

**Oregon Department of Transportation
Federal COVID-19 Relief Acts: CARES; CRRSA; ARP
2022 Needs-based Solicitation
Advanced Notice – December 2021**

Summary and Purpose:

In 2021, Congress passed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), dedicating additional federal funds to COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts, including public transportation needs. These funds supplement the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) funds that ODOT has not yet fully obligated.

This 2022-24 solicitation provides needs-based, COVID-19 relief funding for projects focusing on service preservation, driver retention, and recovery efforts responding to the on-going (and evolving) impacts of the pandemic on Oregon’s public transit providers.

Solicitation Timeline:

Dec 2021	- Advance Notice Available
Feb 2022	- Guidance and Application Available
Feb - May 2022	- Applications Accepted on a Rolling Basis
June 2022	- Grant Awards Announced
Oct 2022	- Agreements Executed
Spring 2023	- Second Round Solicitation Opened (if funds remain)

Fund Details:

This solicitation includes federal relief funds made available under the CARES, CRRSA, and ARP Acts. The following table summarizes the fund sources and estimated amounts included in this solicitation:

Fund Source	Estimated Amount Available
CARES Needs-based (Capital-only)	\$2.5 million
CRRSA	\$2.5 million
ARP (Intercity)	\$1.9 million
ARP (Rural)	\$7.2 million

Match Requirements:

There is no local match required for this program.

Eligible Recipients:

General public transit providers in the State of Oregon that meet eligibility requirements for Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 funding as well as meet other general requirements for recipients of federal funds. Program guidance, once published, will offer additional details. Applicants will be required to have expended at least 60% of previously awarded funding under the sources listed above (including formula and needs based) at the time of application submittal. Eligibility under this requirement will be determined by Public Transportation Division (PTD) financial management staff.

Eligible Projects:

Available CRSSA and ARP funds may be used to support Section 5311 eligible operations projects that preserve services operated by the applicant. Operating projects can include payroll, fuel, administration, maintenance, contracted services and other costs of transit operations. Please refer to FTAs [FAQs](#) if you are uncertain about an expense's eligibility.

For this cycle's solicitation, remaining CARES fund applications are limited to the purchase of capital assets, since CRSSA and ARP funds may not be used for capital projects.

Scoring Criteria:

Applications will be scored based on an assessment of the relevance of the project to COVID-19 relief and recovery and an assessment of the consequences of not funding the project. The application will ask about the project's equity considerations, including how the applicant engaged with community members prior to making its project proposal. While these questions on equity will not receive a numeric score, they may be referenced if needed to break a tie between projects. Program guidance will discuss these criteria in more detail.

Next Steps:

ODOT PTD will release program guidance and an application link in February 2022. An application deadline, sometime in May 2022, will be announced along with the release of materials. In the meantime, please direct any questions to your [Regional Transit Coordinator](#).