



December 15, 2025

## **NOTICE OF CALL FOR PROJECTS** **2025-2026 ACCESS FOR ALL WAV GRANT**

To All Interested Parties:

Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is pleased to announce a call for projects for the 2025-2026 Access for All (AFA) Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Grant Program funding opportunity.

The Access for All Grant Program funds projects and programs that expand on-demand WAV services for individuals who use wheelchairs and seek on-demand transportation within Alameda County. The program is funded through a \$0.10 Access Fee collected by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on TNC rides taken each year. Funding from fees in Alameda County is administered by Alameda CTC.

In 2025, Alameda CTC received its first allocation of Access funds for this Call for Projects cycle with approximately \$1.35 million available for grants. The 2025-2026 AFA WAV grant will be focused on the provision of WAV for same day transportation service similar to how taxis and TNCs provide on-demand transportation. The WAV grant aims to expand and improve on-demand same-day WAV transportation services in Alameda County.

Application forms and resources are available for view and download from Alameda CTC's website: <https://www.alamedactc.org/funding-opportunities>.

Applications are **due by 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 30, 2026**. Following the due date, this solicitation may be reopened to allow for enough eligible applicants to be identified and to fully program the amount of funds available this cycle.

### **Schedule**

December 15, 2025	Alameda CTC releases AFA WAV Grant Call for Projects
January 13, 2026	Alameda CTC staff hosts application workshop
<b>January 30, 2026</b>	<b>Applications due to Alameda CTC</b>
Spring 2026	Alameda CTC, with PAPCO oversight and approval, develops funding recommendations for the WAV Grant
Late Spring 2026	Alameda CTC adopts final AFA WAV Grant Program
July 1, 2026	Start date of initial grant period

**Agency Contact**

For questions regarding this call for projects, please contact:

- [paratransit@alamedactc.org](mailto:paratransit@alamedactc.org)

**Attachments**

- A. Programming Guidelines



# Programming/Allocation Guidelines for the 2025-2026 AFA WAV Discretionary Grant Program

Updated: 10/15/2025

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## Program Summary

In 2025, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) designated Alameda CTC as the Local Access Fund Administrator (LAFA) for Alameda County. This means that Alameda CTC can administer Access for All (AFA) grant funding from CPUC for the sole purpose of increasing the availability of same-day, on-demand transportation services provided by drivers equipped with wheelchair-accessible vehicles. This grant program is funded solely with AFA funds from CPUC.

## Fund Sources

### 2025-2026 AFA Grant

The Access for All (AFA) Program was established in 2018 by Senate Bill 1376, which directed the CPUC to establish a program relating to the accessibility of transportation network companies' (TNCs, e.g., Uber and Lyft) services for persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users who need a wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV).

To fund the program, the CPUC instituted a \$0.10 Access Fee collected on each TNC ride. There are two different ways to meet the statute's overall goal of expanding and improving on-demand WAV transportation services in California:

1. **Collection of Fees:** TNCs can invest the Access Fee revenue to expand or improve their on-demand WAV service in each county. They can then file offset requests with the CPUC to keep some of the Access Fee revenue they collect, equal to the amount they invest in each county, as long as the service meets CPUC performance requirements.
2. **Distribution of Funds:** The CPUC sets aside the remaining moneys (not claimed by the TNCs in the offset process) in a fund called the Access Fund. These funds can then be distributed to Access Providers through Local Access Funds Administrators (LAFAs). The CPUC will allocate funds annually proportional to the percent of fees originating in that county. Since Alameda CTC is the LAFA for Alameda County, Alameda CTC will administer the funds for the AFA program.

### **Approximately \$1.35 million is available to eligible Access Providers for this Call for Projects.**

Alameda CTC will evaluate projects and programs for eligibility with the AFA program and based on the program goals and evaluation framework detailed below.

## Program Goals

The 2025-2026 AFA WAV grant will be focused on the provision of WAV for same day transportation service similar to how taxis and TNCs provide on-demand transportation. The WAV grant aims to expand and improve on-demand same-day WAV transportation services in Alameda County.

Eligible expenses can be 1) a reasonable, legitimate cost that improves WAV service, and 2) on the list of eligible WAV expenses. Projects can include vehicle, partnership, marketplace, and operational costs as described below under **Eligible Projects and Expenses**.

## Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include Access Providers, which are organizations or entities that are able to provide WAV service similar to that of TNCs but require additional financial resources to do so. Further, Access Providers must meet the following conditions:

- Directly provides, or contracts with a separate organization or entity to provide, on-demand wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) transportation to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
- "On-demand WAV transportation" means any transportation service that does not follow a fixed route or schedule.
- TNCs may apply as Access Providers if they are providing new WAV service in the geographic area or the TNC certifies that the TNC's collected fees during the Exemption Year were exhausted to provide WAV services.<sup>1</sup>

**Requirements to receive funding:** For the purposes of the Access for All Program, the CPUC identifies eligible Access Providers as transportation carrier(s) that hold a Commission-issued permit or a non-permitted transportation carrier that can provide documentation of the following with their application:

1. Background Checks: Carriers must perform background checks that meet or exceed what is required of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) under the [TNC Application Form](#).
2. Insurance: Carriers must have levels of insurance equivalent to or higher than is required of charter-party carriers under General Order 115.
3. Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing: Carriers must be enrolled in a controlled substance and alcohol-testing program.
4. Secretary of State Registration: Carriers must have their articles of incorporation filed with the Secretary of State.
5. Motor Carrier Profile with California Highway Patrol (CHP): Carriers must complete the CHP 362 Motor Carrier Profile and obtain a CA Number from the CHP.

