

Florida Commission for the



**Transportation  
Disadvantaged**

**Innovative Service  
Development Grant Program  
Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

**April 18, 2024**



## Webinar Topics

- Recap Expectations for Grant Proposals
- Summarize Feedback from “Early Birds”
- Webinar Participant Feedback Session

## Webinar Rules

- This is for Community Transportation Coordinators (CTCs) and other parties interested in developing an ISD project.
- This is being recorded and will be posted on the CTD website.
- All audio and phone lines are muted.
- Webinar participants should use chatbox to submit questions/comments.
- CTD will only respond to feedback regarding the ISD Grant program.

# Recap of Grant Expectations

General Appropriations Act includes \$3 million for the ISD Grant for FY24-25.

- Represents \$3 million less than what was appropriated last year (FY23-24).

Legislative proviso:

- Caps the maximum amount for a single service area at \$750,000 and \$1.5 million for a project serving multiple service areas.
- Limits service areas to one grant award.

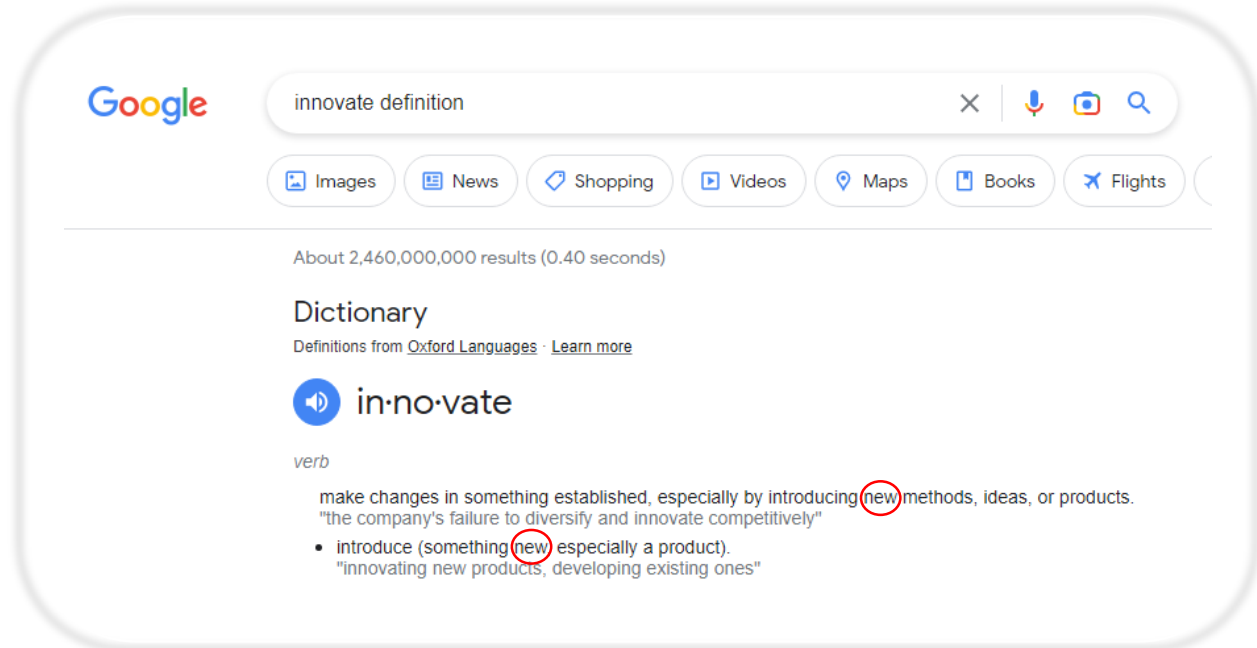
Funding is contingent on Governor's approval.

Current year project presentations are April 23-24, from 9:30am – 11am

Applications due to CTD: April 30, 2024, by 11:59pm (Eastern Time).

CTD scheduled to approve projects at the June 3 Commission Business Meeting.

Remember,  
it's got to be  
"innovative!"



