

41-2.014 Grants Program.

(1) Eligible Applicants. Grant funds will be allocated annually to the following entities:

- (a) Community Transportation Coordinators who have an executed Memorandum of Agreement.
- (b) Metropolitan Planning Organizations or Designated Official Planning Agencies approved by the Commission.

(2) Types of Grants.

(a) Trip and Equipment Related. Trip and equipment related grant funds may be used for the provision of non-sponsored transportation disadvantaged services and for the purchase of capital equipment to be used for services provided to the transportation disadvantaged. Capital equipment expenditures will be limited to no more than 25% of the Commission participation and the required match.

(b) Planning Related. Planning related grant funds may be used by an eligible Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency to assist the Commission in their responsibilities at the local level as identified in chapter 427, F.S., including support to the local Coordinating Board.

(c) Innovation and Service Development. Innovation and service development related grant funds may be awarded competitively to support projects that:

- 1. Enhance the access of older adults, persons with disabilities, and low income individuals to healthcare, shopping, education, employment, public services, and recreation;
- 2. Assist in the development, improvement, and use of transportation systems in non-urbanized areas;
- 3. Promote the efficient coordination of services;
- 4. Encourage private transportation provider participation.

(3) Match Requirement. Eligible grant recipients for the trip and equipment grants only, must provide at least 10% of the total project cost as a local match. The match must be cash generated from local sources. Voluntary dollar collections do not require a match.

(4) Distribution of Grant Funds. On or about December 15 of each year, the Commission shall allocate a portion identified as the Grants Program of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund in the following manner:

(a) An annual amount of \$1,372,060 of the Grants Program shall be designated for planning grants to assist the Commission with implementation and maintenance of the program at the local level. Beginning with the 2002/2003 grant cycle, the annual cap will be adjusted by the same percentage increase equivalent to state employees as set by the Legislature.

(b) The voluntary dollar collections will be returned to the county where said funds were collected. The voluntary dollar collections shall be designated for additional trips at the local level.

(c) The remaining portion of funds, except as specified in paragraph 41-2.014(4)(b), F.A.C., will be appropriated for the Grants Program and designated for trip and equipment related grants, subject to limitations of paragraphs 41-2.014(1)(a) and (2)(a), F.A.C.

(5) Distribution of Trip and Equipment Related Grant Funds. Each eligible applicant's allocation will be determined for the county or counties within the designated service area for which the applicant provides coordinated transportation disadvantaged services.

~~(a) In order to maintain system and service stability, the Commission's Fiscal Year 99/00 Allocation of Trip and Equipment Grant Funds, dated 02/99, incorporated herein by reference, shall be the base allocation for each subsequent year's distribution for trip and equipment related grant funds. No county shall receive less than the base allocation unless the Commission's five year cash flow forecast falls below the Fiscal Year 99/00 levels allocated to the trip and equipment grant related program.~~

~~(b) If the level of funding available for distribution to the trip and equipment grant program falls below the base as stated in paragraph 41-2.014(5)(a), F.A.C., a proportionate adjustment to the base allocation will be made. Such adjustment will be based on the five year cash flow forecast of the Commission, and each county's share of the Fiscal Year 99/00 trip and equipment related grant allocation.~~

~~(c) (a) Allocation of additional trip and equipment grant funds above the amount used in the base allocation will be allocated to eligible applicants shall be based on a comparative ranking of all eligible applicants in each of the following four categories:~~

~~1. The applicant's total county area in square miles as a percentage of the total square miles of all eligible applicants. The county's total transportation disadvantaged eligible population as a percentage of the state's total transportation disadvantaged eligible population, based on the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.~~

~~2. Total system passenger trips provided as a percentage of all eligible applicant trips reported. The county's total centerline miles of public roads as a percentage of the state's total centerline miles of public roads, based on public mileage data reported by~~

the Federal Highway Administration.

