



Metro


Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority


One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: THERESE W. MCMILLAN 
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2016 FTA RIDES TO
WELLNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM GRANT
OPPORTUNITY**

ISSUE

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a competitive solicitation of project proposals for Rides to Wellness Demonstration and Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants Program (R2W). The R2W grant goal is to find and test promising and replicable public transportation projects/programs that increase access to healthcare with solutions that support improved health outcomes and reduced healthcare costs for the transportation disadvantaged. Metro, in partnership with a local consortium of stakeholders, may apply for any amount of the \$5.3 million available nationwide in FFY 2016. ***The FTA deadline to submit applications is Tuesday, May 31, 2016.*** We are seeking eligible “ready-to-go” project proposals and partnerships that can best deliver program objectives and compete for R2W grant funds.

DISCUSSION

The FTA will award grant funds competitively for implementation-ready capital and operating projects that enhance non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) access to health and wellness services for the transportation disadvantaged (seniors, individuals with disabilities, and persons of limited income). Eligible project categories may include: mobility management; health and transportation provider partnerships; technology; and other actions that drive change. Project examples include the deployment of coordination technology and projects that create and/or increase access to One-Call/One-Click Centers (e.g., 2-1-1, 3-1-1, and 5-1-1).

R2W grant funds are sourced from a combination of two FTA discretionary grant programs: (1) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, and (2) Section 5312 Transit Cooperative Research Program funds. Concomitant with the Section 5310 formula grant program, the goals and

strategies of the R2W demonstration grant program are inclusive and closely aligned with Metro's adopted 2016-2019 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Los Angeles County (Coordinated Plan).

Eligible R2W grant applicants include States, Tribes, and Designated or Direct Recipients for Section 5307, 5310 or 5311 funds, who must serve as the lead agency of a documented local consortium of transportation, healthcare, human service and other stakeholders. As the Designated Recipient of FTA Section 5310 program funds allocated to large urbanized areas within Los Angeles County, Metro is an eligible grant applicant.

R2W grant projects will operate as pilots or demonstrations for up to 18 months. Within the first year, projects must show impacts related to program goals. Grant funds may cover up to 80% of project costs with an applicant providing a local share of 20% of net project costs. Eligible project expenditures may include capital and operating expenses, equipment, software, information systems, and the acquisition of services as part of a pilot demonstration.

FTA does not limit the number of grant applications that may be submitted by agency, nor do they restrict grant award amounts. FTA intends to fund as many meritorious projects as possible to conduct meaningful pilot testing.

See full NOFO here: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-29/pdf/2016-07008.pdf

Process for Requesting, Evaluating, and Selecting Projects

We have requested input from all Metro internal departments to identify "ready-to-go" projects that could be eligible and competitive for this grant opportunity. We also plan to request similar input from external local stakeholders, including participating Coordinated Plan health, human service, local governments, and transportation organizations for similar input. In reviewing each candidate project proposal, we will assess the extent to which each project meets the requirements of the NOFO and how it aligns with Coordinated Plan transportation goals and strategies. After follow-up meetings with staff and organizations who have proposed projects, and with any input received from the Board of Directors, we will identify those projects that are the most competitive and that can best meet the FTA selection criteria.

NEXT STEPS

We will field recommended candidate project proposals and partnerships through Friday, May 6, 2016. We will assess the input received and inform the Board of our assessment results. We also will submit grant applications by the May 31, 2016 deadline for those proposed projects that can best deliver R2W program objectives and compete for funding.