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innovate definition

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Dictionary

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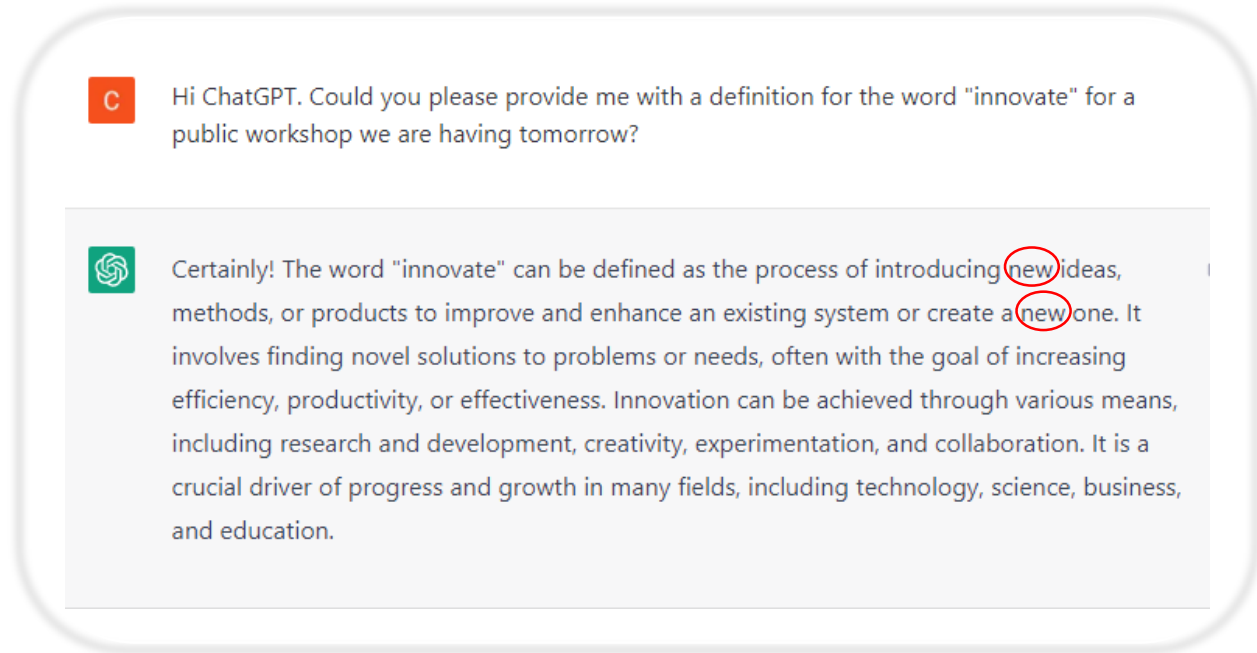
 in·no·vate


*verb*


make changes in something established, especially by introducing **new** methods, ideas, or products.  
"the company's failure to diversify and innovate competitively"

- introduce (something **new** especially a product).  
"innovating new products, developing existing ones"

If it's  
"innovative,"  
then it's new



 Hi ChatGPT. Could you please provide me with a definition for the word "innovate" for a public workshop we are having tomorrow?

 Certainly! The word "innovate" can be defined as the process of introducing **new** ideas, methods, or products to improve and enhance an existing system or create a **new** one. It involves finding novel solutions to problems or needs, often with the goal of increasing efficiency, productivity, or effectiveness. Innovation can be achieved through various means, including research and development, creativity, experimentation, and collaboration. It is a crucial driver of progress and growth in many fields, including technology, science, business, and education.

# New Compared to What?

## The T&E Grant...

*The proposed ISD Grant funds should be used to introduce something “new” compared to what is being or has been provided under the T&E Grant*

## ...as in not like the T&E Grant

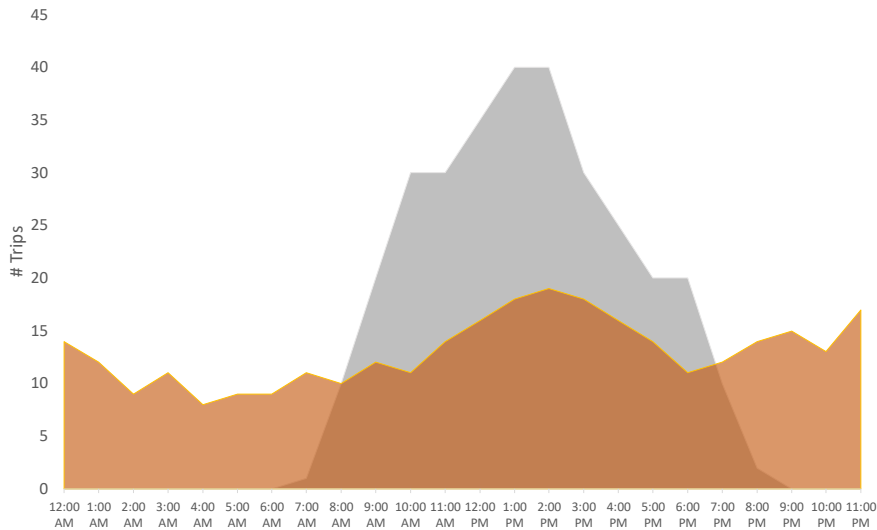
*Applicants should not propose to use ISD grant funds for services that have already been provided utilizing the T&E Grant*

