

FTA Stimulus Funding

**California Department of Transportation
Division of Rail &
Mass Transportation 2021**



FTA Section 5311 – Stimulus Funding CRRSAA & ARPA

- Coronavirus Relief & Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) formula FTA 5311 \$79.7 million
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) \$27 million w/15% FTA 5311(f) Intercity Bus and additional ARPA line-item FTA 5311(f) Intercity Bus \$4.3 million
- **FTA COVID-19 Reporting is conducted monthly through BlackCat – please submit via BlackCat by the 10th of each month. HQ liaisons will send out reminders. Mandatory for FTA 5311 subrecipients.**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- Available at 100% federal share
- Available for payroll and operations, unless the recipient certifies that it has **not** furloughed any employees
- Available for:
 - Payroll for public transit providers, including private providers of public transportation
 - Operating costs of public transit during the public health emergency, including the purchase of personal protective equipment
 - Administrative leave for operations or contractor personnel due to reductions in service

ARPA funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024

ARPA Distribution

Caltrans is finalizing ARPA process for FTA 5311

ARPA funds will be based on **need** and percentage of CARES funds a transit agency has expended

CARES Expenditures

As of July 31, 2021, the total amount expended on CARES:

\$29,567,142 Formula FTA 5311

\$ 3,684,237 Intercity Bus FTA 5311(f)

Total CARES apportioned for regional projects:

\$79,730,405 Formula FTA 5311

\$14,246,599 Intercity Bus FTA 5311(f)

Current Process for Projects

- CRRSAA and FFY 21 for FTA 5311 formula funds were due April 30
- Several operators submitted wrong applications with incorrect information – causing delays in application reviews – ALL subrecipient's project information and compliance is critical to proceed – only takes 1 subrecipient to delay the entire state to submit a grant application to FTA
- Each grant opportunity (CRRSAA & FFY 21) requires separate submittals to FTA for their review and approval prior to award
- 5311 Program prepares the Program of Projects (POP) for each grant application and submits to Grant Management Branch (GMB)
- CRRSAA grant application is expected to be submitted to FTA through TrAMS by end of August 2021 (FTA prioritizes stimulus funds)

Process continued

Once FTA approves grant application HQ Liaisons prepare Standard Agreements (SA)

- Coding on SA are unique for each grant and needs to be loaded into BlackCat by GMB
- Prior to sending the SA out to each subrecipient HQ Liaisons ensure ALL compliance issues have been resolved with each subrecipient
 - If a subrecipient is found out of compliance that will not affect other subs in receiving their executed SA

Note: if any eligible subrecipient does not apply for a current grant opportunity it will not preclude them from future opportunities. Only non-compliance, eligibility, the 2020 Census finding or other FTA rules would exclude them

Invoice Process for FTA 5311 Grants

- After FTA approves grant application and subrecipients meet all federal and state compliance HQ Liaisons will send SA electronically to subrecipients
- Subrecipients will read, sign (electronically) and return the SA per email instructions from HQ Liaisons
- Once SA is fully executed HQ Liaisons must send 2 hard copies to Caltrans Accounting who forwards to State Controllers Office (SCO). SCO must hold all Agreements for 3 weeks from receipt per their rules before payment can be issued
- Once the 3-week period is met by SCO, HQ Liaisons will send out the fully executed SA to subrecipient at which point they can submit their Request for Reimbursement (RFR) through BlackCat
- HQ Liaisons will review and process payment through DRMT GMB, Caltrans Accounting, and the SCO (45 days from RFR submittal from subrecipient)

Eligible Expenses COVID Funds

- All eligible operating expenses starting January 20, 2020, under FTA Section 5311
- Operating costs are those costs necessary to operate, maintain, and manage a public transportation system.
- Operating expenses include such costs as driver salaries, fuel, and items having a useful life of less than one year, including personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies.
- Funding also can be used for administrative leave, such as leave for employees due to reductions in service or leave required for a quarantined worker.

Eligible Expenses

- FTA Section 5311 funds may be used to reimburse operating expenses not directly related to COVID-19, including maintaining regular or reduced service for those recipients that are normally eligible for operating assistance.
- Capital and Construction expenses are eligible ONLY if agency certifies NO FURLOUGHED employees
 - Please note that Capital expenses require more documentation, federal procurement review and cannot proceed without fully executed SA
 - Construction projects require further oversight which is an on-going process between subrecipient, HQ Liaison and FTA

Compliance

- All subrecipients still need to maintain compliance with FTA and Caltrans in order to receive federal funds.
- Third-Party agreements and any amendments will need DRMT Procurement review and concurrence prior to payment. This includes any operating, construction, or capital projects
- Compliance Areas:
 - ADA
 - DBE
 - Title VI
 - EEO
 - Drug and Alcohol
 - TAM Plans
 - Safety

RESOURCES

Frequently Asked Questions from FTA Grantees Regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/frequently-asked-questions-fta-grantees-regarding-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

ARPA Fact Sheet

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/american-rescue-plan-act-2021-arp-fact-sheet>

BlackCat:

<https://secure.blackcattransit.com/Login.aspx?site=cadot>

FTA 5310 Stimulus Funding

- Received approximately \$3.2 million in both CRRSAA and ARPA
- Funding current 5310 subrecipients who opted-in to receive funds (CRRSAA grant approved by FTA 7/21/2021) and will begin sending out the 76 new agreements within the next couple of weeks – ARPA grant is under development and anticipate grant in mid to late Fall)
- The new operating assistance agreements include eligible operating expenses starting January 20, 2020 under FTA Section 5310
- Operating costs are those costs necessary to operate, maintain, and manage their 5310 program.
- Operating expenses include such costs as driver salaries, fuel, and items having a useful life of less than one year, including personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. 3rd party agreements will be allowed if in compliance and previously approved by Caltrans.
- Like 5311, all subrecipients need to be in full compliance with FTA and Caltrans requirements
- 5310 subrecipients are currently exempt from the FTA COVID reporting requirements (subject to change)



Questions ?

Contacts

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FTA 5310 Contacts

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