Tribal Transit Competitive Program

April 20, 2023

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Federal Transit Administration

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration

Disclaimer

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees should refer to FTA's statutes and regulations for applicable requirements.

Agenda

- Tribal Transit Program Overview
- FY2023 Funding Opportunity
  - Eligible Projects
  - Evaluation Criteria
- Grants.gov Website
- Questions & Answers

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Objectives

The Tribal Transit Program (TTP) and its competitive award program help FTA pursue its objectives by:

- Providing timely and efficient investment in public transportation
- Providing direct funding to federally recognized Indian Tribes to provide public transportation service on and around Indian reservations or Tribal land in rural areas
- Supporting the President's Building a Better America initiative to mobilize American ingenuity to build a modern infrastructure and an equitable, clean energy future.
- Advancing the goals of the January 20, 2021 Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

FTA TTP History

- The TTP is a set-aside of the Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program (49 US Code Section 5311)
- FY 2006: Competitive program created and funded at $8 million to $15 million per year (SAFETEA-LU)
- FY 2013: Formula program funded at $25 million per year and competitive program at $5 million per year (MAP-21)
- FY 2016: Formula program funded at $30 million per year and competitive program at $5 million per year (FAST Act)

Current Tribal Transit Program

- **The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (FY 2022-2026)**
  - Increased funding for the Tribal Transit Program by nearly 83%
  - Instead of a flat amount each year, the Tribal Transit Program now grows with the Rural Transit Program
- **Supports 136 American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes with transit service**

In Millions						
Funding Program	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**
TTP Formula	$30.0	**$35.01**	**$35.74**	**$36.68**	**$37.43**	**$38.39**
TTP Competitive	$5.0	**$8.75**	**$8.93**	**$9.17**	**$9.36**	**$9.60**

FY 2022 TTP Competitive Project Selections

- Application period: Competition closed on May 25, 2022
- FTA received requests for $18 million from 47 Indian Tribes or Alaska Native Tribal applicants for 47 project proposals in 17 States
- On October 22, 2022, FTA announced $8.6 million in funding to 25 Tribes for 25 projects in 15 states

FY 2023 TTP Competitive Program

- $8.9 million available
- Eligible Applicants
  - Federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native Tribes as identified by the US Department of Interior, in rural areas with a population of less than 50,000
- Available Funding
  - FTA may choose to fund the program for more or less than the announcement amount
- Period of Availability
  - Funds are available for obligation the year allocated plus two years (total of three years)

FY 2023 Federal Register Notice

- FTA published a FY23 Tribal Transit Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on March 28, 2023
- Applications are due on **June 26, 2023** at 11:59 pm Eastern Time

FY 2023 Eligible Projects

Eligible Projects	Eligible Federal Share	Funding Availability
• **Planning** ✓ $25,000 cap	**100%**	**3 years** (Year of Allocation + 2 FY)
• **Capital** ✓ New Services ✓ Replacement (bus, equip, facility) ✓ Expansion (bus, equip, facility)	**100%**	
• **Operating Assistance** ✓ All eligible recipients	**100%**	

FY 2023 Planning Projects

- Include studies on service feasibility, adding a new service, or updating an existing plan
- $25,000 cap on planning grant awards

FY 2023 Capital Projects

- Capital Projects include but not limited to:
  - Purchase of expansion or replacement buses/vans
  - Bus-related equipment (fare equipment, communications devices, etc.)
  - Construction and rehabilitation of facilities (transit maintenance and administrative facilities)
  - Mobility management
  - Wheelchair lifts and restraints
  - Passenger shelters and bus stop signs
  - Technology, including computer hardware or software

FY 2023 Operating Assistance Projects

- Costs directly related to service operations and may include:
  - Fuel
  - Oil
  - Drivers' and Dispatchers' salaries and fringe benefits
  - Licenses
  - Service agreements with private providers of public transportation services

Evaluation Criteria for Operating Assistance and Capital Projects

Five required sections:

1. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization
2. Project Readiness
3. Demonstration of Need
4. Demonstration of Benefits
5. Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity

1. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization

- Describe the planning process and/or document utilized to identify the proposed project
- Provide a detailed project description
- Describe what opportunities for public participation were provided and how proposed/existing service has been coordinated with:
  - Human service agencies
  - Intercity bus transportation providers
  - Other rural public transit providers
- Discuss level of support by community and/or tribal government

1. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization (cont.)

