

5311 Program CARES Act Fact Sheet

Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to provide support for capital, operating, and other expenses generally eligible under the FTA Section 5311 program to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. This including operating expenses to maintain transit services as well as paying for administrative leave for transit personnel due to reduced operations during an emergency.

What: The overall goal of the FTA 5311 program is to enhance the availability of public transit in rural areas and provide public transportation opportunities to residents in rural areas for access to employment, education and health care, shopping and recreation.

Program Funds: Program funds are made available to rural areas with a population of less than 50,000 as designated by the Bureau of the Census (2010).

Eligible Applicants: Public transit providers, state and local governments, rural transportation planning agencies, private-nonprofit organizations, Tribal Governments and private intercity bus operators (5311(f)). All subrecipients are required to be compliant with FTA regulations.

Eligible Projects: Eligible projects include capital projects, planning and operating assistance projects. CARES Act projects are 100% federally funded and requires no local share.

Program Fund Role Players: The FTA, local government, transit providers, MPO's RTPAs, DRMT, Districts, SCO, and Accounting.

Funding Amount and Distribution Process: The CARES Act apportionment for California is \$94,976,667. Of this amount, 75% is set aside for regional distribution. Of the remaining 25%, 15% is set-aside for Intercity Bus Section 5311(f) and 10% for program administration. DRMT distributed Phase 1 to current subrecipients of FTA 5311 and 5311(f). Phase 2 is being distributed through a Call for Projects for ALL eligible transit operators. FTA 5311(f) Phase 2 will be determined later.

The Transportation Planning Agencies (RPA) Project Selection for CARES Act: Caltrans provides the formula-based funding amount for each region to the MPOs/RTPAs. They then plan and sub-allocate projects based on regional transportation needs. Once the projects are selected the transit agencies will submit their application to Caltrans using BlackCat Electronic Grants System.

References: CARES Act FQA's <https://www.transit.dot.gov/frequently-asked-questions-fta-grantees-regarding-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
FTA Circular 9040.1.G <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/fta-circulars/formula-grants-rural-areas-program-guidance-and-application>