No

Eligible Applicants

- Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program direct recipients, States, or federally recognized Indian Tribes are eligible to submit proposals for this initiative.
- Rural areas must submit as part of a consolidated application.
- Eligible sub-recipients include direct recipients of Section 5307 grants and local government authorities that operate fixed route transit service.
- An eligible recipient may submit an application in partnership with entities that intend to participate in the implementation of the project.

Overview of NOFO – Low-No

Eligible Expenses

- Purchase or lease of low or no emission buses
- Acquiring low or no emission buses with a leased power source
- Constructing or leasing facilities and related equipment for low or no emission buses
- Rehabilitating or improve existing facilities to accommodate low or no emission buses

Ineligible Expenses

- Operating expenses
- Preventive maintenance
- Development or deployment of prototype vehicles
- Previous project expenses
- Mobility Management

Overview of NOFO – Low-No

Evaluation Criteria

1. Demonstration of Need
2. Demonstration of Benefits
3. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization
4. Local Financial Commitment
5. Project Implementation Strategy
6. Technical, Legal & Financial Capacity

Application Requirements

Notice of Funding Opportunity (March 29, 2016):

<https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-07027>

Technical Correction Notice (April 12, 2016):

<https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-08295>

Application Information: <http://www.transit.dot.gov/howtoapply>

Completed applications must include:

1. SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance (from Grants.gov)
2. Bus Program Supplemental Form (from Grants.gov or FTA website)
3. Supporting Documentation

Application must be submitted through grants.gov **by 11:59 PM EDT on May 13, 2016.** Late applications may not be accepted.

Grants.gov Registration

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HELP, MANAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS, REGISTER, and LOGIN. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Grant Opportunities' and a 'GO' button. The main navigation menu includes HOME, LEARN GRANTS, SEARCH GRANTS, APPLICANTS (highlighted), GRANTORS, SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM, FORMS, OUTREACH, and SUPPORT. The breadcrumb trail reads 'GRANTS.GOV > Applicants > Apply For Grants'. The main heading is 'APPLY FOR GRANTS'. On the left, there are two sections: 'APPLICANT ACTIONS' with links like 'Apply for Grants' and 'Track My Application', and 'APPLICANT RESOURCES' with links like 'Applicant Eligibility' and 'Individual Registration'. The central content area features a large image of people walking, followed by the heading 'Apply for Grants' and a paragraph explaining the application process. Below this, there are two paragraphs of text providing additional context. On the right, there are two promotional boxes: 'Get Application Package' and 'Grants.gov Online User Guide'. At the bottom, there is a search bar with the word 'FIND' and a red 'Search Grants' button.

Grants.gov Registration

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HELP, MANAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS, REGISTER, and LOGIN. A search bar is present with a dropdown menu set to 'Grant Opportunities' and a 'GO' button. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: GRANTS.GOV > Applicants > Organization Applicant Registration. The main heading is 'ORGANIZATION APPLICANT REGISTRATION'. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'APPLICANT ACTIONS' (Apply for Grants, Track My Application) and 'APPLICANT RESOURCES' (Applicant Eligibility, Individual Registration, Organization Applicant Registration, Workspace Overview, Applicant Tools & Tips, Applicant FAQs, Adobe Software Compatibility, Submitting UTF-8 Special Characters, Encountering Error Messages). The main content area features a photo of people's legs walking, followed by the section 'Registering as an Organization Applicant'. This section includes a paragraph explaining the need to register as an applicant associated with an organization, a paragraph detailing the registration process (submitting a request to the EBiz POC, creating an account, connecting to the organization), and a paragraph advising to begin registration early (three business days to three weeks). On the right side, there are two callouts: 'Grants.gov Online User Guide' and 'Reach Out and Get Help', both providing contact information for support.

