

Tribal Transit Competitive Program April 20, 2023

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Disclaimer

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees should refer to FTA's statutes and regulations for applicable requirements.

Agenda

- Tribal Transit Program Overview
- FY2023 Funding Opportunity
 - Eligible Projects
 - Evaluation Criteria
- Grants.gov Website
- Questions & Answers

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Objectives

The Tribal Transit Program (TTP) and its competitive award program help FTA pursue its objectives by:

- Providing timely and efficient investment in public transportation
- Providing direct funding to federally recognized Indian Tribes to provide public transportation service on and around Indian reservations or Tribal land in rural areas
- Supporting the President's Building a Better America initiative to mobilize American ingenuity to build a modern infrastructure and an equitable, clean energy future.
- Advancing the goals of the January 20, 2021 <u>Executive Order on Advancing Racial</u> <u>Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal</u> <u>Government</u>

FTA TTP History

- The TTP is a set-aside of the Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program (49 US Code Section 5311)
- FY 2006: Competitive program created and funded at \$8 million to \$15 million per year (SAFETEA-LU)
- FY 2013: Formula program funded at \$25 million per year and competitive program at \$5 million per year (MAP-21)
- FY 2016: Formula program funded at \$30 million per year and competitive program at \$5 million per year (FAST Act)

Current Tribal Transit Program

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (FY 2022-2026)
 - Increased funding for the Tribal Transit Program by nearly 83%
 - Instead of a flat amount each year, the Tribal Transit Program now grows with the Rural Transit Program
- Supports 136 American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes with transit service

			In Millions			
Funding Program	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
TTP Formula	\$30.0	\$35.01	\$35.74	\$36.68	\$37.43	\$38.39
TTP Competitive	\$5.0	\$8.75	\$8.93	\$9.17	\$9.36	\$9.60

FY 2022 TTP Competitive Project Selections

- Application period: Competition closed on May 25, 2022
- FTA received requests for \$18 million from 47 Indian Tribes or Alaska Native Tribal applicants for 47 project proposals in 17 States
- On October 22, 2022, FTA announced \$8.6 million in funding to 25 Tribes for 25 projects in 15 states

FY 2023 TTP Competitive Program

- \$8.9 million available
- Eligible Applicants
 - Federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native Tribes as <u>identified</u> by the
 US Department of Interior, in rural areas with a population of less than 50,000
- Available Funding
 - FTA may choose to fund the program for more or less than the announcement amount
- Period of Availability
 - Funds are available for obligation the year allocated plus two years (total of three years)

FY 2023 Federal Register Notice

- FTA published a <u>FY23 Tribal Transit Notice of Funding Opportunity</u> (NOFO) on March 28, 2023
- Applications are due on June 26, 2023 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time



FY 2023 Eligible Projects

Eligible Projects	Eligible Federal Share	Funding Availability
• Planning ✓ \$25,000 cap	100%	
 Capital ✓ New Services ✓ Replacement (bus, equip, facility) ✓ Expansion (bus, equip, facility) 	100%	3 years (Year of Allocation
 Operating Assistance ✓ All eligible recipients 	100%	+ 2 FY)

FY 2023 Planning Projects

- Include studies on service feasibility, adding a new service, or updating an existing plan
- \$25,000 cap on planning grant awards

FY 2023 Capital Projects

- Capital Projects include but not limited to:
 - Purchase of expansion or replacement buses/vans
 - Bus-related equipment (fare equipment, communications devices, etc.)
 - Construction and rehabilitation of facilities (transit maintenance and administrative facilities)
 - Mobility management
 - Wheelchair lifts and restraints
 - Passenger shelters and bus stop signs
 - Technology, including computer hardware or software

FY 2023 Operating Assistance Projects

- Costs directly related to service operations and may include:
 - Fuel
 - Oil
 - Drivers' and Dispatchers' salaries and fringe benefits
 - Licenses
 - Service agreements with private providers of public transportation services

Evaluation Criteria for Operating Assistance and Capital Projects

Five required sections:

- 1. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization
- 2. Project Readiness
- 3. Demonstration of Need
- 4. Demonstration of Benefits
- 5. Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity

1. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization

- Describe the planning process and/or document utilized to identify the proposed project
- Provide a detailed project description
- Describe what opportunities for public participation were provided and how proposed/existing service has been coordinated with:
 - Human service agencies
 - Intercity bus transportation providers
 - Other rural public transit providers
- Discuss level of support by community and/or tribal government

1. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization (cont.)

