



Community Rides Grant Q&A

The following document will track questions that National RTAP receives from the webinars and over email regarding the Community Rides Grant Program. This document is available on the [Community Rides Grant webpage](#) and will be updated as additional questions come in.

Updated: July 24, 2025

Question	Answer
Is \$250,000 the total amount of all awards the program will distribute?	<p>We are awarding a total of \$250,000 this year to be divided amongst the selected projects. Depending on the level of funding each project receives will determine how many projects we are able to select and fund.</p> <p>This is an annual award so we will be making this amount available every year.</p> <p>We encourage prospective grantees to think about their projects in funding phases. Could your project be broken down into discrete phases to help get things started? For example, for a larger scale project, Phase 1 could focus on strengthening local partnerships, building community awareness and support, or some other step needed to further the project idea. Subsequent project phases could move to project implementation and operations.</p> <p>Please keep in mind that there is no guarantee that a project selected in this round of funding using this phased approach would be selected in future annual funding opportunities.</p> <p>We also encourage grantees to think about this funding as an opportunity to support a particular aspect of a larger project. In the first Community Rides Informational webinar, River Cities Public Transit discussed how it was able to use a past Community Rides Grant award to support a particular aspect of a larger FTA Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) demonstration project.</p>

<p>Is the grant a direct award or a reimbursement for expenses?</p> <p>As it is a 12 month project, but if expenditure is not to full award, what happens with those remaining funds?</p>	<p>Reimbursement. We will pay for eligible expenses. FTA grants are all reimbursement.</p> <p>Selected projects will be awarded for up to 12 months of funding (January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026). Grant funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis after expenses are incurred. Monthly invoices must be submitted with proper documentation to be reimbursed (See RFP Award Information, page 12).</p> <p>Pages 17 and 18 in the RFP have additional information on eligible expenses.</p> <p>Any unused funds will be forfeited.</p>
<p>So you could potentially award only two 100k awards and one 50k award?</p>	<p>Not likely. We had a spectrum of grant requests during our last Community Rides Grant program solicitation.</p>
<p>Are marketing projects eligible?</p>	<p>Yes. Marketing projects are an eligible expense.</p>
<p>Can the grant cover conference cost?</p>	<p>Yes. The grant can cover eligible conference costs and travel. Please reference pages 17 and 18 in the RFP for additional information on eligible expenses.</p>
<p>When you mention that this is not a grant for existing transit organizations, you are stating that in order to receive this funding your are starting a transit service from scratch?</p>	<p>Existing service. This grant is not to help you cover your existing operational expenses. New and/or experienced transit programs are welcome to apply!</p>
<p>Will this webinar be recorded to reference in the future?</p>	<p>Yes. We will have a link on the Community Rides Grant webpage and the Webinar webpage.</p>
<p>Do you know if there are any documents that provide more detail about funding restrictions or guidelines? If our agencies were to brainstorm a project where the PDC/MPO would be the transportation organization partner to meet that</p>	<p>As long as the subrecipient and target area for the work meet the definition of a rural area under Section 5311 guidelines, there is a local partner supporting the project, and the proposal meets the other RFP requirements then this would be an eligible project under the Community Rides Grant Program.</p>

<p>requirement, is it allowable for the 5311 agency to be the primary applicant and pass a portion of the funding through to the partner for completion of work activities?</p>	
---	--

This document was prepared by National RTAP with the financial assistance of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The contents do not necessarily represent the opinions or policy of any agency of the U.S. Government, and the U.S. Government assumes no liability for the contents or use thereof. It does not have the force and effect of law and is not meant to bind the public in any way.