



2024 Paratransit Discretionary Grant Program Call for Projects Questions and Answers

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1. Could costs for contracting out in-person ADA eligibility screening be covered?

- a. No. ADA eligibility screening is a component of providing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-mandated paratransit, which is considered traditional trip-provision services and is generally funded through the agency's paratransit Direct Local Distribution (DLD) funding. This discretionary grant funding is intended to complement DLD funding and aims to support mobility management activities.

2. Will this application workshop presentation and recording be made available?

- a. The application workshop agenda and presentation are available on Alameda CTC's Funding Opportunities webpage: <https://www.alamedactc.org/funding/funding-opportunities>. The application workshop was not recorded; however, another application workshop will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

3. What are the changes to the program from the last cycle of funding in 2018?

- a. The 2024 Paratransit Discretionary Grant Program includes more equity considerations than previous grant funding cycles.

4. You mentioned capital is eligible and also some matching requirements. If purchasing a vehicle is eligible, what would the matching requirement be?

- a. This falls under the 12% matching requirement for capital-related project and program expenses.

5. If vehicles for a Meals on Wheels program were submitted as a proposal, would conversion to refrigerated vehicles be covered as well, or just the vehicle itself?

- a. Direct vehicle purchases as well as the conversion of vehicles (i.e. equipment) are both eligible for this grant funding and would require a 12% match.

6. Can we submit a grant application for our agency and another grant application with a partner agency?

- a. Yes, sponsors may submit multiple grant applications. If submitting multiple applications, sponsors will be asked to prioritize each project or program in respect to the total number of its applications i.e. Priority 1 of 4.

7. Where are the Implementation Guidelines and Performance Measures mentioned by service type in this link: <https://www.alamedactc.org/programs-projects/senior-disabled-transport?>

- a. The Implementation Guidelines and Performance Measures can be found at the above link under the Resources tab and the Implementation Guidelines and Performance Measures drop down menu.

- 8. For the 5-year budget contract, will there be negotiations for budget modifications each year prior to the implementation of services?**
- a. Alameda CTC typically enters into these grant funding agreements for two (2) years at a time based on the final 5-year funding recommendations approved by the Commission. Budget modifications during the 5-year programming window may be considered by Alameda CTC staff on a case-by-case basis.
- 9. What is defined as DLD?**
- a. DLD is Direct Local Distribution, which is the funding that the City and transit agencies receive from Alameda CTC through the Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee (PAPCO)-approved funding formula.
- 10. For Section B and C narratives, what is the font size, spacing requirement?**
- a. There is no font size or spacing requirements for the grant application. Sponsors should utilize their best judgement when completing the grant application.
- 11. For Section C narratives, could you provide a character or word count?**
- a. There is no character or word count for the grant application; however, Section B, question 5 requests that sponsors submit a separate attachment that does not exceed two (2) pages. Sponsors should utilize their best judgement when completing the grant application.
- 12. How do you plan on dealing with supply chain issues and long wait times within the grant period, especially related to the purchase of vehicles? Will Alameda CTC accept purchase orders?**
- a. Grant applications are evaluated based on several factors including implementation readiness. With that said, sponsors must identify any risks or delays associated with the implementation of the proposal. If awarded, funding agreements will be established based on the original application proposal. Additionally, funding agreements are subject to the agency's Timely Use of Funds Policies associated with the allocated funds. See Appendix E of the Comprehensive Investment Plan (Policy 3, page 158) for more information:
https://www.alamedactc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022_CIP_FINAL_20210722.pdf
- 13. Is there a preference for new projects? Are continuation requests considered competitive?**
- a. There is no preference given to new projects or programs and continuation requests are considered competitive.
- 14. Are the maps on general locations, or would you accept the areas?**
- a. The maps should include the cities and/or planning areas that will be served by the project or program. If the project or program is countywide, sponsors should include a map of Alameda County.
- 15. Page 5 - What is the difference between letters of support and partner agency letters?**
- a. Non-profit organizations are required to provide a letter of support from a local agency and/or transit provider (city, transit agency, or Alameda County) to confirm service coordination and project/program support. Partner agency letters are required for any agencies, non-profits, etc. that will be providing direct service for the proposed project or program. The partner agency letter should include roles and responsibilities for the project/program, including any financial commitment.

16. Is it okay to submit an application for wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) that includes planning and operations? Do they have different match requirements?

- a. Sponsors may submit an application that includes both planning and operational components. This application should fall under the Projects and Programs category and should adhere to the 12% local match for DLD recipients or 5% for non-DLD recipients; however, this may change depending on the extent and scope of the planning component of the project or program. Alameda CTC staff may consider these components separately.

17. Can Measures B and BB reserves be used as the match requirement?

- a. Yes, Measures B and BB DLD reserve funds may be used as a match.

18. Is there a percentage of reserves that we are allowed to have as DLD recipients?

- a. Refer to the updated Timely Use of Funds policy that is found in Appendix E of the Comprehensive Investment Plan (Policy 3, page 158) for more information:
https://www.alamedactc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022_CIP_FINAL_20210722.pdf

19. How do you the access the Excel budget sheet?

- a. The required detailed budget template (Excel sheet) can be found on the Funding Opportunities webpage: <https://www.alamedactc.org/funding/funding-opportunities>.

20. What is the project timeline when applying, even if the project seems to be delayed?

- a. Alameda CTC staff encourages sponsors to submit applications for projects and programs that will be implementation ready during the 5-year programming window, FY2024-25 through FY2028-29.

21. Are there any entities that have expressed interest in volunteer programs?

- a. Please see the current Interested Parties List for this grant opportunity on the Funding Opportunities webpage: <https://www.alamedactc.org/funding/funding-opportunities>.

22. Where is the interested parties list?

- a. The current Interested Parties List for this grant opportunity can be found on the Funding Opportunities webpage: <https://www.alamedactc.org/funding/funding-opportunities>. To sign up for the Interested Parties List, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/cEfahcMCdvf32MVA9>.

23. If we are partnering with different organizations, how does the application process go? And who is the lead sponsor?

- a. Only one application needs to be submitted for a project or program that includes multiple organizations who will be involved in the implementation of the project or program. The lead implementing agency should be noted as the lead sponsor.