- Describe how mobility needs of the tribal community were considered
- Identify existing transportation services in and near the proposed or existing service area
 - Document in detail whether the project will provide coordination opportunities with existing services
- Describe how the proposed/existing service complements rather than duplicates any currently available service
- Describe the implementation schedule for the proposed project, including time period, staffing, and procurement

2. Project Readiness

- The project readiness factor includes assessing whether the recipient can:
 - Demonstrate that the project and project funds can be implemented and obligated quickly, if selected
 - Demonstrate the ability to carry out the proposed project successfully
 - Describe the implementation schedule for the project
- For capital projects:
 - Describe and document a project implementation plan (e.g. including initial design of facilities projects)
 - Demonstrate the required environmental work has been initiated or completed, for construction projects requiring a Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, or Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

3. Demonstration of Need

 Applications will be evaluated based on the degree to which the applicant identifies the need for transit resources.

All applications should include a description of:

- Destinations and services not currently accessible by transit
- Needs for access to jobs or health care, special needs of elders and individuals with disabilities, income-based community, and those with any other mobility requirement
- FTA will consider whether the project represents a one-time or periodic need that cannot reasonably be funded from FTA program formula allocations or state and/or local resources

3. Demonstration of Need (cont.)

- Capital <u>expansion</u> projects: describe how current or growing demand for the service necessitates the expansion
- Capital <u>replacement</u> projects: should include how the replacement may be necessary to maintain transit assets in state of good repair:
 - Age of asset
 - Condition of asset
 - Performance of asset
- If an applicant received a planning grant in previous fiscal years, it should indicate the status of the planning study and how the proposed project relates to that study

4. Demonstration of Benefits

- Explain how these investments will improve the quality of life for the tribal nation and surrounding communities in which it is located
- FTA will rate proposals based on the quality and extent to which they discuss the following four factors:
 - 1. The project's ability to improve transit efficiency or increase ridership;
 - 2. Whether the project will improve or maintain mobility or eliminate gaps in service for the Indian tribe;
 - 3. Whether the project will improve or maintain access to important destinations and services;
 - 4. Any other qualitative benefits, such as greater access to jobs, education, and health care services, and environmental considerations.

4. Demonstration of Benefits (cont.)

- Identify expected or achieved project benefits in the following:
 - Existing Services:
 - Increased or sustained ridership and daily trips
 - Improved service, operations and coordination
 - Provide actual number of individual riders and trips
 - Start-up Projects:
 - Estimate number of daily one-way trips
 - Qualitative benefits to the tribal nation and surrounding community

5. Financial Commitment & Operating Capacity

- Based upon the information provided, the proposals will be rated on the extent to which the proposal demonstrates that:
 - Tribal Transit Program funding does not replace existing funding;
 - 2. The applicant will provide non-financial support to the project;
 - 3. The applicant is able to demonstrate a sustainable funding plan; and
 - 4. Project funds are used in coordination with other services for efficient utilization of funds.
- For FY 2023, no local match is needed
 - If included, the source must be identified
- Identify sustainable funding plan
 - Demonstrate how applicant plans to maintain operations once project is funded
 - Include an annual operating budget



Evaluation Criterion for Planning Grants

- Applicants should describe the need for and a general scope of the proposed study
- In one required section, proposals should address two key points:
 - 1. The recipient's long-term commitment to transit
 - 2. How the proposed study will be implemented and/or further tribal transit
- \$25,000 cap on planning grant awards

Important Links

- FY2023 Tribal Transit Program NOFO
- <u>FY2023 Tribal Transit Program on Grants.Gov</u>
- FTA's Tribal Governments Landing Page
- Tribal Transit Program Competitive Award Webpage

