



FTA Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

Program Fact Sheet

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 program is to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation mobility options available to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Eligible Projects

Section 5310 capital, or “traditional,” projects will be eligible for funding. Vehicle projects are restricted to replacement vehicles and expansion vehicles. Applicants will be required to prioritize their vehicle requests. All vehicles must be ADA accessible.

Starting with the 2020 Call for Projects, Mobility Management projects led by public transit agencies (current recipients of 5307 or 5311 funds) will also be eligible for funding. Mobility management is intended to build coordination among existing transportation service providers with the result of expanding the availability of service. Eligible Mobility Management projects include but are not limited to the promotion, enhancement, and facilitation of accessible transportation services, the provision of coordination services, and the support of state and local coordination policy bodies and councils.

All eligible projects must be identified in a locally developed coordinated transportation plan. Projects in urbanized areas must be identified in the area's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Eligible Applicants

Private non-profits and public agencies located in small urban or rural areas with a population of less than 200,000 are eligible to apply. Non-profits must be in good standing and have current non-profit status. Public agencies can qualify in one of two ways:

1. The public agency certifies that no private non-profits in the area are readily available to provide the proposed service.
2. The public agency has been approved by the state to coordinate transportation services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

Match Requirements

Capital projects are funded by federal, state, and local funds. Federal funds cover 80% of the total project cost, and the state provides funding for an additional 10% of the total. Applicants are responsible for the local match, or 10% of the total project. Successful 5310-only applicants (non-profits and local governmental authorities not currently receiving other FTA funds) must provide their local match to TDOT prior to contract execution.

Funding Selection Process

TDOT evaluates applications for basic eligibility and compliance with FTA requirements. Applications are then rated based on several evaluation factors, including number and type of persons served, financial management and capacity, and project need. Fleet management is also considered for all vehicle applications. Current sub-recipients are also evaluated based on current 5310 grant funds, past performance, and reporting history.

Once applications have been evaluated, TDOT notifies applicants of their award status. Selected applicants may be required to submit additional documentation, and all applicants will be required to formally accept the award as well as state and federal terms and conditions.

The application process is competitive and program funding is limited; therefore, not all applications will be approved and funded. Incomplete applications will receive a lower score and may not be considered eligible for funding.

Program Requirements

Successful 5310-only applicants will enter into a standard contract agreement with TDOT and provide the local matching funds to TDOT prior to contract execution. TDOT will then purchase the vehicles identified in the award letter. If the grantee declines to accept the award after entering into a contract with TDOT, then TDOT will require official notice and justification for declining the award, and may retain the grantee's local match funds.

Successful applicants who are public transit agencies and current recipients of federal 5307 or 5311 funds will enter a standard reimbursement contract agreement with TDOT. These applicants will be responsible for purchasing their own vehicles, as specified in their award letter, and/or operating a mobility management program in accordance with the application and in compliance with state and federal requirements, and then invoicing the state for reimbursement.

All grantees are responsible for the proper use, operating costs, and maintenance of all project equipment. Grantees must comply with the conditions and requirements of TDOT, including submitting documentation of service provisions and plans, as well as regularly submitting data and information to measure grant program performance.