



Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Section 5317 New Freedom Initiative Program.

New Freedom Funding Process Overview

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Submission

Applications are available June 7, 2010.

Applications are due June 28, 2010 by 4 p.m.

If you wish, an application can be E-mailed to you. However, a paper copy of the application must be submitted. Original signatures are required where appropriate. Mail or hand deliver the original to the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization, Room 316, Civic Center Complex, Evansville, Indiana.

Please read this New Freedom Funding Process Overview before you attempt to complete the application. It will give you a better understanding of the New Freedom Program and the information that should be included in your application.

If needed and after you have answered all of the questions on the application, you may add a narrative at the end of the application to describe the project in more detail.

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Project Administration

Funded projects should be ready to start service on January 1, 2011 at the earliest and July 1, 2010 at the latest and provide service for 12 months. This funding program will be on a quarterly reimbursement basis.

Funding

Available funding for this application is \$173,729

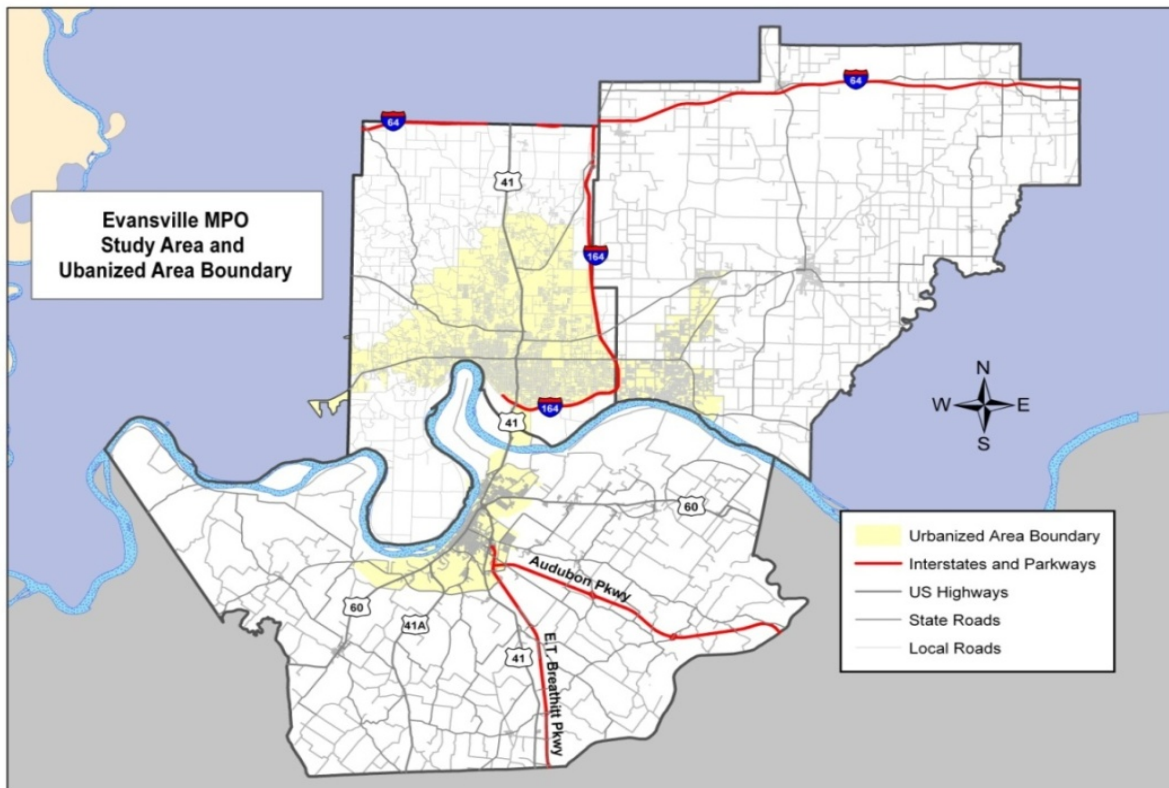
Federal Fiscal Year 2008 - \$21,476

Federal Fiscal Year 2009 - \$76,840

Federal Fiscal Year 2010 - \$75,413

Eligible Area

Applications will be accepted only from organizations which serve individuals in the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization's (EMPO) Study Area. This area includes Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties in Indiana and Henderson County in Kentucky.



Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan

All projects that are approved for funding must be derived from the locally developed, Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. Please view the Coordinated Plan at www.evansvillempo.com or at the EMPO office. The Coordinated Plan examines transportation needs of certain targeted groups and strategies intended to address those needs and ways to coordinate services among the many providers of transportation services and providers of human services.

New Freedom Overview

New Freedom funds are available for capital and operating expenses that support new public transportation services beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and new public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the ADA designed to assist individuals with disabilities with accessing transportation services, including, but not limited to, transportation to and from jobs and employment support services.

For the purpose of the New Freedom program, “new” service is any service or activity that was not operational on August 10, 2005, and did not have an identified funding source as of August 10, 2005, as evidenced by inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Plan or the State Transportation Improvement Plan. The FTA defines services beyond the ADA requirements to mean services not specifically required in the ADA and Department of Transportation regulations. Services funded through the New Freedom Program must be in compliance with the ADA.