Technical Assistance Centers



National Center for Mobility Management

www.nc4mm.org 1-866-846-6400

email: info@nc4mm.org



National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

www.nadtc.org 1-866-983-3222

email: contact@nadtc.org



Rural Transit Assistance Program

www.nationalrtap.org 1-888-589-6821

email: info@nationalrtap.org

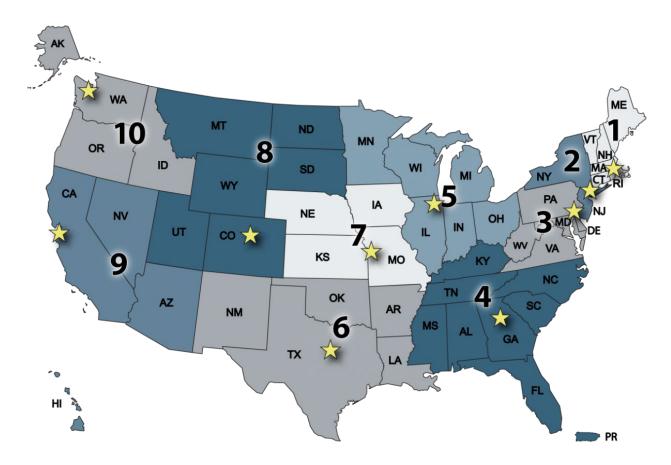


National Center for Applied Transit Technology

<u>n-catt.org</u> 1-888-891-0590

Contact: grossglaser@ctaa.org

FTA Regional Tribal Liaisons



LINK: Contact Information for Tribal Liaisons at FTA Regional Offices



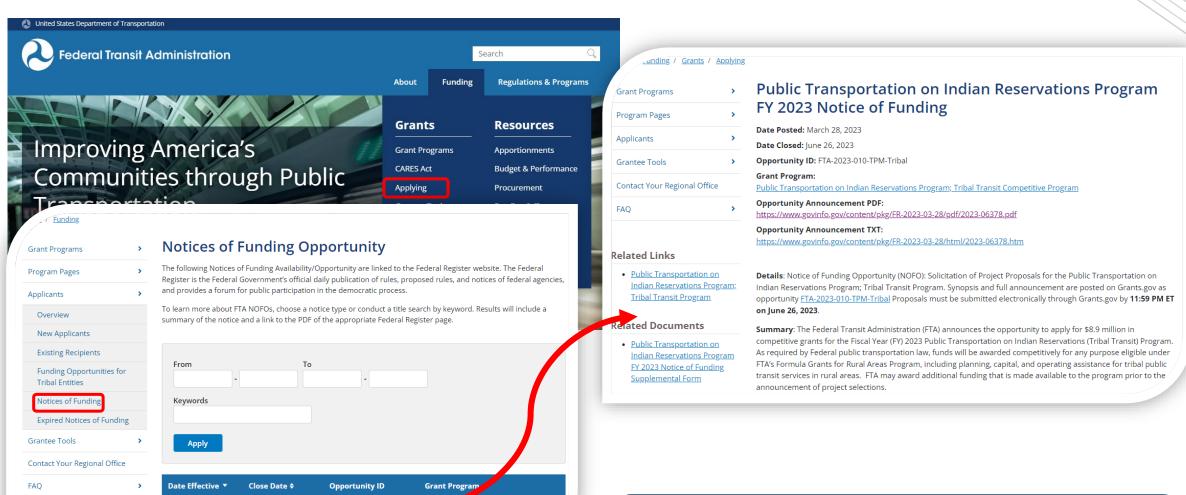
Applying for FTA Grant Opportunities in Grants.gov





Administration

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity



https://www.transit.dot.gov/ https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices



03/28/2023

06/26/2023

FTA-2023-010-TPM

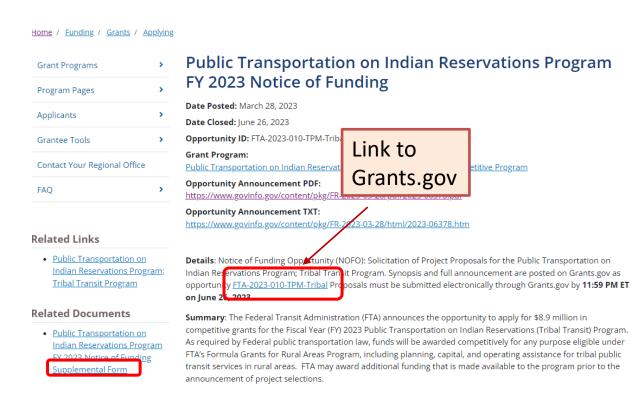
Reservations Program; Tribal Transit

Competitive Program

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity

FTA NOFO Page contains:

