

August 16, 2021

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

Dear HSTP Region 5 partner:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) is opening a call for projects for the Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities federal grant program.

There is up to **\$316,461.85** of federal grant funding available for projects that meet the goals of the Section 5310 grant program¹. TCRPC encourages each of your respective organizations to openly investigate all projects which may be eligible for the funds.

Program Goals:

The goal of the Section 5310 grant program is to assist communities in meeting the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities and older adults when the transportation service already provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs.

Eligible Applicants:

Private non-profit organizations, state and local government authorities, and operators of public transportation services that provide transportation services within the Peoria-Pekin urbanized area are eligible to receive Section 5310 funding.

Eligible Activities:

Section 5310 program funds are available for **capital and operating expenses** that support the provision of transportation services to meet the specific needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Examples of eligible activities include²:

- Acquisition of expansion or replacement buses or vans³
- Vehicle rehabilitation
- Preventive maintenance
- Radios and communication equipment
- Vehicle wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices
- Purchase and installation of benches, shelters, and other passenger amenities
- Computer hardware and software
- ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems)

¹ Please see the Funding Breakdown section below for a full cost explanation.

² More project type examples are shown on the Section 5310 Application, part D. Eligible Projects.

³ Requested funds for vehicles should go through IDOT's Consolidated Vehicle Procurement (CVP) program.

- Dispatch systems
- Fare collection systems
- Coordinating individualized travel training and trip planning activities for customers
- Developing a one-stop transportation traveler call center
- Expansion of paratransit service parameters beyond the three-fourths mile required by the ADA
- Expansion of current hours of operation for ADA paratransit services that are beyond those provided on the fixed-route services
- Providing escorts or assisting riders through the door of their destination
- Building an accessible path to a bus stop that is currently inaccessible, including curb cuts, sidewalks, and accessible pedestrian signals
- Improving signage or wayfinding technology
- Supporting administration and expenses related to voucher programs for transportation services offered by human service providers
- Supporting volunteer driver and aide programs

Local Matching Requirements:

Capital and mobility management costs are funded at *a minimum of 80/20* federal to local match. Operating costs are funded at *a minimum of 50/50* federal to local match. A limited amount of this funding is approved for up to 100% federal share.

The determination of federal share for each project will be made by the project decision team. *Please apply for these funds under the assumption that if selected, your project will require the minimum local match requirement.*

Funding Breakdown:

There is \$316,461.85 of total funding available. These funds are a combination of three sources of 5310 funding:

- Annual apportionments from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Peoria urbanized area,
- Two COVID relief funding streams:
 - The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), and
 - The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA, pronounced “Chris-a”).

Most of this available funding originates from annual FTA apportionments; these always require a local match (see Local Matching Requirements section). However, a limited amount of this funding, originating from ARP and CRRSAA, is approved for up to 100% federal share. Therefore,

highly rated, high-priority projects have the potential of receiving a higher federal share than the typical federal/local split.

Application Process & Coordination:

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, October 1, 2021 AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS (4:00 p.m.).

If you should have any questions during this process please feel free to contact me, Reema Abi-Akar, at (309)673-9330 or by email at rabiakar@tricountyrpc.org.

Please note that *I will be out of the office for over two weeks with no phone and limited email access between September 15 and October 1*. During that time, please contact Michael Bruner or Gabriel Guevara for questions or concerns.

Before Sep. 15, 2021	Between Sep. 15 and Oct. 1	
Reema Abi-Akar	Michael Bruner	Gabriel Guevara
rabiakar@tricountyrpc.org	mbruner@tricountyrpc.org	gguevara@tricountyrpc.org
309-673-9330	309-673-9330	309-673-9330

Please submit your applications to:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Attn: Reema Abi-Akar
456 Fulton St. Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

OR

rabiakar@tricountyrpc.org

Project Selection Process:

Once applications are received, TCRPC staff will review them for completion. Applications will be endorsed by the HSTP urban committee and scored by TCRPC staff⁴. Note that **projects that fill or alleviate regional transit Grey Areas will be given priority when considering a decrease in local cost share requirements**. Final selection is contingent upon approval from the FTA.

Sincerely,



Reema Abi-Akar, HSTP Region 5 Coordinator

⁴ See scoring criteria in Appendix A of each application.