

FTA Authorization Fact Sheet New Freedom Program

Purpose

To encourage services and facility improvements to address the transportation needs of persons with disabilities that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Provides a new formula grant program for associated capital and operating costs.

Eligibility

Private non-profit organizations, operators of public transportation services, local public bodies including private operators of public transportation services.

Statutory References

49 U.S.C. Section 5317

Features

- Funds allocated through a formula based upon population of persons with disabilities.
- Allocations to designated recipients in areas over 200,000 (60%), to States for areas under 200,000 (20%) and non-urbanized areas (20%); States may transfer funds to urbanized or non-urbanized area programs as long as funds are used for New Freedom Program purposes.
- States and designated recipients must select grantees competitively.
- Matching share requirements are flexible to encourage coordination with other federal programs that may provide transportation, such as Health and Human Services or Agriculture.
- Projects must be included in a locally-developed human service transportation coordinated plan beginning in FY 2007.
- 10 percent of funds may be used for planning, administration and technical assistance.

Information Courtesy of U.S. Department of Transportation- Federal Transit Administration

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