HELP | MANAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS | REGISTER | LOGIN

SEARCH: Grant Opportunities ▾ Enter Keyword... GO

HOME | LEARN GRANTS ▾ | SEARCH GRANTS | APPLICANTS ▾ | GRANTORS ▾ | SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM ▾ | FORMS ▾ | OUTREACH ▾ | SUPPORT

GRANTS.GOV > Applicants > Organization Applicant Registration

ORGANIZATION APPLICANT REGISTRATION

APPLICANT ACTIONS

- » Apply for Grants
- » Track My Application

APPLICANT RESOURCES

- » Applicant Eligibility
- » Individual Registration
- » **Organization Applicant Registration**
 - » STEP 1: Obtain a DUNS Number
 - » STEP 2: Register with SAM
 - » STEP 3: Create a Username and Password
 - » STEP 4: EBiz POC Authorizes Roles
 - » STEP 5: Track Role Status
- » Workspace Overview
- » Applicant Tools & Tips
- » Applicant FAQs
- » Adobe Software Compatibility
- » Submitting UTF-8 Special Characters
- » Encountering Error Messages

Registering as an Organization Applicant

Before applying for a funding opportunity, you need to register as an applicant associated with an organization. Registering with Grants.gov allows you to create an account and connect it with the organization you either work for or otherwise contribute to their grant applications.

Registering as an organization applicant submits a request to your organization's EBiz POC for Grants.gov roles. One of these roles is the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) role, which, if authorized to you, allows you to submit applications on behalf of your organization. An organization is an entity that submits grant applications on behalf of the group, such as a state government, nonprofit organization, or a private business. Registering as an organization applicant has five main steps. Below is an overview of the registration process. Click one of the steps to view more detailed instructions.

Please make sure to begin registration early, as the process takes between three business days and three weeks. If you do not complete your registration by the submission deadline, then you are unlikely to be allowed to submit an application. You should contact the agency point of contact listed on the grant opportunity to discuss that agency's policy.

Grants.gov Online User Guide
Find registration, login, and search instructions for all users in the Grants.gov Online User Guide.

For detailed applicant information, review the Applicants section of the online user guide.

Reach Out and Get Help
Contact the Grants.gov Support Center to get help from a Contact Center Representative.

Email us at support@grants.gov or visit our [Support page](#).

Grants.gov Search

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov search results page for the keyword 'FTA'. The search criteria are set to 'Grant Opportunities' and 'FTA'. The results are sorted by 'Relevance (Descending)' and show 7 matching results. The table below lists the search results:

Funding Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Agency	Posted Date	Close Date
FTA-2016-002-TPM	Solicitation of Project Proposals for the 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities (Bus) Program	DOT/Federal Transit Administration	03/29/2016	05/13/2016
FTA-2016-001-TPM	Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Program	DOT/Federal Transit Administration	03/14/2016	05/13/2016
FTA-2015-012-TPM-RTW	Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants Program - 2016 NOFO	DOT/Federal Transit Administration	03/29/2016	05/31/2016
FTA-2016-003-TPM	Low or No Emission Program (Low-No Program) - 2016 NOFO	DOT/Federal Transit Administration	03/29/2016	05/13/2016
FHWA-2013-0048	Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration	DOT Federal Highway Administration	02/19/2014	
DHS-16-GPD-075-00-02	Fiscal Year 2016 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)	Department of Homeland Security - FEMA	02/16/2016	04/25/2016
RFA-391-13-000009	Child, Newborn, and Maternal Health Project	Pakistan USAID-Islamabad	04/03/2013	

SF-424 Form

The screenshot shows a PDF form titled "Grant Application Package" from GRANTS.GOV. The form is displayed in Adobe Acrobat Pro. The top of the window shows the file name "oppFTA-2013-006-TPM-cfda20.527.pdf" and the Adobe Acrobat Pro interface with various toolbars and a status bar. The form itself contains the following fields and sections:

- Opportunity Title:** Notice of Funding Availability for Resilience Projects
- Offering Agency:** DOT/Federal Transit Administration
- CFDA Number:** 20.527
- CFDA Description:** Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program
- Opportunity Number:** FTA-2013-006-TPM
- Competition ID:** (empty field)
- Opportunity Open Date:** 12/24/2013
- Opportunity Close Date:** 03/29/2014
- Agency Contact:** Adam Schildge, Program Manager, E-mail: adam.schildge@dot.gov, Phone: 202-366-0778

Below the form fields, there is a note: "This opportunity is only open to organizations, applicants who are submitting grant applications on behalf of a company, state, local or tribal government, academia, or other type of organization." This is followed by an "Application Filing Name:" field which is currently empty and highlighted in yellow.