# Example (Hypothetical): ISD Grant Proposal to expand hours TD riders can take trips



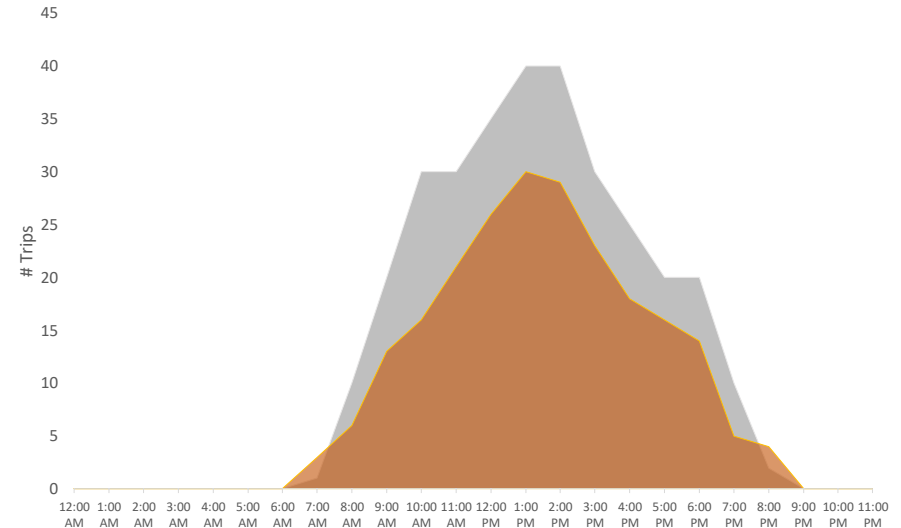
Number of Trips by Pick Up Hour for County A: T&E Grant vs ISD Grant

T&E Grant ISD Grant



Number of Trips by Pick Up Hour for County A: T&E Grant vs ISD Grant

T&E Grant ISD Grant



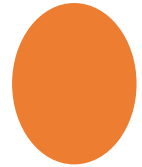
# How Can Data Help Add Value?

Keep this in mind:

Your goal is to present a project that enhances rider mobility.

How can data be used to bring value to your project?

How can data be used to make your project stand out above the rest?







# Trust But Verify

**Rule #1**: Do not misrepresent information.

Performance will be evaluated with trip data.

“Innovative” means something NEW is being tested in the TD program.

Consider verifying:

- Costs (rates and trip frequency/distance)
- Efficiency (mileage and time to deliver trip)
- Duplication (no similar trips reported in T&E).

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## “Early Bird” Takeaways



Projects re-applying **must** include information on current year outcomes/progress.

If applicant proposes changes to current year project (i.e., trip estimates, eligibility, etc.), please explain why.

Be concise and clearly state what the project is trying to accomplish.

Don't forget to cite sources when making claims (i.e., TDSP, Census Bureau, etc.).

Re-read proposals before submitting them – check for grammar and mathematical errors.

# Current Year Outcomes

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Be careful when copying from previous year's proposal!

Projects re-applying **must** include information on current year outcomes/progress

Provide an update on the status of the goals previously stated in current ISD grant cycle. Have you been able to provide service?

Challenges that you've had, and the lessons learned from them.

# Innovative Changes

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If applicant proposes changes to current year project (i.e., trip estimates, eligibility, etc.), please explain why.

What makes these changes innovative?

How do they further the original goal(s) of the project?

Why does this change need to happen?

These are the kinds of questions you should consider when proposing changes to your current year project.

Please be sure to expand on these topics.

# Know Your Audience

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Remember, you want your project to be seen, clearly state what the project is trying to accomplish.

Be concise and use layman's terms – too much 'fluff language' can bury the important information.

Proposal should answer the pipeline of questions: Why? What? How? Where? When? Who?

# Example Statements

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Unclear: “The project will maximize the user interface by providing point-to-point, seamless services.”

Clearer: “The project will improve the rider’s experience by reducing travel time by less than 30 minutes per trip.”

Unclear: “We will provide trips for veterans to access the VA hospital.”

Clearer: “We will provide approximately 200 trips for 20 TD eligible veterans to access the VA hospital in Makam County, available Monday through Friday, 5am – 7pm.”

# Cite Your Sources

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Don't forget to cite sources when making claims (i.e., TDSP, Census Bureau, etc.)

Citing sources is one of the best ways to reinforce your claims.

Does your information or data come internally or from outside sources?

# Check Your Work

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Re-read proposals before submitting them – check for grammar and mathematical errors.

Spelling errors are very easy to miss, so be sure to be thorough in your review.

Spacing errors are becoming prominent, having uniform spacing between paragraphs can help bypass any errors that may occur.

Mathematical errors can make or break your proposal, please be sure that you are checking these numbers.



# Early Bird Applicants

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Projects who have submitted an Early Bird Application **MUST** resubmit their applications!

# Process Timeline

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April 30<sup>th</sup> – Final applications due CTD by 11:59pm.

Applications and Evaluation Rubric forwarded to subcommittee members for review

May 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – Subcommittee meeting to vote on projects and funding recommendations for Commission consideration.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Commission Business Meeting, where projects are expected to be approved for FY24-25

# Let's Recap

What Have We  
Learned Today?

Application deadline is April 30, 2024.

Previous year projects will be considered first BUT MUST include all current information in proposal.

Proposals that are contradicted by data will unlikely be recommended.

Subcommittee may recommend lower amounts to remain within budget.

Projects must be innovative – “more money, more trips” is not sufficient.



## Webinar Participant Feedback Session