A non-permitted carrier shall [submit a declaration](#) to Alameda CTC affirming compliance with each of the requirements and that each requirement is in effect during the term the carrier operates as an Access Provider.

## Eligible Projects and Expenses

### Eligible Projects

Eligible projects demonstrate improvements to response times for WAV service compared to the previous year and/or status quo in Alameda County, the presence and availability of WAVs, and efforts to publicize and promote available WAV services to disability communities. Alameda CTC will prioritize projects that can offer on-demand same-day WAV transportation in Alameda County.

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<sup>1</sup> TNCs that believe they meet this criterion should confirm eligibility with CPUC and Alameda CTC before applying to the Alameda County Local AFA grant program.

## Eligible WAV Expenses

A qualifying expense for an Access Provider is 1) a reasonable, legitimate cost that improves WAV service, and 2) listed on the table of eligible WAV expenses below.

For Access Providers that provide WAV services to a TNC as a contractor, the Access Provider shall not use Access Fund moneys for trips that are compensated by a TNC. Accordingly, the AFA is permitted to request additional information from Access Provider applicants as necessary to sufficiently review the application. An Access Provider applicant shall disclose whether it is a current or former service provider for a TNC. The Access Provider applicant must demonstrate to the AFA that any Access Fund monies will not be used for services that are compensated by a TNC.

Eligible WAV Expenses Adopted in CPUC's <a href="#">D.20-03-007</a>	
<b>Vehicle Costs</b>	
	Lease/ Rental/ Purchase Costs
	Rental Subsidies for Driver
	Inspections
	Maintenance, Service, and Warranty
	Fuel Cost
	Cleaning Supplies/ Services
	Other (Describe)
<b>Partnership Costs</b>	
	Transportation Service Partner Fees/ Incentives and/or Management Fees
	Vehicle Subsidies
	Consultants/ Legal
	Other (Describe)
<b>Marketplace Costs</b>	
	Recruiting
	Driver Onboarding
	Training Costs
	Driver Incentives
	Promo Codes for WAV
	Other (Describe)
<b>Operational Costs</b>	
	Marketing Costs
	Technology Investments/ Engineering Costs/ Enhancements
	Community Partnership/ Engagement Costs
	Rental Management
	Pilot Management
	Wages, Salaries, and Benefits (non-maintenance personnel)
	Other (Describe)
<b>Other (Describe)</b>	
	For example, ride fare subsidies

Eligible projects must conform to PAPCO-adopted Implementation Guidelines and Performance Measures – Special Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities (Paratransit) Program (Implementation Guidelines). Refer to the most recent Implementation

Guidelines for detailed eligibility requirements and service descriptions here:  
<https://www.alamedactc.org/programs-projects/senior-disabled-transport>.

## Evaluation Framework

Alameda CTC and PAPCO will prioritize projects and programs that:

- Meet the CPUC required evaluation criteria
  - Prioritize Access Providers that can offer on-demand WAV transportation that can be requested and fulfilled within 24 hours (same day service).
    - If there are no applicants who can provide such on-demand service, Alameda CTC can accept applications from other providers so long as those providers' services do not follow a fixed-route or schedule.
  - Improve response times for WAV service compared to the previous year and/or status quo.
    - Response time is defined as the time between when a WAV ride was requested and when the vehicle arrived.
  - Improve presence and availability of WAVs within the geographic area compared to the previous year and/or status quo.
    - Presence and availability refer to the number of WAVs in operation funded by the AFA grant by quarter and aggregated by hour of the day and day of the week.
  - Identify efforts undertaken or that will be undertaken to publicize and promote WAV services to disability communities.
    - Provide evidence of outreach efforts such as a list of partners from disability communities, how the partnership promoted WAV services, or marketing/ promotional materials of those activities.
  - Alameda CTC will keep in mind that some of the required information included in the CPUC required evaluation criteria may be inapplicable or unavailable at the time of the application as some Access Providers might be offering new services. Applicants should explain why the information is unavailable or not applicable. For more information for first time applicants please see the section below **Special Note for First-Year Access Provider Applicants**.
- Fulfill additional evaluation criteria typical of Paratransit Discretionary Grant Program (PDGP)<sup>2</sup> applicants:
  - Project sufficient demand for the program/service/project
  - Are ready for implementation
  - Provide service across jurisdictional boundaries
  - Demonstrate coordination and collaboration with other service providers in their planning area
  - Are effective, according to adopted performance measures and past performance (where applicable) or projected performance supported by substantive evidence of potential for success
  - Are cost effective
  - Leverage funds (including Direct Local Distribution reserves)
  - Have been identified as a priority in relevant countywide or regional plans or needs assessments such as the Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan, the

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<sup>2</sup> The Paratransit Discretionary Grant Program (PDGP) includes the discretionary funding from the 2000 Measure B and the 2014 Measure BB paratransit programs as a unified grant program. The 2000 Measure B and the 2014 Measure BB funds are required to be expended in accordance with the requirements of the guiding expenditure plans. The last PDGP Call For Projects was release in December 2023. For more information, please visit the "Prior Calls/ Resources" tab of our [website](#).

