



TRANSIT
EMPOWERMENT FUND

RFA Bidders Conference

Mission: To ensure that low-income, transit-dependent individuals have access to transportation

TEF Board

- Seven Members representing private, nonprofit and Capital Metro organizations
- Oversees distribution of funds from Austin Community Foundation

Local Key Findings

- **Primary needs:** bus passes, volunteer drivers, taxi cards, gas vouchers, access in underserved areas
- **Primary uses:** Access to Health, Education/Training, Employment, & Social Services

History of the TEF Board Funding

- **October 2011:** Fund established at ACF. \$125,000 of the Fund fully subsidized 31-day bus passes to 52 organizations for those who qualify for the reduced-fare ID passes
- **February- May 2012:** Reduced Fare ID passes distributed
- **October 2012:** Distributed \$80,000 in bus passes and a \$20,000 demonstration project with Avance
- **July 2013:** Distributed \$130,000 in deeply discounted passes and no cost passes
- **October 2013:** Allocated an additional \$100,000 from Capital Metro
- **January 2014:** Approved demonstration planning project with AGE Central Texas to identify options for senior transportation
- **June 2014:** Distributed \$106,000 in deeply reduced passes
- **February 2015:** Distributed 3,594 fully subsidized MetroAccess Ten-Ticket booklets valued at \$62,895
- **July 2015:** Distributed over \$340,000 worth of deeply discounted and no cost passes

2016 Transit Pass RFA

- Due **Friday January 29th at 5:00pm**
- Online application - **Required of all applicants**
- Project description (max. 3 pages) - **Required of all applicants**
- Most recent audit - **Required of all applicants**
- 501©3 certificate - **Required unless previously provided to TEF, or applicant is a government agency.**
- All applicants must sign a statement that they do not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual preference, religion or race - **Required as part of on-line form**

2016 Transit Pass RFA

- **Deeply discounted bus passes 75% off face value**

As funds allow:

- **Limited number of bus passes provided at no cost to the agency**

Types of Passes

- Local Fare Bus Passes
- Premium Fare Passes
- Commuter Fare Passes
- Reduced Fare Passes (eligibility criteria)
- MetroAccess Ten Ticket Booklets (eligibility criteria)

Reduced Fare & MetroAccess

- If Capital Metro Reduced Fare ID card, document through photocopy or by writing number next to client name on monthly documentation form. Other acceptable forms of identification are a valid student ID (6-18years), or a valid active or reserve military ID
- If MetroAccess Ten-Ticket booklet, recipient must already have a Capital Metro MetroAccess card

Target Population

- 150% or below of Federal Poverty Income Level

Target Population:

- Seniors over the age of 65
- People with a qualifying disability
- Youth under the age of 18 years
- Medicaid card holders
- Refugees
- Individuals who are homeless
- Veterans

Primary Purpose

- Workforce
- Health
- Education
- Social Services

Project Description

- Statement of need
- Purpose
- How will assist with remaining or becoming more self-sufficient
- Geographic target
- Client eligibility
- How distributed
- Safety
- Performance
- Leverage

No Cost Passes

- Maximum 30% of overall request
- Must demonstrate need for passes
 - The circumstances that have led to why the organization is requesting no cost passes as opposed to purchasing discounted passes: **Include identification of any significant change in your organization's financial situation**
 - Why it is critically important for your organization and clients to receive no cost passes.
 - Any significant changes in the community needs for the population that you serve.

Expectations for Recipient Organizations

- **Distribute within 12 months of receipt**
- **Provide to individuals at 150% of poverty or below**
- **Distribute free of charge & without discrimination**
- **Complete monthly reporting**
- **Secure passes**

Security of Passes

- Treat passes as cash
- They must be kept in a locked location until they are distributed
- Stolen passes must be reported to Jadeline or Sam immediately (within 24 hours)
- Stolen passes will not be replaced

Process If Approved

- Signed MOU
- Provide a point of contact
- Check to ACF for deeply discounted passes upon receipt
- May request max two pick up dates
- Complete monthly reporting sheet

Monthly Report

- Bus Pass Number
- Client Name
- Client ID
- Gender
- Age
- Type of Pass
- Primary purpose for pass
- Qualifying disability

Timeline

- RFA Due: 5:00pm Friday January 29th
- Complete On-line form and upload documents
- March 25 – Anticipated Decision
- June/July – Expected Distribution

Contact

- Jadeline Cao
- Jadeline@woollardnichols.com
- 713-376-3593

- Sam Woollard
- sam@successfulgiving.com
- 512-217-6862