



Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program

2023-2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Purpose

The purpose of the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant program is to provide for the transportation needs of tribal communities. Awarded grant funds and services must meet these criteria:

- Provide and improve public transportation services within and between 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.

Available funding

We anticipate up to \$10 million in state funding per biennium. The Legislature will determine the funding level in the 2023 legislative session.

Eligible applicants

Tribes 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 Tribal Transit Mobility Grant funding through the Consolidated Grant program.

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 Tribal Transit Mobility Grant application deadline is 3 p.m. PDT Thursday, Oct. 27. 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.

Applicants are required to upload 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

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

Tribal Transit Mobility 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 Tribal Transit Mobility 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.

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

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

Awards

Awards are tentative until 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).

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.

Tribal Transit Mobility Grant webpage

The [Tribal Transit Mobility Grant webpage](#) has more information about this grant program.