

Intent to Call for Projects: Job Access & Reverse Commute and New Freedom Programs

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), in partnership with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties, is planning to call for projects in the Miami Urbanized Area for Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Program funds for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. These Federal Transit Administration (FTA) program funds are available for projects that improve transportation for low-income individuals, welfare recipients, and/or people with disabilities.

The solicitation for projects will be announced during the week of December 7, 2009. Applications will be due by February 26, 2010. Additional information will be available on the SFRTA website at www.sfrta.fl.gov.

Background on JARC and New Freedom Funds

The JARC program is intended to fund transportation services and supportive activities that 1) improve access to jobs for eligible low-income individuals and welfare recipients, and 2) provide reverse commute trips for the general population. (A reverse commute trip provides transportation for urban, suburban and rural area residents to suburban employment opportunities.)

The purpose of the New Freedom Program is to provide improved public transportation services and alternatives to public transportation for people with disabilities, beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

FTA circulars providing detailed information on JARC and New Freedom programs can be found at:

- JARC: http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/FTA_C_9050.1_JARC.pdf
- New Freedom: http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/FTA_C_9045.1_New_Freedom.pdf

Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

The solicitation will be limited to projects that have been derived from an adopted Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP). Please refer to the local TDSPs which are available at www.sfrta.fl.gov. TDSPs address service needs and gaps for enhancing transportation needs for people with disabilities, welfare recipients, and low income individuals living in the region. Projects can be derived from a TDSP without being specifically listed in the TDSP.

Eligible Applicants

The following agencies that have projects consistent with local TDSPs are eligible to apply for JARC and New Freedom program funds:

- Private nonprofit organizations
- State or local governmental authorities
- Operators of public transportation services, including private, for-profit operators of public transportation services.

In addition to being classified as one of the above-mentioned agency types, in accordance with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Title 49 U.S.C. 5316(c) and 49 U.S.C. 5317(c), only organizations whose projects serve the Miami Urbanized Area (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties) are eligible to apply.

Eligible Projects

JARC and New Freedom funds may be used for planning, capital, or operating costs of providing access to jobs for low-income persons, welfare recipients, or services and facilities that improve mobility for persons with disabilities. Please refer to FTA circulars 9045.1 (New Freedom) and 9050.1 (JARC) for additional information.

Available Funding

The call for projects applies for JARC and New Freedom funds available for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. The total funds available are:

Fiscal Year 2008:

- \$3,195,924 for JARC projects
- \$1,812,295 for New Freedom projects

Fiscal Year 2009:

- \$3,751,178 for JARC projects
- \$2,088,998 for New Freedom projects

Federal/Local Match Requirement

Funds can be used to support up to 80 percent (80/20 match) for capital projects and not more than 50 percent (50/50 match) of project costs for operating assistance. Other federal (Non-Department of Transportation), local, and private funds can be used as a match.

Grant Application Workshop

A grant application workshop is being planned to provide an opportunity for the potential applicant to learn more about the funding programs. SFRTA expects to conduct this workshop in January with participation from FTA and United-We-Ride. Further information will be made available at www.sfrta.fl.gov.

Selection Process

Funds will be awarded through a competitive selection process, which will be administered by SFRTA. The application package will provide additional information about the selection process. The selected projects will be forwarded to FTA for final determination.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the staff listed below.

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