

Florida Commission for the



Transportation Disadvantaged

**FISCAL YEAR 2024-25
PROGRAM MANUAL AND INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
PLANNING GRANT**

Issued By:

FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

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INTRODUCTION

The Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund is administered by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (Commission), pursuant to Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes. The purpose of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund is to provide a dedicated funding source for the operational and planning expenses of the Commission in carrying out its legislative responsibilities. The trust fund is appropriated by the Legislature annually from revenues collected from vehicle registrations and voluntary contributions. The Planning Grant Program was established to provide funding to designated official planning agencies to assist the Commission in their responsibilities at the local level and to provide support to the Local Coordinating Boards.

This manual contains information regarding the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Program administered by the Commission. It provides guidance to designated official planning agencies when implementing local transportation disadvantaged planning services under the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

This manual is divided into two parts: Program Requirements and the Grant Recipient Information Instructions.

PART I PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

This part of the manual contains requirements that accompany the Planning Grant Program and the tasks that are required to be accomplished.

1. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Recipients

An eligible recipient is any official body, agency or entity designated by the Commission to fulfill the functions associated with staffing the local coordinating board (LCB) and other necessary local designated planning agency functions. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) shall serve as the planning agency in areas covered by such organizations unless the Commission has designated a service area beyond the area for which an MPO has been created to serve. In designated service areas not covered by a MPO, agencies eligible for selection as the designated planning agency include county or city governments, regional planning councils, local planning organizations or other planning providers who are currently performing planning activities in designated service areas or capable of such.

To be eligible for this grant agreement, there must be an active LCB in the respective service area to assist in the successful completion of the tasks herein. The determination of whether a LCB is functioning will be based on supportive documentation in the Commission files.

B. Allowable Activities

This is a fixed-price agreement to complete tasks identified in the law, rule, this Program Manual and the grant agreement. It is not subject to adjustment due to the actual cost experience of the recipient in the performance of the grant agreement. The amount paid is based on the weighted value of the tasks and deliverables listed below that have been accomplished for the invoiced period. Prior to payment, the tasks performed and deliverables are subject to review and acceptance by the Commission. The criteria for acceptance of completed tasks and deliverables are based on the most recent regulations, guidelines or directives related to the particular task and deliverable. Specific required tasks are as follows:

TASK 1:

Weighted value = 17%

Jointly develop and annually update the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) with the community transportation coordinator (CTC) and the LCB.

Deliverable: Complete initial TDSP or annual updates. Must be approved by the LCB no later than June 30th of the current grant cycle.

TASK 2 A:

Weighted value = 15%

When necessary and in cooperation with the LCB, solicit and recommend a CTC. The selection will be accomplished, to the maximum extent feasible, through public competitive bidding or proposals in accordance with applicable laws and rules. Such recommendation shall be presented to the Commission by planning agency staff or their designee as needed.

Deliverable:

Planning agency's letter of recommendation and signed resolution.

OR

TASK 2 B:

Provide staff support to the LCB in conducting an annual evaluation of the CTC, including local developed standards as delineated in the adopted TDSP. Assist the Commission in joint reviews of the CTC.

Deliverable:

LCB and planning agency selected CTC evaluation worksheets pursuant to the most recent version of the Commission's CTC Evaluation Workbook.

TASK 3:

Weighted value = 40%

Organize and provide staff support and related resources for at least four (4) LCB meetings per year, holding one meeting during each quarter.

Provide staff support for committees of the LCB.

Provide program orientation and training for newly appointed LCB members.

Provide public notice of LCB meetings in accordance with the most recent LCB and Planning Agency Operating Guidelines.

LCB meetings will be held in accordance with the Commission's most recent LCB and Planning Agency Operating Guidelines and will include at least the following:

1. Agendas for LCB meetings. Agenda should include action items, informational items and an opportunity for public comment.
2. Official minutes of LCB meetings and committee meetings (regardless of a quorum). A copy will be submitted along with the quarterly report to the Commission. Minutes will at least be in the form of a brief summary of basic points, discussions, decisions, and recommendations. Records of all meetings shall be kept for at least five years.

3. A current full and active membership of voting and non-voting members to the LCB. Any time there is a change in the membership, provide the Commission with a current membership roster and mailing list of LCB members.
4. A report of the LCB membership's attendance at the LCB meeting held during this grant period. This would not include committee meetings.

Deliverable: LCB Meeting agendas; minutes; membership roster; attendance report; copy of public notice of meetings.

TASK 4:

Weighted value = 4%

Provide at least one public workshop annually by each LCB, and assist the Commission, as requested, in co-sponsoring public workshops. This public workshop must be held separately from the LCB meeting. It may, however, be held on the same day as the scheduled LCB meeting. It could be held immediately following or prior to the LCB meeting.

Deliverable: Public workshop agenda, minutes of related workshop, and copy of public notice of workshop. The agenda and minutes must be separate documents and cannot be included in the LCB meeting agenda and minutes, if held on the same day. Minutes may reflect "no comments received" if none were made.