The form is divided into sections:

- Select Forms to Complete:** A blue header section containing a "Mandatory" section with a link to "SF424 Mandatory Form" and "Attachments", and an "Optional" section.
- Instructions:** A blue header section with a link to "Show Instructions >>".
- Footer:** A blue box containing the text: "This electronic grants application is intended to be used to apply for the specific Federal funding opportunity referenced here. If the Federal funding opportunity listed is not the opportunity for which you want to apply, close this application package by clicking on the 'Cancel' button at the top of this screen. You will then need to locate the correct Federal funding opportunity, download its application and then apply."

Buttons for "Print" and "Cancel" are located at the top right of the form area. At the bottom of the Acrobat window, there are buttons for "Save", "Save & Submit", and "Check Package for Errors".

SF-424 Form

oppFTA-2013-006-TPM-cfda20.527.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro

File Edit View Window Help

Create [Icons]

4 / 7 [Navigation] 130% [Zoom] [Tools] [Comment]

Please fill out the following form. If you are a form author, choose Distribute from the Forms panel in the Tools Pane on the right to send it to your recipients. [Highlight Existing Fields]

[Redacted]

* Last Name: [Redacted]

Suffix: [Dropdown] * Title: [Redacted]

Organizational Affiliation: [Redacted]

* Telephone Number: [Redacted]

* Fax Number: [Redacted]

* Email: [Redacted]

* Signature of Authorized Representative: [Redacted]

* Date Signed: [Redacted]

Attach supporting documents as specified

Form Attachments:

[Attachment List Area]

Add Attachment
Delete Attachment
View Attachment
Done

Supplemental Form

Bus Supplemental Form FY2016.pdf (SECURED) - Adobe Acrobat Pro

File Edit View Window Help

Create [Icons]

1 / 5 173%

Tools Fill & Sign Comment

Please fill out the following form. Highlight Existing Fields

Click on Tools, Sign, and Comment to access additional features.

Reset Form **Bus and Bus Facilities Program (5339(b))** Validate Form

Applicant and Proposal Profile

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

Section I. Applicant Information

Organization Legal Name:

FTA Recipient number ID Number:

Applicant Eligibility: Direct or designated recipient
 State
 Tribe (Federally recognized Native American Tribe)

Population Served: Urbanized Area
 Rural

Supplemental Form

v1.2

Reset FormValidate Form

Low or No Emission Bus Program (5339(c))

Applicant and Proposal Profile

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

Section I. Applicant Information

Organization Legal Name:

FTA Recipient number ID Number:

Applicant Eligibility: Direct or designated recipient
 State
 A Federally-recognized Native American Tribe

Population Served: Urbanized Area
 Rural

Description of services provided and areas served.

Section II. Project Information/Evaluation Criteria (this section repeats per project)

Add Project

About the Project

Project Title:
(Descriptive title of this project)

Project Executive Summary:

Project Type: Vehicle
 Facilities
 Other

If Other, specify:

FAQs

General Questions:

- Are non-fixed route vehicles eligible for either program?
- Are toll revenue credits eligible as match for either program?
- Are school buses eligible for either program?
- Is there a maximum or minimum award limit for either program?
- Is workforce development eligible for the Bus Program?

Bus Program:

- Are direct recipients eligible to apply directly to FTA (without partnering with a designated recipient or State)?
- For replacement vehicles, how does the Ladders of Opportunity apply?
- Can an applicant submit the same project in both competitions?
- When demonstrating the state of need for replacement buses is it best to attach documentation or verbalize the status in the narrative?

FAQs

Low-No Program:

- Is a repower or a conversion of an existing diesel bus to electric propulsion eligible for funding under the Low-No program?
- When will the 2015 LoNo project selections be announced?
- Will partnerships with manufacturers be subject to the new Buy America requirements?
- How do I open and save the supplemental forms without losing my data?
- What facilities are eligible for funding?
- Are studies and consultations eligible?

Questions

Points of Contact

- For further application-specific information and other assistance needed in preparing a complete proposal, contact the appropriate FTA Regional Office found at www.fta.dot.gov.
- For Buses and Bus Facilities program-specific questions about applying for the funds as outlined in this notice, please contact **Samuel Snead**, Office of Program Management, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, DC 20590, phone: (202) 366-1089, or email, Samuel.Snead@dot.gov.
- For Low or No Emission program-specific questions about applying for the funds as outlined in this notice, please contact **Tara Clark**, same office, 202-366-2623, or email, Tara.Clark@dot.gov.
- For legal questions, **Charla Tabb**, Office of Chief Counsel, same address, phone: (202) 366–5152, or email, Charla.Tabb@dot.gov.