- Summary Description
 - Application requirements
 - Eligibility
- Supplemental Form
 - Applicants should complete and attach this to their submission
- Links to Grants.gov
- Links to Program Information
- Other references and links

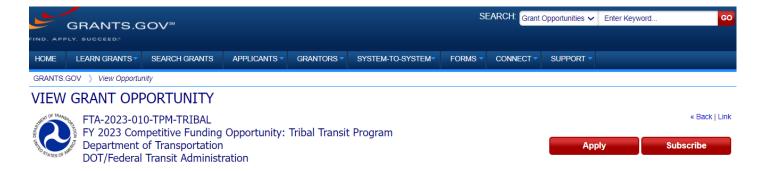




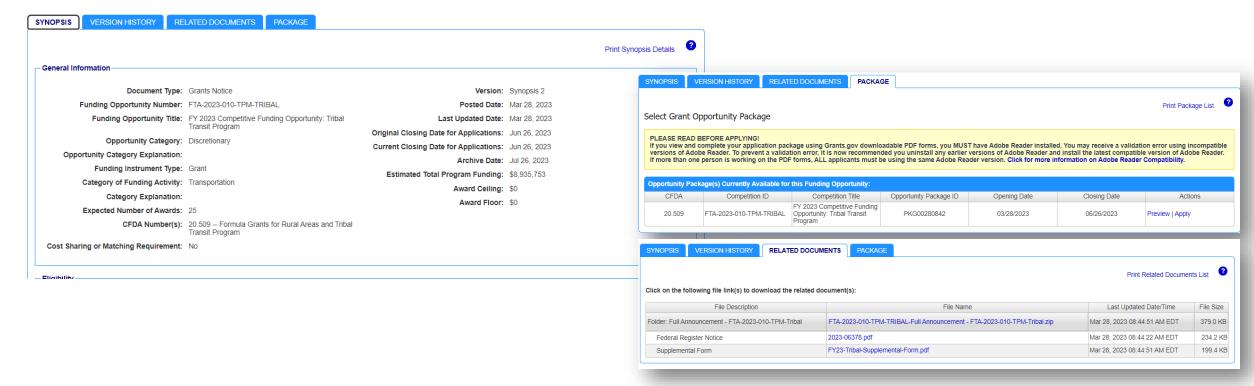
https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices

FTA NOFO provides hyperlinks to Grants.gov opportunity notice, related documents, and application package.

Download Application

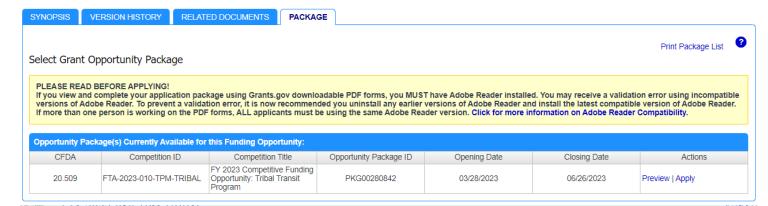


NOTE: Anyone can download the application package from Grants.gov. However, only "authorized organizational representatives" can submit applications in Grants.gov.