- Describe how mobility needs of the tribal community were considered
- Identify existing transportation services in and near the proposed or existing service area
  - Document in detail whether the project will provide coordination opportunities with existing services
- Describe how the proposed/existing service complements rather than duplicates any currently available service
- Describe the implementation schedule for the proposed project, including time period, staffing, and procurement

2. Project Readiness

- The project readiness factor includes assessing whether the recipient can:
  - Demonstrate that the project and project funds can be implemented and obligated quickly, if selected
  - Demonstrate the ability to carry out the proposed project successfully
  - Describe the implementation schedule for the project
- For capital projects:
  - Describe and document a project implementation plan (e.g. including initial design of facilities projects)
  - Demonstrate the required environmental work has been initiated or completed, for construction projects requiring a Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, or Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

3. Demonstration of Need

- Applications will be evaluated based on the degree to which the applicant identifies the need for transit resources.
- **All applications should include a description of:**
  - Destinations and services not currently accessible by transit
  - Needs for access to jobs or health care, special needs of elders and individuals with disabilities, income-based community, and those with any other mobility requirement
- FTA will consider whether the project represents a one-time or periodic need that cannot reasonably be funded from FTA program formula allocations or state and/or local resources

3. Demonstration of Need (cont.)

- Capital expansion projects: describe how current or growing demand for the service necessitates the expansion
- Capital replacement projects: should include how the replacement may be necessary to maintain transit assets in state of good repair:
  - Age of asset
  - Condition of asset
  - Performance of asset
- If an applicant received a planning grant in previous fiscal years, it should indicate the status of the planning study and how the proposed project relates to that study

4. Demonstration of Benefits

- Explain how these investments will improve the quality of life for the tribal nation and surrounding communities in which it is located
- FTA will rate proposals based on the quality and extent to which they discuss the following four factors:
  1. The project's ability to improve transit efficiency or increase ridership;
  2. Whether the project will improve or maintain mobility or eliminate gaps in service for the Indian tribe;
  3. Whether the project will improve or maintain access to important destinations and services;
  4. Any other qualitative benefits, such as greater access to jobs, education, and health care services, and environmental considerations.

4. Demonstration of Benefits (cont.)

- Identify expected or achieved project benefits in the following:
  - Existing Services:
    - Increased or sustained ridership and daily trips
    - Improved service, operations and coordination
    - Provide actual number of individual riders and trips
  - Start-up Projects:
    - Estimate number of daily one-way trips
    - Qualitative benefits to the tribal nation and surrounding community

5. Financial Commitment & Operating Capacity

- Based upon the information provided, the proposals will be rated on the extent to which the proposal demonstrates that:
  1. Tribal Transit Program funding does not replace existing funding;
  2. The applicant will provide non-financial support to the project;
  3. The applicant is able to demonstrate a sustainable funding plan; and
  4. Project funds are used in coordination with other services for efficient utilization of funds.
- For FY 2023, no local match is needed
  - If included, the source must be identified
- Identify sustainable funding plan
  - Demonstrate how applicant plans to maintain operations once project is funded
  - Include an annual operating budget

Evaluation Criterion for Planning Grants

- Applicants should describe the need for and a general scope of the proposed study
- In one required section, proposals should address two key points:
  1. The recipient's long-term commitment to transit
  2. How the proposed study will be implemented and/or further tribal transit
- $25,000 cap on planning grant awards

Important Links

- FY2023 Tribal Transit Program NOFO
- FY2023 Tribal Transit Program on Grants.Gov
- FTA's Tribal Governments Landing Page
- Tribal Transit Program Competitive Award Webpage