- Alameda County Needs Assessment, Coordinated Plan, Community Based Transportation Plans, or the Countywide Area Plan for Older Adults
- Support geographically equitable distribution of resources throughout the County
  - Demonstrate strategies to ensure equitable access to and utilization of programs and services

## Special Note for First-Year Access Provider Applicants

Note that in the first year of the application process, an Access Provider applicant shall be required to provide a narrative outlining how it will demonstrate improvements in response times and WAV presence and availability, and how it will promote the service. This narrative can be in place of the required data indicated above in the **CPUC required evaluation criteria**, if such data is not available from past performance. In addition, the Access Provider Applicants shall provide estimates for the following metrics that are expected to result from the project for which they are requesting funding:

- Expected number of WAVs in operation during the first year
- Outline of planned outreach efforts to publicize and promote available WAV services to disability communities, which may include a list of partners from disability communities, how the partnership promoted WAV services, and marketing and promotional materials for those activities

On the next round of applications, the AFAs shall use the reported data under requirement (a) (WAV information) above from the first year as a baseline in evaluating applications in the second year.

## Project or Program Requirements

### Maximum Grant Size

Not Applicable

### Minimum Matching Requirements

There is not a required match. However, consideration will be given for an applicant's ability to leverage external funding.

### Letter(s) of Support

All applicants must work in coordination with other service providers in their planning area. To demonstrate this support:

- Applicants must describe how they are coordinating with local jurisdictions, transit agencies, and non-profit organizations to fill service gaps and complement existing services.
- Non-profit organizations are required to provide a letter(s) of support from a local agency and/or transit provider to confirm service coordination and project or program support.
- All applicants are encouraged to provide letters from partners to demonstrate community support and coordination.

If needed for letters of support, contact Alameda CTC staff for information regarding Measure B and Measure BB recipients of paratransit DLD funds.

## **Equitable Access and Utilization**

In accordance with Alameda CTC's equity initiatives, projects and programs will be expected to understand the demographic makeup of their community, including race/ethnicity, gender, orientation, limited English proficiency, income, age, and disability. Projects and programs should be designed to conduct equitable and inclusive engagement and measure and report equity outcomes of program participation.

## **Quarterly Monitoring**

Access Providers receiving funding are required to report project/program data on a quarterly basis (within 30 days after the end of each quarter) to Alameda CTC. Access Providers must follow program/project goals, deliverables, and performance measures identified in CPUC's AFA progress reports.

## **AFA's' Consolidated Reports (Quarterly)**

CPUC staff will provide Alameda CTC with a Quarterly Report template. These consolidated reports are due to CPUC 45 days after the end of each quarter (February 15, May 15, August 15, November 15). The Consolidated Quarterly Reports shall be submitted for each geographic area in which an Access Provider receives Access Fund moneys. Alameda CTC requires that Access Providers affirm their ability to provide such data on the quarterly reporting schedule (30 days after the end of each quarter, giving Alameda CTC 15 days to consolidate the report to the CPUC). The first reports shall be due to CPUC staff by November 15, 2026, for the 2025-2026 AFA Grant Program. Reporting requirements are listed below, and templates are available at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/tncaccessprovider/>.

1. Number of WAVs in operation funded through the AFA grant, both unique and non-unique
2. Number and percentage of WAV trips completed, requested, not accepted, cancelled by passenger, cancelled due to passenger no-show, cancelled by driver, cancelled within completed trips, cancelled within not completed trips, unique trips, and Census Tract of WAV requested and completed
3. Completed WAV Trip Request Response Times
4. Evidence of Outreach
5. Certification of Driver Training
6. Report of WAV Driver Training Programs
7. Certification of Inspection
8. Number of Complaints
9. Funds Expended
10. Contract Information
11. Safety Protocol Declaration Form

## **Resources**

Resources for the 2025-2026 AFA WAV grant call for projects, including the application and AFA WAV grant progress reports can be accessed from the Alameda CTC's website at:

<https://www.alamedactc.org/funding/funding-opportunities>.

### Application Resources

- [2025 – 2026 Access for All Program Notice of Funding Availability](#)
- [CPUC TNC Access for All Program](#)
- [CPUC Access Provider Information](#)

- [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1376](#)
- [Alameda CTC Approval of LAFA Resolution](#) (March 2025 Commission)
- [Background Check Information](#) (CPUC TNC Application Form)
- [Safety Protocols Declaration](#) (CPUC Access Provider Form)