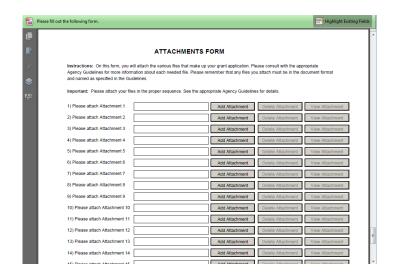
Application Package



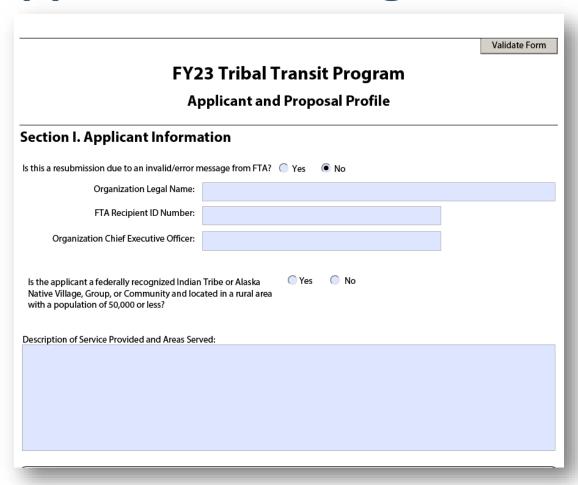
Preview Opportunity Package Details	
	?
Opportunity Package Details:	
Agency Contact Information: Elan Flippin Office of Program Management Phone: 202-366-3800 Email: TribalTransit@dot.gov.	
Who Can Apply: Organization Applicants	
PACKAGE FORMS:	Download Instructions
Mandatory Forms (Click to Preview)	Optional Forms (Click to Preview)
» SF424 Mandatory Form [V3.0] » Grants.gov Lobbying Form [V1.1] » Attachments [V1.2]	
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APPLICATION FOR FEDER	AL ASSISTANCE SF-424 - MAN	IDATORY
1.a. Type of Submission: Application Plan Funding Request Other (specify):	1.b. Frequency: Annual Ouarterly Other Other (specify):	I.d. Version:
1.c. Consolidated Application/Plan Yes No Explana		4b. Federal Award Identifier:
7. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
a. Legal Name:		
b. Employer/Taxpayer Identificatio	on Number (EIN/TIN):	c. Organizational DUNS:
d. Address:		
Street1:		Street2:
City:		County / Parish:
State:		Province:
Country:		Zip / Postal Code:
USA: UNI	TED STATES	
e. Organizational Unit:		_



Application Package



The "Attachment Form" shown below is included in the SF-424 Grant Application Package in Grants.gov.

Please attach the **FTA Supplemental Form** to the **Attachment Form** shown below when submitting in Grants.gov.

Authorized for Local Reproduction			Standard Form 424 Mandatory (Effective 08/2005) Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102		
			Albed by GMD Greater 74-102		
<u> </u>					
	ATT 4	CHMENTS FORM			
	ATTA	HIMENTS FORM			
	Instructions: On this form, you will attach the various				
	Agency Guidelines for more information about each nee	ded file. Please remember that any files you attac	ch must be in the document format		
	and named as specified in the Guidelines.				
	Important: Please attach your files in the proper seque	nce. See the appropriate Agency Guidelines for d	details.		
	1) Please attach Attachment 1	Add Attachment De	elete Attachment View Attachment		
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	2) Please attach Attachment 2	Add Attachment De	lete Attachment View Attachment		
	3) Please attach Attachment 3	Add Attachment De	elete Attachment View Attachment		
ı	4) Please attach Attachment 4	Add Attachment De	elete Attachment View Attachment		
	5) Please attach Attachment 5	Add Attachment De	elete Attachment View Attachment		
	6) Please attach Attachment 6	Add Attachment De	elete Attachment View Attachment		
	7) Please attach Attachment 7	Add Attachment De	elete Attachment View Attachment		
	8) Please attach Attachment 8	Add Attachment De	elete Attachment View Attachment		
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CAUTION: Do not use "**Supplemental Form**" from prior years or create your own form. Please use the file provided on the FTA website.