Technical Assistance Centers

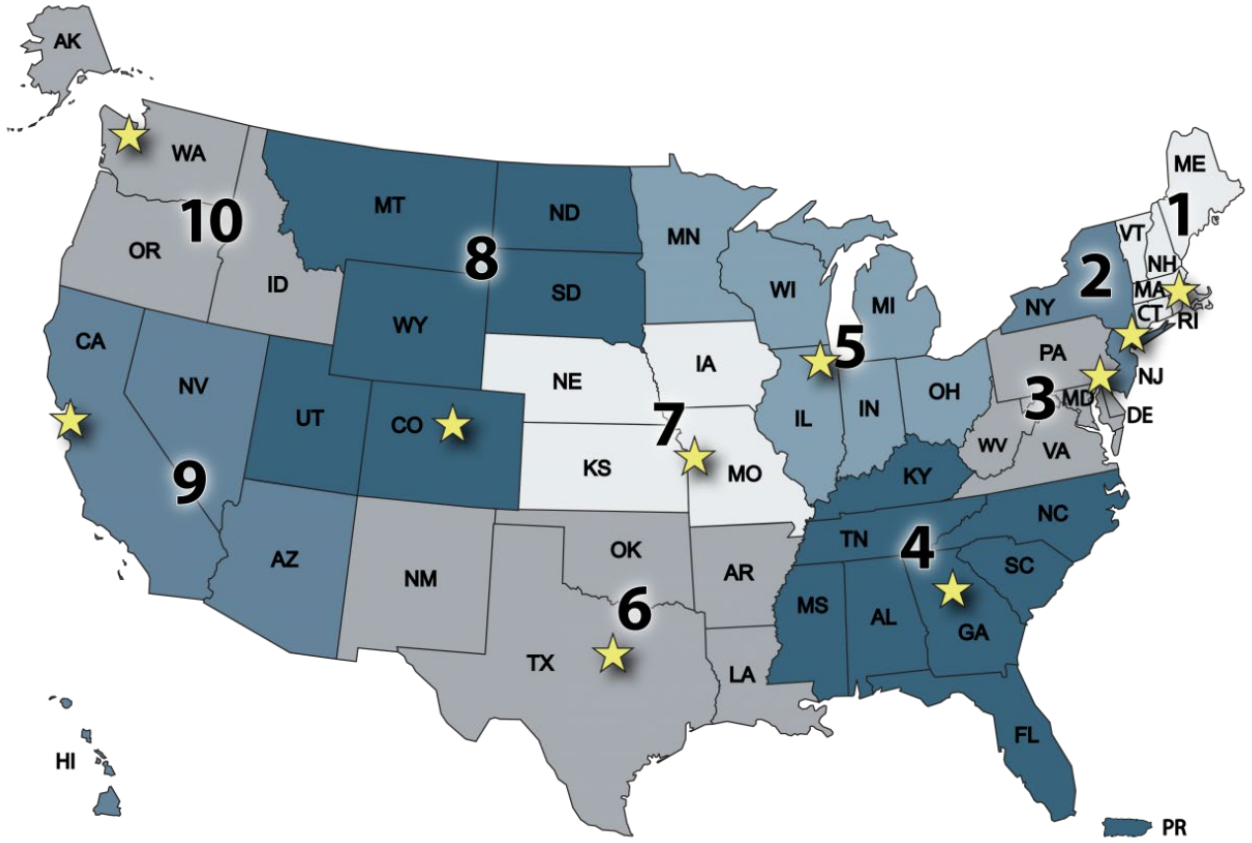
National Center for Mobility Management
www.nc4mm.org 1-866-846-6400
email: info@nc4mm.org

National Aging and Disability Transportation Center
www.nadtc.org 1-866-983-3222
email: contact@nadtc.org

Rural Transit Assistance Program
www.nationalrtap.org 1-888-589-6821
email: info@nationalrtap.org

National Center for Applied Transit Technology
n-catt.org 1-888-891-0590
Contact: grossglaser@ctaa.org

