



Pre-Proposal Conference Q&A

2023 - 2024 FTA 5310

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

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General Contract

Q I am new to the world of grants and since I have been at this agency, 5310 has been a bit of a mystery. Can you tell me how this competitive opportunity differs from the 5310-formula grant or is this an additional opportunity?

The Georgia Department of Human Services state management plan for FTA Section 5310 provides information on the FTA Section 5310 funding. The following link will take you directly to the state plan: <https://dhs.georgia.gov/document/publication/federal-transit-administration-fta-section-5310-state-management-plan/download>

ARC as the Area Agency on Aging is the recipient of Section 5310 funding for the Atlanta UZA from the GA Department of Human Services. ARC issues Notifications of Funding Availability (NOFA) and awards the allocated funding based on a competitive process.

Q Are there any examples you could provide of other entities who currently receive 5310 funding and some of the type projects they have implemented?

ARC is unable to share specific projects of past recipients during this open NOFA period. ARC has funded software projects, mobility management and trips that expand the service delivery that meet the needs of seniors and bridge the gap of what is available and what is needed.

Q We are still unclear as to how we can make it work for us, so that we can get more seniors to and from our centers. We currently receive a transit grant and 5310 money through DHS. However, our County transit gets the reimbursement and not us, so we aren't sure how that would work with this particular grant from ARC, or even if it would work at all. All organizations are welcome to apply for Section 5310 funding.

Application / Proposal Process

Q We anticipate submitting a proposal comprised of four (4) programs/projects, three of which will provide trips and one that will focus on technology. Do we have to complete a separate Service Proposal for each program/project, and if yes, do we use the same Service Proposal template for the technology project?

If submitting via one response template, make sure that each project will have a subheading for the reviewers to differentiate between the projects. Likewise, it is imperative that the evaluators understand the amount of funding that you are requesting for each project. You may fill out a separate response template for each project if you prefer to do so.

Q The questions on 5.2 Service Proposal seem to be more pertinent to programs that provide trips. How should we provide details of our technology project so that it is clear? For example, we want to state that the technology will enable us to schedule trips more efficiently, track trip costs, assist with overall program efficiency, etc.

Question 1 of the Proposal response template would allow your organization to describe the technology project in detail. If the other questions are not applicable because they are trip related, then do not answer them but mark N/A-

- Q When does DHS review the technology project proposal? Are there specific questions or details that will be needed for DHS to review the technology project?**

DHS will be sent a summary of each project to review and approve prior to the issuance of awards.

- Q The NOFA states that the purpose of this funding is to serve the needs of transit dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services. Would I be correct in assuming that this funding could not be used to simply increase the service hours/days of our current public transportation hours? We are demand response and end up rejecting several hundred requests for service per month and are looking to expand our hours of service, but unless I am misunderstanding, it does not seem like that alone would be an eligible "project", especially since we serve more clients than just the elderly or disabled.**

The Atlanta Regional Commission's overarching goal in the FTA Section 5310 Notification of Funding Availability is to improve mobility for older adults and individuals with disabilities in the metro region through activities and projects that remove barriers to transportation services, identify new/innovative approaches to transportation for clients, expand mobility options and allow maximum flexibility in allowing consumers to travel when and where they desire to go. ARC encourages every entity interested to apply for the funding.

Section 5310 funding is restricted to individuals that are over 65 years of age or individuals under 65 with a disability.

- Q As far as the background check requirement where all drivers must meet the DHS requirements for a federal criminal background check and fingerprint check, would those need to be done in tandem? As part of the pre-employment process for our county, the drivers have a federal check, but not a fingerprint check...since the backgrounds have already been done, could just fingerprints be done now, or would they need to be done at the same time?**

The GA Department of Human Services subcontractors are required to use the services of the Georgia Applicant Processing Services (GAPS) for federal background and fingerprint checks.

Funding & Awarding

Q On page 8 of the NOFA, Program Funding, in the second paragraph it states that all of the FY 2023 allocation that ARC received from Georgia DHS is capital funding that is reimbursed at 80% federal. On the same page under Local Match Funding Requirements, it states “Capital Expenses require a 20% local match and Operations expenses require a 50% local match”. If all the funding for this allocation is Capital, please clarify if the local match requirement for this submission is 20% or 50%?

All of the funding available under the FY23-24 NOFA is Capital Funding. The local match for the funding is 20%. Refer to the NOFA for the specific examples of capital expenses as confirmed by the GA Department of Human Services.

Q What expenses would be considered Capital expenses and what would be considered Operations expenses for this NOFA? Please provide examples.

All of the funding available is Capital funding. The expenses below are considered expenses under Capital Funding:

- mobility manager staff positions and related program costs,
- Trips (Paratransit, Demand-Response, Fixed/Flex Route Shuttles, etc.) regardless of whether they are voucher run programs with subcontractors
- short range transit planning as long as it is a part of mobility management,
- Coordination of individualized travel training and trip planning activities projects and technology such as scheduling software and hardware.

The following expenses MAY be deemed Capital upon submission to DHS for review and approval:

- demonstration projects and technology such as scheduling software and hardware. planning and operation of coordinated systems inclusive of Geographic information Systems (GIS), global Positioning System Technology, coordinated vehicle scheduling, dispatching, and monitoring technologies.
- technologies to track costs and billing in a coordinated system
- single smart customer payment systems.

Q Can any of the Older American Act funds that ARC allocates to the County for Transportation be used as local match for projects in this NOFA?

All the local match must be provided from sources other than Federal DOT funds. However, local match may be derived from other Federal funds that are eligible to be expended for transportation if relevant criteria are met. Examples include Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Medicaid, Employment Training programs, Rehabilitation Services, and Older Americans Act.

To be eligible for local match for FTA funds, the other Federal funds must be used for activities included in the total net project costs of the FTA grant. Expenditure of other Federal funds for transportation outside of the scope of the project cannot be applied as a credit for local match in the FTA grant.

Technical Assistance

Q Is there a technical support line to call if we are having issues with submitting the proposal through the website?

When your proposal is successfully uploaded to the ARC website, the email associated with the upload will receive confirmation that the proposal has been submitted. If any offeror is having difficulty uploading documents, please reach out to ARC staff for assistance. Email cwhite@atlantaregional.org and copy MMurphy@atlantaregional.org and JTaylor@atlantaregional.org. Late submittals will not be accepted, so do not wait until the last minute to upload your response template.