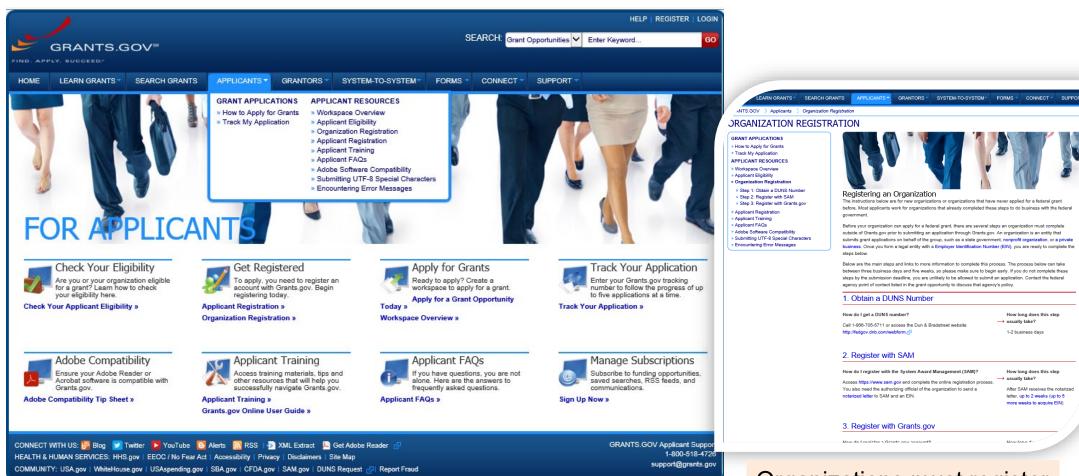
Applications on Grants.gov





https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html

Applicant – Organization Registration



Organizations must register in Grants.gov in order to submit applications

How long does this step

After SAM receives the notarized

more weeks to acquire EIN)

usually take?

1-2 husiness days

Workspace in Grants.gov

GRANTS.GOV) Applicants) Workspace Overview

Basic

workspace

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organization.

LEARN MORE >

Using Custom Roles in Workspace

WORKSPACE OVERVIEW

GRANT APPLICATIONS

- » How to Apply for Grants
- Track My Application

APPLICANT RESOURCES

- Workspace Overview
- » Workspace Basic
- Workspace Intermediate
- Workspace Advanced
- » Workspace Process
- » Workspace Roles
- Custom Roles
- Applicant Eligibility
- Organization Registration
- Applicant Registration
- » Applicant Training
- Applicant FAQs
- Adobe Software Compatibility
- Submitting UTF-8 Special Characters
- Encountering Error Messages

Get Started on Your Workspace Application

Workspace is the standard way for organizations or individuals to apply for federal grants in Grants.gov. Workspace allows a grant team to simultaneously access and edit different forms within an application. Plus, the forms can be filled out online or offline-your choice.

Grants.gov Workspace also allows applicants and organizations to tailor their application workflow. Here are three approaches that applicants can take when completing a Workspace application:

Intermediate + Best for organizations with + Best for organizations with 1-2 registered Grants.gov 3-5 registered Grants.gov + Application forms are + Applicant teams are downloaded and emailed to typically comprised of an collaborators before being AOR who submits, as well as a Workspace Owner who uploaded back to the

LEARN MORE >

Organizations are also able to create custom roles and assign these roles to the users affiliate

oversees form completion

Advanced

- + Best for organizations with external Grants.gov use such as consultants
- + Workspace Owne manages form acce
- + Workspace Owne subforms

LEARN MORE >

WORKSPACE ROLES

GRANTS.GOV[™]

HOME LEARN GRANTS▼ SEARCH GRANTS

GRANTS.GOV) Applicants) Workspace Overview

GRANT APPLICATIONS How to Apply for Grants

- Track My Application
- APPLICANT RESOURCES

Workspace Overview

- » Workspace Basic
- » Workspace Intermediate
- Workspace Advanced » Workspace Process
- » Workspace Roles
- » Custom Roles
- Applicant Eligibility
- Organization Registration Applicant Registration
- Applicant Training
- Applicant FAQs
- Adobe Software Compatibility Submitting UTF-8 Special Characters
- Encountering Error Messages
- Point of Contact

Administrator

Grants.gov Roles & Privileges

Core Role

Expanded AOR

E-Business Point of Contact

The E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) works primarily at the administrative level to (among other tasks) assign roles to organization users once they register with Grants gov

Core Role

Standard AOR

When an applicant organization user registers with Grants.gov, the organization E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz

Core Role

Custom Role

POC) -- or a user with the Expanded AOR role -- can assign the user a core role, a custom role, or no role

GRANTORS▼ SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM▼ FORMS▼ CONNECT▼ SUPPORT▼



SEARCH: Grant Opportunities V Enter Keyword...

Web Addresses

FTA Funding Opportunities:



https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices

Grants.gov:



http://www.grants.gov/

http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html

GRANTS.GOV Applicant Support 1-800-518-4726

support@grants.gov

Questions & Answers

Elan Flippin-Jones
Tribal Transit Program Manager

<u>TribalTransit@dot.gov</u>

202-366-3800

TTP Competitive Award Webpage

https://www.transit.dot.gov/tribal-transit



TRANSIT.DOT.GOV