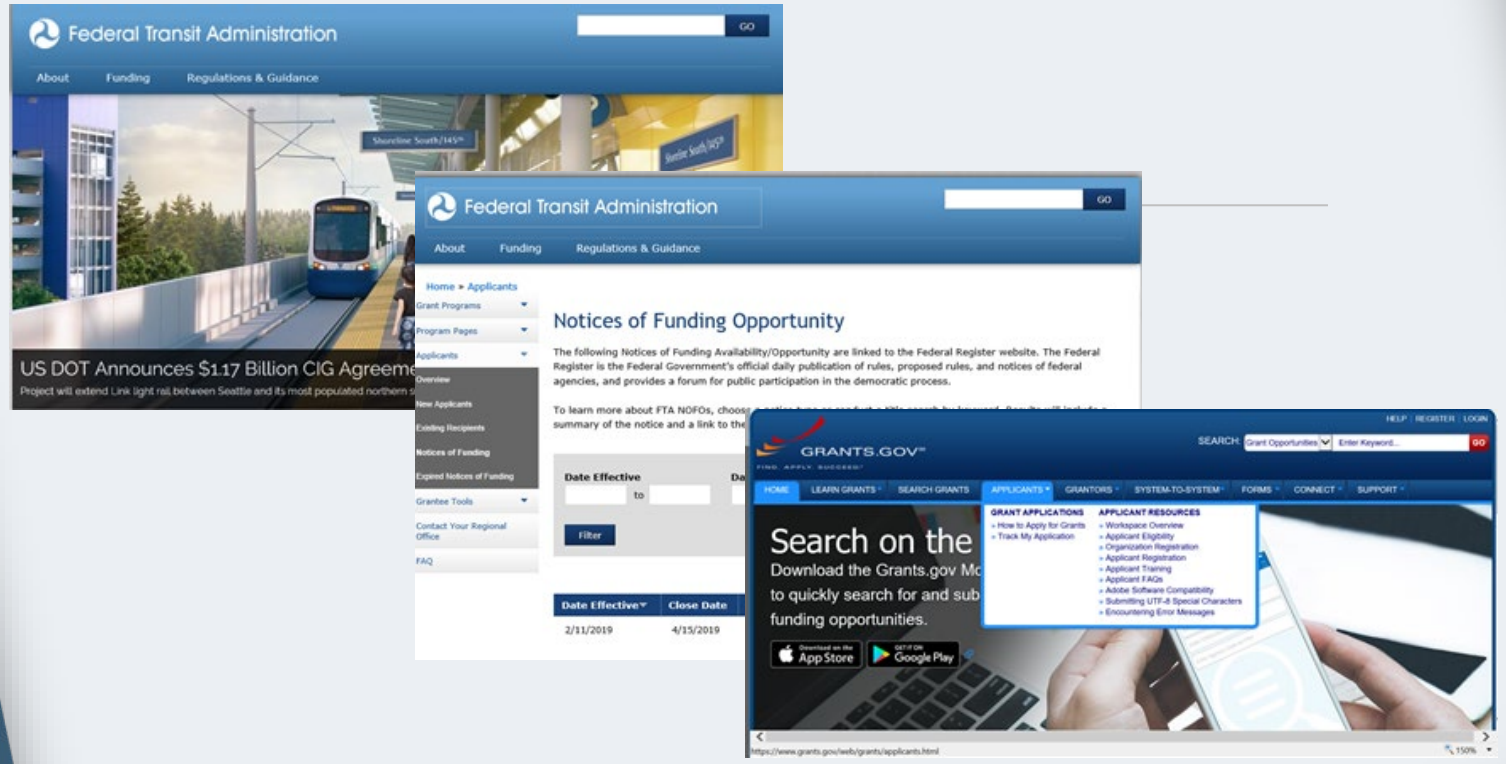
FTA Regional Tribal Liaisons



[LINK: Contact Information for Tribal Liaisons at FTA Regional Offices]

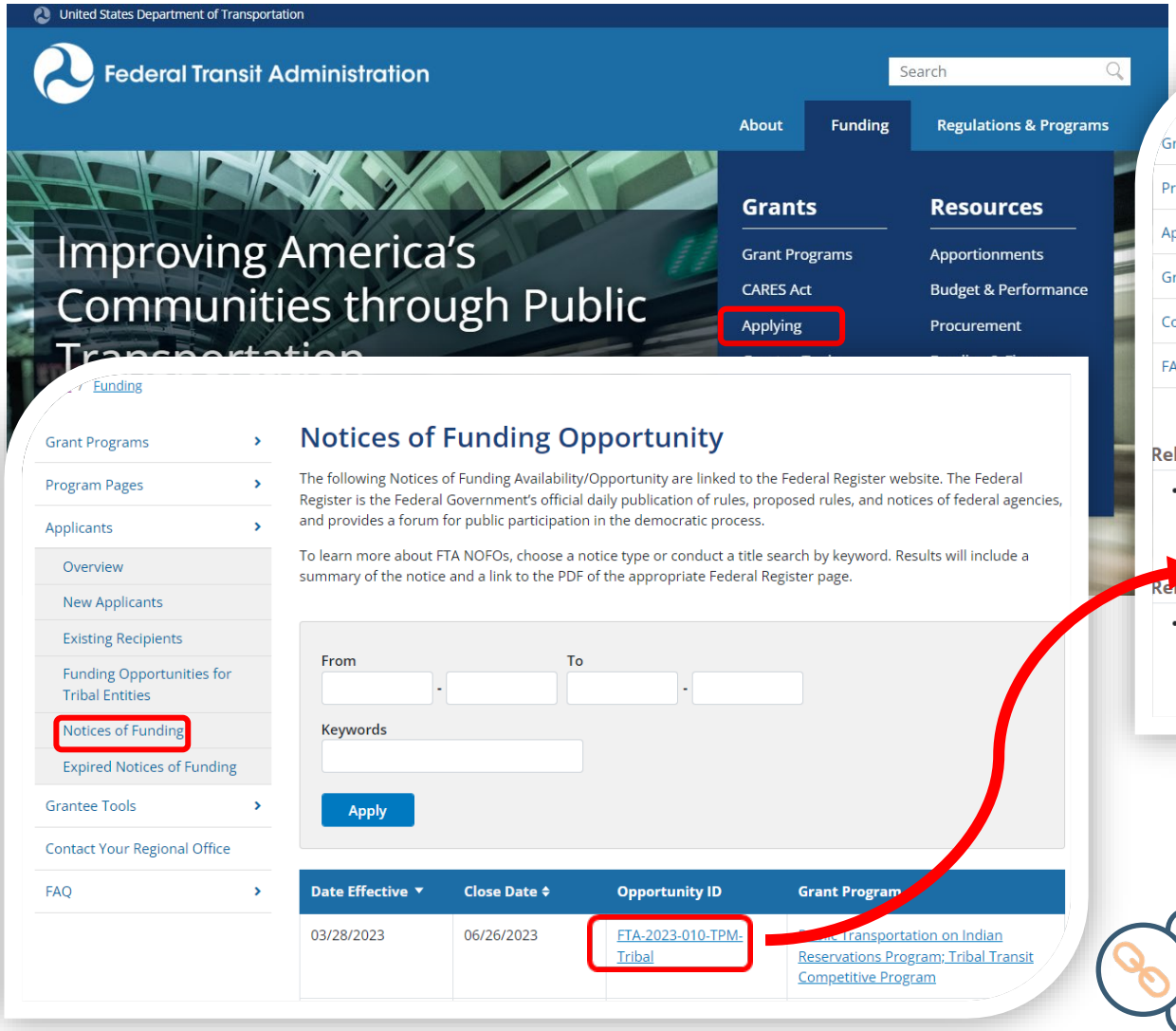
FTA
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

