Consolidated Grant Program
2023-2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Purpose
The purpose of the Consolidated Grant program is to:

- Provide and improve public transportation services within and between rural communities.
- Provide and improve public transportation services between cities.
- Provide paratransit/special needs services to people who—because of age, disability, or income—are unable to provide transportation for themselves.
- Provide funds to support mobility management activities.
- Provide planning funds to research public transportation-related issues.
- Purchase new/replacement vehicles and other approved equipment.

Funding types and historic program size
WSDOT assigns state funds, federal funds, or both using a consolidated process for each project selected for funding. During the 2021-2023 grant cycle, WSDOT funded 147 new and continuing Consolidated Grant projects for $79 million. This included $44 million for 57 continuing four-year projects from 2019-2021, and $35 million for 90 new projects.

For the 2023-2025 cycle, WSDOT will award Consolidated grants from five sources:

Federal Transit Administration funds
- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310)
- Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Section 5311)
- Buses and Bus Facilities (Section 5339(a))

State funds
- Rural Mobility Grant program
- Paratransit/Special Needs Grant program

Eligible applicants
Nonprofits, tribes, public transit agencies, and local agencies in Washington state are eligible to apply.

Eligible projects
This program includes four eligible project types:

Operations
Projects directly related to system operation, such as operating assistance for rural public transportation services, operating assistance for paratransit/special needs transportation services, and feeder-bus service for the intercity network.
Mobility management
Information services that help providers and passengers coordinate and understand available options. Mobility management also includes short-range planning, management activities, or activities for improving coordination among public transportation and other transportation service providers.

Capital
Projects to purchase assets such as vehicles, equipment, and bus shelters.

Note: Large construction projects and ferry vessel purchases are not eligible.

Planning
Planning, coordination, or other activities that address the needs of applicants and the communities they serve.

Application materials
Applicants must use the online Grants Management System (GMS) to apply for Consolidated Grant funding.

Applicants must complete registration for GMS before accessing the Consolidated Grant application. Applicants can find more information at the apply for and manage your grant webpage. For additional assistance regarding registration and training, email GMS support or call 360-705-7711.

The Consolidated Grant application deadline is 3 p.m. PDT Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022. WSDOT will not accept applications received after this date and time. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications prior to the deadline to accommodate unforeseen challenges.

Applicants may submit more than one application. One application is required for each individual project.

Applications require the uploading of documents that support the proposed project. Documents attached to applications must be in PDF or Excel format. Applicants must not attach encrypted files to their applications.

GMS will auto-generate a confirmation email for each application submitted. The confirmation will not include an assessment of the completeness of the application, nor will the confirmation imply that a review of the submission has been conducted.

Application deadline
3 p.m. PDT Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022

Award period
July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025 (two-year projects)

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2027 (four-year projects)
New requirements for vulnerable populations in overburdened communities and tribes

Consolidated Grant funding from Move Ahead Washington has two specific focus areas from the Legislature through the Climate Commitment Act:

- Service to vulnerable populations in overburdened communities.
- Coordination and funding priorities for projects that serve tribal nations in Washington.

WSDOT will incorporate questions and requirements into the Consolidated Grant program for the 2023-2025 application cycle to address these focus areas.

Match requirements

Applicants must provide matching funds for each project. The percentage depends on the project type:

- **Sustaining projects** — Continuing operations or mobility management projects: 10 percent.
- **New projects** — Capital, expansion of operations, expansion of mobility management, or planning projects not previously funded by a Consolidated Grant: 5 percent.

Providing additional local match shows a level of local commitment for the project and increases the likelihood of funding.

Evaluation criteria

WSDOT awards funds through a competitive process. A panel of subject matter experts evaluate the projects and score applications based on the extent that the proposed project:

- Establishes, preserves, or improves public transportation services.
- Defines specific performance measures the agency will use to determine the project’s success.
- Addresses a recognized need within a community and reflects a community-led process of coordination and input.
- Leverages funds from other sources and documents local commitment to support and implement the project.
- Connects to other transportation systems and/or modes.
- Appears to be feasible as described.
- Complies with state rules (WAC 194-29) regarding alternative fuels (for vehicle purchase projects only).
- Contributes to the state’s effort to maintain the number of public transportation vehicles within their minimum useful life (for vehicle purchase projects only).
- Describes sufficient applicant experience managing transportation projects and grant awards.
- Describes sufficient financial capability and resources by the applicant to implement and carry out the project either within two (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025) or four (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2027) years.
**Important dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 21, 2022</td>
<td>WSDOT posts notice of funding opportunity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21, 2022</td>
<td>Consolidated Grant applications available in GMS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August-October 2022</td>
<td>WSDOT staff available for questions and technical assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 p.m. PDT, Oct. 27, 2022</td>
<td>Applications due in GMS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1, 2022-Jan. 6, 2023</td>
<td>WSDOT reviews applications and contacts applicants for any revisions or additional information needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9-23, 2023</td>
<td>Applicants revise applications, as necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 p.m. PST, Jan. 24, 2023</td>
<td>Revised applications due in GMS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27, 2023</td>
<td>Regional rankings due from regional transportation planning organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February-April 2023</td>
<td>Independent evaluation panel reviews and scores applications. WSDOT assigns funds and develops final funding list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2023</td>
<td>WSDOT announces awards and sends grant award letters to grantees after the governor signs the transportation budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2023</td>
<td>2023-2025 biennium begins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Awards**

Awards are tentative until the Federal Transit Authority provides appropriation levels and the governor signs the 2023-2025 state transportation budget.

WSDOT will award selected projects for two (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025) or four years (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2027).

WSDOT may use new state or federal government programs to fund projects through the consolidated program.

**Application questions**

Email Susan Garber-Yonts or call 206-922-3259. You can also contact your local WSDOT Public Transportation community liaison.

**GMS questions**

Email GMS support or call 360-705-7711.

**Consolidated grants webpage**

The Consolidated grants webpage has more information about this grant program.