Both new public transportation services and new public transportation alternatives are required to go beyond the requirements of the ADA and must (1) be targeted toward individuals with disabilities; and (2) meet the intent of the program by removing barriers to transportation and assisting persons with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment services.

New Freedom Program funds may be used for 80% of capital expenses with a 20% local match and 50% of operating expenses with a 50% local match.

New Freedom Program funds are available for transportation services provided by:

- Private non-profit organizations determined by the Secretary of Treasury to be an organization described by 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c) which is exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. Section 501 (a) or Section 101.
- State agencies or local governmental authorities.
- Operators of public transportation services, including private operators of public transportation services.

Examples of the types of projects that may use New Freedom program funds include, but are not limited to:

- Purchasing vehicles and supporting accessible taxi, ride sharing and van pooling programs
- Enhancing paratransit services beyond minimum requirements of the ADA:
 - Expansion of paratransit service parameters beyond the 3/4 mile required by the ADA
 - Expansion of current hours of operation for ADA paratransit services that are beyond those provided on the fixed-route services
 - The incremental cost of providing same day services
 - The incremental cost of making door-to-door service available to all eligible ADA paratransit riders, but not as a reasonable modification for individual riders in an otherwise curb-to-curb system
 - Enhancement of the level of service by providing escorts or assisting riders through the door of their destination

- Acquisition of vehicles and equipment designed to accommodate mobility aids that exceed the dimension and weight ratings established for common wheelchairs under the ADA and labor costs of aides to help drivers assist passengers with over-sized wheelchairs
- Installation of additional securement locations in public buses beyond what is required by the ADA
- Feeder services
- Making accessibility improvements, such as paths, sidewalks, signage and other accessibility features, to transit and intermodal stations not designated as key stations
- Supporting the administration and expenses related to a new voucher programs for transportation services offered by human service providers
- Supporting new volunteer driver and aide programs
- Supporting new mobility management and coordination programs among public transportation providers and other human service agencies that provide transportation

Application

The application should address these issues:

- Transportation gaps and barriers should either be identified through the locally developed, 2007 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan or derived from a documented assessment of needs within the designated communities of concern.
- The overall program goals and objectives, showing how the project is consistent with the objective of the New Freedom program.
- Description of currently available transportation services.
- Description of the specific communities this project will service, including pertinent demographic data and/or maps.
- How existing resources are being leveraged in support of the project.
- How public awareness of the project will be promoted.
- Identify clear, measurable, outcome based performance measures to track the effectiveness of the service in meeting the identified goals.
- Describe steps to measure the effectiveness of the project and the impact the project will have on individuals with disabilities.
- Include letters of support from key stakeholders.

For projects seeking funds to support program operating, applicants must provide a well defined service operation plan, showing the implementation steps and timelines for carrying out the plan. The service operation plan should include:

- The number of persons expected to be served, and the number of trips expected to be provided.
- Key personnel assigned to this project and their qualifications.
- Organization’s ability to carry out the service delivery aspect of the project.

For projects seeking funds for capital projects purposes, the applicant must provide a rationale for the use of New Freedom funds for this purpose, and demonstrate that no other sources of funds are available to meet this need. The application should include:

- An implementation plan and timeline for completing the capital project.

- Description of key personnel assigned to this project, and your organization's history with similar types of projects.

Proposals should address long-term efforts and identify potential funding sources for sustaining the service beyond the grant period.

Application budget

Projects must submit a clearly defined project budget. The budget should:

- Indicate the total amount of New Freedom funds requested for this project.
- Indicate the expenditure type or activity line item, and the amount of New Freedom funds for each as applicable.
- Include an explanation of the assumptions used to develop the budget, if applicable, such as estimated cost per trip or other unit of service.
- Describe proposed efforts to ensure cost effectiveness. Applicant should demonstrate how using this funding leverages resources to the maximum possible extent.

Project Evaluation

Completed applications submitted on time will be part of a competitive selection process coordinated by the EMPO.

Projects will be evaluated on:

- Addresses current transportation needs of disabled individuals.
- Organization's need for funding.
- Number of person's served, hours of operation, annual miles, and limitations of service.
- Organization's ability to continue project in the future.
- The quality, scope and effectiveness of the project.
- Supports local Coordinated Plan and demonstrates willingness to participate in coordinated activities.
- Organization's management capability including experience in managing transportation services.
- Efficient use of funds.

Each project will be scored on this list of eight points of emphasis. Each criterion is worth twenty points for a potential high score of one hundred points.

Project Reporting

If funding is approved for your project, there will be on-going reporting responsibilities. Information such as increases or enhancements that impacted the availability of transportation, individuals served, service miles, coordination efforts, and sustainability may be required. In addition, the funded organization will be required to comply with various federal requirements under 49 U.S.C 5307 and other Federal certifications and assurances such as civil rights, drug testing and alcohol, procurement and others. These responsibilities and requirements will be outlined through an agreement with the sub-recipient and the Evansville MPO.

Section 5317 New Freedom Program Schedule:

Applications available.....June 7, 2010 (8 a.m.)

Applications Due.....June 28, 2010 (4 p.m.)

Period of Review, Evaluation and Approval Process Ends.....September 2, 2010

EMPO Notification to Applicants.....September 3, 2010