

# **SECTION 5317 – New Freedom Program FACT SHEET**

## **Federal Fiscal Year 2008-09**

### **PROGRAM PURPOSE**

The New Freedom program provides funding to assist transit operators and public agencies provide “new” transportation services for individuals with disabilities above and beyond the minimum currently required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101, et seq.).

### **FTA FUNDING:**

New Freedom program funding is available in two categories:

- Approximately \$ 1.6 million for New Freedom small-urban projects.
- Approximately \$ .7 million for New Freedom rural projects.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

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

### **LOCAL MATCHING REQUIREMENTS:**

Federal share of eligible capital and planning costs may not exceed 80 percent of the net cost activity.

The Federal share of the eligible operating costs may not exceed 50 percent of the net operating costs of the activity.

### **COORDINATED PLANNING:**

All projects selected for funding must be derived from a coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan as required by federal guidance. Grant applications must include a Coordinated Plan Certification.

### **PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS:**

Projects will be awarded through a statewide competitive selection process. The Division of Mass Transportation (DMT) will evaluate all New Freedom project applications through a JARC/New Freedom review committee to determine the extent

to which the proposed projects meets the overall program goals and objectives of the programs.

However, a Local Agency (LA) with a recognized small-urban area may choose to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with the DMT, to conduct its own regional competitive selection process for those small-urban New Freedom grant applications. A final list of selected projects will be published and submitted to the FTA for funding.

### **PLANNING REQUIREMENTS:**

To be eligible for funding, New Freedom projects in urbanized areas must be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan prepared and approved by the metropolitan planning organization (MPO), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) developed by the State and jointly approved by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Projects outside the urbanized areas must be included in, or consistent with, a long-range transportation plan and be included in the STIP.

### **APPLICATION WORKSHOPS:**

Statewide workshops are to assist applicants in completing the funding application, understanding the scoring worksheet, and receiving procurement information. Please check our website for further information.

Section 5317 website:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/5317.html>

### **ADDITIONAL REFERENCE SOURCES:**

Section 5316 website:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/5316.html>

DMT Coordinated Plan Resources Center:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/Coord-Plan-Res.html>