

**FTA SECTION 5317
New Freedom Program
FACT SHEET for Federal Fiscal Year 2009**

PROGRAM PURPOSE:

The New Freedom Program provides funding to reduce barriers to transportation services and expand the transportation mobility options available to people with disabilities beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

FTA FUNDING:

New Freedom Program funding is available in two categories:

- Approximately \$240,000 for projects in small-urbanized areas (population 50,000-200,000).
- Approximately \$130,000 for projects in rural areas (population <50,000).

MATCH REQUIRED:

Federal share of eligible capital (including mobility management) and planning costs may not exceed 80 percent of the net cost. The Federal share of eligible operating costs may not exceed 50 percent of the net operating costs. The required matching funds must be from sources other than USDOT.

COORDINATED PLANNING:

All projects selected for funding must be derived from a locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- Private non-profit organizations.
- State or local governmental authority.
- Operators of public transportation services, including private operators.
- Tribal Governments.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

Applicant must be able to document:

- Experience and history of providing an efficient and effective transportation service;
- Driver training program;
- Vehicle maintenance program;
- Source of the required local match;
- Fiscal and technical capacity to operate its service;
- How project addresses program purpose.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Capital and operating expenses that support new public transportation services beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and new public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the ADA designed to assist

individuals with disabilities with accessing transportation services, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services. Examples include enhanced ADA paratransit service, volunteer driver program, feeder service, travel training and call center operations.

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS:

Applications are reviewed by NHDOT and compiled into a Program of Projects. Priority is given to projects that most effectively address the program purpose. The selection process also considers service to a wide range of geographical regions as well as minority and other disadvantaged groups.

PROGRAM MEASURES:

- Qualitative and quantitative measures of services provided that impact availability of transportation services for individuals with disabilities as a result of the projects implemented in the current reporting year. Examples include geographic coverage, service quality and/or service times.
- Additions or changes to environmental infrastructure (e.g., transportation facilities, sidewalks, etc), technology, vehicles that impact availability of transportation services as a result of the projects implemented.
- Actual or estimated number of rides (as measured by one-way trips) provided as a result of the project.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE SOURCES:

Rail & Transit website:

www.nh.gov/dot/org/aerorailtransit/railandtransit/index.htm

FTA Section 5317 website:

www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3549.html

**For questions call NHDOT Rail & Transit at:
603-271-2468**

