memorandum

TO: Access for All Committee

FROM: Mohammad Azeem Khan, Enhanced Mobility Program Manager

SUBJECT: Enhanced Mobility Solicitation Status

DATE: September 18, 2023

BACKGROUND

The intent of this memorandum is to provide an update on the COG/TPB staff’s efforts for the 2023 Enhanced Mobility Solicitation. The solicitation for the sixth round of the Enhanced Mobility Program started August 1, 2023, to fund project proposals for two years. The Enhanced Mobility program aims to fill gaps in transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities by providing matching grants for services that go above and beyond traditional public transit and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit service. Eligible projects include travel training, vehicle acquisition, and volunteer driver programs specifically serving people who have mobility impairments.

To date COG/TPB staff have held three pre-application conferences in the month of August 2023 in each state in the region. This allowed applicants to understand what is required of this grant and what program parameters are set in place by both FTA and COG. In the three mandatory Pre-Application conferences held, COG/TPB staff has recorded 58 individuals that attended representing a total of 45 organizations across the Washington DC metropolitan region. The application deadline for Enhanced Mobility Round 6 is September 30,2023 at 3 PM.

COG/TPB staff will begin reviewing applications for completeness the first week of October 2023 prior to providing the applications for scoring to the 2023 Enhanced Mobility Selection Committee. COG/TPB staff have formally requested and have received verification of representation from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. COG/TPB staff is also working to secure a national expert to participate on the Selection Committee. This Selection Committee will be chaired by Councilmember Christina Henderson and have scheduled dates for the selection committee to meet.

On October 16, 2023, the Selection Committee will convene to detail the selection criteria set forth by the 2023 Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan and to discuss the review and scoring of eligible applications received. On November 9, 2023, the Selection Committee will reconvene to discuss each member’s score for each application and discuss a recommendation for the TPB to consider on December 17, 2023.

Competitive Selection Process and Priority Projects

The Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan outlines the selection process for Enhanced Mobility grants. An independent selection committee, chaired by a TPB member, will be comprised of local and national experts in transit, human services, disabilities and aging who will review the applications and make recommendations for funding to the TPB. Selection Committee members evaluate applications on the selection criteria listed here and further described at [mwcog.org/enhancedmobility](https://www.mwcog.org/enhancedmobility/):

* Coordination among agencies;
* Responsiveness to the TPB’s Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan
(Strategies and/or Priority Projects);
* Institutional capacity to manage and administer an FTA grant
(includes past grant performance);
* Project feasibility;
* Regional need;
* Equity Emphasis Areas; and
* Customer focus.

The TPB’s Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan identifies the following priority projects to make the best use of limited grant funding. Applications that respond to any of the priority projects will receive up to 12 points in the selection process scoring which is comprised of seven criteria that total to a maximum of 100 points. Applicants can still propose eligible projects other than the priority projects. For specific eligibility guidance, see the FTA circular 9070.1G[[1]](#footnote-1) or contact TPB staff. More details on priority projects can be found here: [mwcog.org/assets/1/6/Priority\_Projects\_from\_ADOPTED\_COORDINATED\_PLAN\_12.19.18.pdf](https://www.mwcog.org/assets/1/6/Priority_Projects_from_ADOPTED_COORDINATED_PLAN_12.19.18.pdf).

Priority Projects

* Mobility Management
* Coordinated Planning Efforts
* Travel Training
* Door-through-Door or Escorted Transportation Service
* Increase Access to Transit Stations
* Increase Wheelchair-Accessible Options in Taxi and Ride-Hailing Services
* Volunteer Driver Programs
* Tailored Transportation Service for Clients of Human Service Agencies

TIMELINE

After the TPB approves the Selection Committee’s recommendations for grant funding anticipated in December 2023, COG/TPB staff will notify applicants in writing and those selected for funding will have approximately 30 days to complete the required FTA documents. Following FTA approval, COG will provide sub-grant agreements to the recipients. Depending on the timing of FTA approval and the final signature of the sub-grant agreements, grantees can expect to begin project implementation in late 2024/early 2025.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Mohammad Azeem Khan (mkhan@mwcog.org, (202) 962-3253).

1. FTA Circular 9070.1G is at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2014/06/06/2014-13178/enhanced-mobility-of-seniors-and-individuals-with-disabilities-final-circular> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)