TASK 5:

Weighted value = 4%

Develop and annually update by-laws for LCB approval.

Deliverable: Copy of LCB approved by-laws with date of update noted on cover page.

TASK 6:

Weighted value = 4%

Develop, annually update, and implement LCB grievance procedures in accordance with the Commission's most recent LCB and Planning Agency Operating Guidelines. Procedures shall include a step within the local complaint and/or grievance procedure that advises a dissatisfied person about the Commission's Ombudsman Program.

Deliverable: Copy of LCB approved Grievance Procedures with date of update noted on cover page.

TASK 7:

Weighted value = 4%

Review and comment on the Annual Operating Report (AOR) for submittal to the LCB, and forward comments/concerns to the Commission.

Deliverable: CTC Organization and Certification Page of the AOR, signed by CTC representative and LCB Chair.

TASK 8: **Weighted value = 4%**

Research and complete the Actual Expenditures Report (AER) for direct federal and local government transportation funds to the Commission no later than September 15th. Complete the AER, using the Commission approved form.

Deliverable: Completed AER in accordance with the most recent Commission’s AER instructions.

TASK 9: **Weighted value = 4%**

Complete quarterly progress reports addressing planning accomplishments for the local transportation disadvantaged program as well as planning grant deliverables; including but not limited to, consultant contracts, special studies, and marketing efforts.

Deliverable: Complete Quarterly Progress Reports submitted with invoices. Quarterly Report must be signed by planning agency representative. Electronic signatures are acceptable.

TASK 10: **Weighted value = 4%**

Planning agency staff shall attend at least one Commission sponsored training, including but not limited to, the Commission's regional meetings or annual training workshop.

Deliverable: Documentation related to attendance at such event(s); including but not limited to sign in sheets.

2. GRANT FUNDING

Each year, the Commission will calculate each service area’s allocation in accordance with Rule 41-2, FAC. Each service area's anticipated eligible allocation is subject to change based on appropriations by the Legislature.

LOCAL MATCH REQUIREMENT

There is no match required.

3. GRANT APPROVAL

All grants are subject to approval by the Commission or its designee. Once the completed Grant Recipient Information document has been received, a grant agreement will be forwarded to the recipient for execution. An authorizing resolution or documentation by the Grantee’s governing body shall also be submitted along with the executed grant agreement.

4. INVOICING

Invoices for trust funds will not be honored until the grant agreement has been executed by both the Commission and the Grantee and is on file at the Commission office. Invoices related to this grant agreement shall be completed on the invoice form(s) provided by the Commission and submitted electronically to FLCTDInvoice@dot.state.fl.us unless otherwise notified by the Commission.

Grantee shall invoice on a quarterly basis. Invoices should be submitted after the last month of each quarter and shall include only the activities performed during that time. The Grantee shall provide sufficient detailed documentation to support the completion of the task outlined above. Unless extended by the Commission, the final invoice and supporting documentation must be submitted to the Commission in acceptable format by August 15 for each grant year.

PART II PLANNING GRANT RECIPIENT INFORMATION DOCUMENTATION

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Presented in this part are specific instructions on the completion of the grant recipient information document. Additional assistance may be obtained by contacting the Commission.

A complete Grant Recipient Information document shall be submitted to the assigned CTD project manager. The signed documentation shall be emailed or mailed to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, 605 Suwannee Street, MS-49, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

For those planning agencies who are responsible for more than one service area that has not been designated as a multi-county service area, a separate Planning Grant Recipient Information document must be submitted for each service area. However, one original resolution will satisfy the requirement for each service area.

TIMETABLE

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|------------------|--------------------------------|
| JULY 1 | Effective date of agreement. |
| JUNE 30 | Termination date of agreement. |
| AUGUST 15 | Deadline for final invoices. |

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PLANNING GRANT RECIPIENT INFORMATION INSTRUCTIONS

Except for the following notes, the grant information document is essentially self-explanatory. If questions arise, please contact the Commission.

PLANNING GRANT REIPIENT INFORMATION

LEGAL NAME: The full legal name of the grantee's organization, not an individual. Name must match Federal ID number and the information registered with MyFloridaMarketPlace.

FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: The number used by all employers within the United States to identify their payroll and federal income tax. Name must match Federal ID number and the information registered with MyFloridaMarketPlace.

REGISTERED ADDRESS: This should be the grant recipient's mailing address as registered in MyFloridaMarketPlace, and will be the address on the grant agreement. This address should also be consistent with the address associated with your Federal Employer Identification (FEI) Number.

CONTACT PERSON, PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESS: Provide the name of the person who will be the point of contact, their phone number and email address.

PROJECT LOCATION: This is the service area [county(ies)] the Planning Agency is designated to serve. Planning Agencies that serve several different service areas shall complete a separate Grant Recipient Information document for each service area.

BUDGET ALLOCATION: Using the Commission approved Planning Grant Allocations chart, complete the funding category as appropriate. **Once the line item is complete, right click on the space provided for the "Total Project Amount." Select "update field" from the drop-down box. This will automatically calculate the total project amount.**