3. Total system vehicle miles traveled as a percentage of all eligible applicants vehicle miles traveled and reported. The county's total transportation disadvantaged services provided by trip and equipment grant funds as a percentage of the state's total transportation disadvantaged services provided by trip and equipment grant funds, as reported on the invoices submitted by applicants for reimbursement under the trip and equipment grant program.

4. Total county population as a percentage of the total population of all eligible applicants. The county's total allocated amount of trip and equipment grant funds as a percentage of the state's total allocated amount of trip and equipment grant funds, based on allocated amounts from the previous fiscal year.

(d) (b) For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, each category shall represent the following percentages of the state's total allocated amount for the trip and equipment grant program: Each category will represent one fourth of the trip related grant funds.

1. 2.5% based on the state's total transportation disadvantaged eligible population.

2. 2.5% based on the state's total centerline miles of public roads.

3. 15% based on the state's total transportation disadvantaged services provided by trip and equipment grant funds.

4. 80% based on the state's total allocated amount from the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

(c) For the 2022-2023 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, each category shall represent the following percentages of the state's total allocated amount for the trip and equipment grant program:

1. 5% based on the state's total transportation disadvantaged eligible population.

2. 5% based on the state's total centerline miles of public roads.

3. 30% based on the state's total transportation disadvantaged services provided by trip and equipment grant funds.

4. 60% based on the state's total allocated amount from the previous fiscal year.

(d) The Commission, in calculating allocated amounts, shall weigh each dataset described in subsection (5)(a) as follows:

1. Every person identified within the state's transportation disadvantaged population shall be weighted equally.

2. Every centerline mile of the state's public roads shall be weighted equally.

3. Each trip and mile provided by trip and equipment grant funds shall be weighted relative to the unit cost at which they are reimbursed. Each bus pass purchased with trip and equipment grant funds shall be weighted higher than the unit cost at which they are reimbursed in order to incentivize their use in service areas where a fixed-route system is available.

(e) Fund allocations pursuant to subparagraph (5)(a) of this rule shall be administered each fiscal year based on available data from the previous year or applicable period as determined by the Commission. The latest required operational statistics report which is submitted by September 15 of each year will be used for obtaining the applicant's coordinated vehicle miles and coordinated passenger trips data. For purpose of this section, coordinated vehicle miles or passenger trips shall not include those services provided through an approved transportation alternative.

(6) Distribution of Planning Related Grants. Planning related grant funds will be apportioned for distribution to the planning agencies as follows:

(a) 25% of the planning allocation shall be divided into shares equal to the percentage of population each county has relative to the total state population, with each planning agency receiving a share for each county within its jurisdiction;

(b) 75% of the planning allocation shall be divided into shares equal to the number of counties throughout the state, with each planning agency receiving no more than one share for each county within its jurisdiction. Eligible applicants not requiring the total amount of funding available may recommend to the Coordinating Board that any excess funds be allocated to the Community Transportation Coordinator for additional non-sponsored trip needs. The Commission shall reallocate any eligible excess funds to that particular county or service area's normal allocation. A local cash match of at least 10% shall be required to obtain this additional allocation.

(7) Distribution of Innovation and Service Development Grant Funds. Innovation and service development related grant funds will be awarded competitively to support such projects based upon available funding identified by the Commission.

(8) All grant applicants will provide their request for funds to the Commission no later than October 1 each year, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

(9) Prioritization of Non-sponsored Transportation Services. The Community Transportation Coordinator, with approval of the Coordinating Board, shall have the authority to prioritize trips for non-sponsored transportation disadvantaged services which are purchased with Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds. Any prioritization of trips or eligibility criteria which is developed shall consider all of the following criteria:

- (a) Cost Effectiveness and Efficiency.
- (b) Purpose of Trip.
- (c) Unmet Needs.
- (d) Available Resources.

Rulemaking Authority 427.013(9), 427.013(10) FS. Law Implemented 427.013, 427.0159, 427.016 FS. History—New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 7-21-93, 6-26-94, 10-1-96, 3-10-98, 1-13-04, 8-5-18.

PROPOSED