



Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Application for 2006 Funding

Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedoms Initiative (NFI) Programs

Overview

The *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)* re-authorizes federal surface transportation funding programs through 2009. This application addresses two programs from the legislation; Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedoms Initiative (NFI).

The RTA as part of its Strategic Plan process has adopted a Vision Statement calling for greater mobility options for the aging, persons with disabilities and low income populations within a financially viable operating environment. Federal funding through the JARC and NFI programs will be used to help achieve these goals. Selection criteria tied to the Strategic Plan Vision and the Federal Guidelines will be used to recommend a program of projects.

As the designated recipient of the 2006 JARC and NFI funds, the RTA has established a competitive “call for projects” throughout the region. The objective of the 2006 program is to select and fund sustainable projects that can be implemented in the shortest possible timeframe. Therefore, only projects that can secure local match will be considered in 2006. In-kind funds are not allowable to be used as part of the local match. If your organization will not operate the proposed service it is recommended that you contact the appropriate Service Board to coordinate service design issues prior to submitting an application. Beginning in 2007, the projects selected for implementation will come from a Human Services Transportation Plan. Development of this plan is proposed to begin in 2006 and will be in place for 2007 funding.

Please complete the following application and submit it to the contact and address below by no later than 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time **Wednesday, November 1, 2006**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Mr. William Reynolds
Principal Analyst
Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
175 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1550
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Fax: 312-913-3206

Applicant Information

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Fax Number _____

Email _____

Other Partners _____
(list other agencies or _____
organizations that will _____
be involved and their _____
anticipated role)

Project Description

Title _____

Brief Description _____
(attach additional _____
sheets as necessary) _____

Indicate which program you are applying for:

- JARC NFI Both

Describe the service anticipated from the project:

- New Service Continuation/expansion of existing service
- Contracted Out Operated by the Applicant or other provider

Indicate the anticipated provider of service:

- CTA Pace Other (explain) _____

Anticipated Days/Hours of Service _____ (specify weekday/weekend)

Estimated Cost per one-way Trip _____ (operation costs only, not fares)

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Estimated Average Daily Riders _____ (specify weekday or weekend)

Project Funding

Local match funds will be required for all application submittals. For projects requiring operating funds, the required match is at least 50% from non-federal transportation funds. For capital projects, the required match is at least 20% from non-federal transportation funds. Applicants are allowed to request both capital and operating funds for the same project.

Total Annual Project Budget \$ _____ (operating and capital \$ only)

Capital Federal Share \$ _____ %

Capital Local Match \$ _____ %

Operating Federal Share \$ _____ %

Operating Local Match \$ _____ %

What is the source of the local match funds? _____
IMPORTANT NOTE: If the local match funds are being derived from an existing grant, please attach a copy of the grant agreement, contract, or supporting documentation.

Is there a commitment of funds beyond the requested grant period?
 Yes No

Consistency with Selection Criteria

Projects will be reviewed and ranked based on their consistency and support of the following goals:

- 1) Provide Transportation Options
- 2) Enhance Financial Viability
- 3) Enhance Livability and Economic Vitality
- 4) Demonstrate Value

Please address the following issues and attach additional pages as necessary:

Describe the community/regional benefits the project provides _____

Explain how the project establishes, preserves, and/or improves mobility _____

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Explain how the delivery of service will be coordinated with existing transportation _____

Explain how the project promotes connections with other modes of transportation _____

Explain how the project will provide access to jobs _____

Explain how the project will increase mobility for low income populations and people with disabilities _____

Identify the areas not currently served by transit that will benefit from the project _____

Explain how the success of the project will be measured _____