

# **FY2024 Call for Projects**

## **5310 PROGRAM GUIDE**

### **Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The 5310 Program (49 U.S.C. 5310) provides formula funding to states and designated recipients to meet the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. The program aims to improve mobility for older adults and people with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. This program supports transportation services planned, designed, and carried out to meet the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities in all areas.

Funds are apportioned based on each state's share of the population and, in large urban areas, a designated recipient is chosen by the governor. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is the Designated Recipient responsible for managing the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Program within the McAllen Urbanized Area (MUA). Direct Recipients, like the LRGVDC, have flexibility in how they select Subrecipient projects for funding, but their decision process must be clearly noted in a program management plan. The LRGVDC's 5310 Program Management Plan (5310 PMP) describes the process for administering, managing, programming, selection, and overseeing the implementation of the projects.

**The MUA has \$1,596,012 in federal funding available from FY2022 and FY2023.** Additionally, the LRGVDC, as the Designated Recipient, has set aside 10% of the program funds for program administration. The available amount above already reflects the subtraction of the program administration funds.

Per the 5310 PMP, which this process is derived from and dependent upon, the selection process for Subrecipient projects is competitive. Applicants interested in becoming Subrecipients should complete and submit this 5310 Funding Application, which is made available under the RGVMPPO's FY2024 Call for Projects.

More information about the 5310 Program may be found in FTA Circular 9070.1G.

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Applicants (potential Subrecipients) can include:

- State or local government authorities
- Private non-profit organizations
- And/or \*operators of public transportation

\*Operators of public transportation are entities that provide regular continuing shared-ride surface transportation services that are open to the general public or open to a segment of the general public defined by age, disability, or low-income. Operators of public transportation are eligible as subrecipients for nontraditional Section 5310 projects.

## **ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS**

To be eligible for funding, proposed **projects must be located in or either have an origin or a destination within the MUA**. In addition, all **projects must be derived from the \*LRGVDC's Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan**. (Adopted Dec. 2021; recommendations in Ch. 5; vision, mission, goals & objectives in Ch. 7; implementation priorities in Ch. 8). Eligible projects include both "traditional" capital investment projects and "nontraditional" investment projects beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services. **5310 funds are eligible to support up to 80% of the cost of Traditional (Capital) projects and up to 50% of Nontraditional (Operating) costs**. The source of local match must be identified in this application process.

- "Traditional" Section 5310 projects are capital projects as defined in 49 U.S.C. 5302(3). At least 55% of program funds must be used on capital projects to meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable. More than 55% of the apportionment can be used for these types of projects. Examples include:
  - Buses and vans.
  - Wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices.
  - Transit-related information technology systems, including scheduling/routing/ one-call systems.
  - Mobility management programs.
  - Acquisition of transportation services under a contract, lease, or other arrangement.

- “Nontraditional” Section 5310 projects are capital and/or operating projects that go beyond the scope of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services or public transportation alternatives designed to assist older adults and people with disabilities. A maximum of 45% of program funds may be used for projects described above or for projects that exceed the requirements of the ADA, improve access to fixed route service and decrease reliance by individuals with disabilities on complementary transit, or alternatives to public transportation to assist seniors and individuals with disabilities. Examples include:
  - Travel training.
  - Volunteer driver programs.
  - Construction of an accessible path to a bus stop, including curb-cuts, sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals or other accessible features.
  - Improvements to signage, or way-finding technology.
  - Incremental cost of providing same day service or door-to-door service.
  - Purchase of vehicles to support new accessible taxi, rides sharing and/or vanpooling programs.
  - Mobility management.

\*Plan recommendations can be found in Chapter 5. Vision, mission, goals and objectives can be found in Chapter 7. Implementation priorities can be found in Chapter 8. To view the entire LRGVDC Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan visit [www.lrgvdc.org/valleymetro](http://www.lrgvdc.org/valleymetro).

## **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

If your organization has a project that it would like considered for funding, please complete the following application and **submit via email to [info@rgvmpo.org](mailto:info@rgvmpo.org)** no later than **5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 20, 2023**. Applications received after this date and time will not be considered.

Applicants are encouraged to use this checklist to ensure that all applicable parts of this application/attachments are completed and submitted:

- PART A: Application
  - 3 parts, 4 pages (at the end of this document)
- PART B: Required Attachments (include in email submittal)
  - Map of proposed service and service area
  - Documentation of eligibility
  - Letter(s) of support for proposed project
  - Additional documentation to support project selection

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Submitted applications will be evaluated and scored based on the established scoring criteria by RGVMPPO Staff. Funding award recommendations will be presented to the RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Policy Board (TPB) for the official programming of 5310 Program funds. Applicants will be notified of their project's award status and, if selected, must attend a Subrecipient Orientation with LRGVDC Staff. Further coordination will be required.

| <b><i>DATE</i></b>       | <b><i>ACTIVITY</i></b>   |
|--------------------------|--|
| October 24, 2023         | FY2024 Call for Projects is officially announced at RTAP mtg.          |
| <b>November 1, 2023</b>  | <b>FY2024 Call for Projects for the 5310 Program officially opens.</b> |
| November 15, 2023        | 5310 Program Workshop for all interested applicants.                   |
| <b>December 20, 2023</b> | <b>5 PM deadline to submit project application/proposals.</b>          |
| Dec. 2023 & Jan. 2024    | RGVMPPO evaluates and scores project proposals.                        |
| February 8, 2024         | Award recommendations presented to TAC for action.                     |
| February 28, 2024        | 5310 Program funds are programmed to projects by TPB.                  |
| <b>March 1, 2024</b>     | <b>Project Sponsors (Applicants) are notified of outcome(s).</b>       |
| March 2024               | Subrecipient Orientation with LRGVDC Staff.                            |
| March - April 2024       | LRGVDC coordinates agreement(s) with Project Sponsors                  |

The information in this application is Public Record. Applicants should not include information that may be regarded as confidential. If selected, Applicants will be required to submit appropriate background Certifications and Assurances, and other documentation necessary to meet FTA requirements. **The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) oversees the 5310 Program and will coordinate with Project Sponsors to ensure that all requirements are met.**