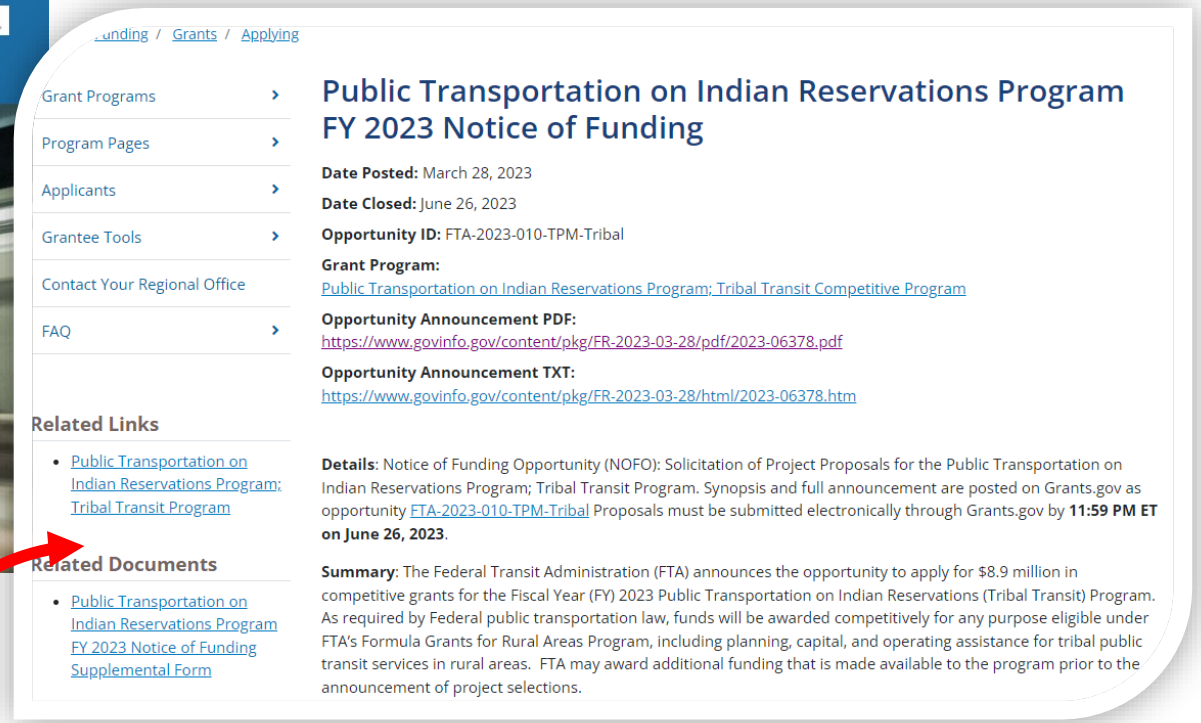
Applying for FTA Grant Opportunities in Grants.gov



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity



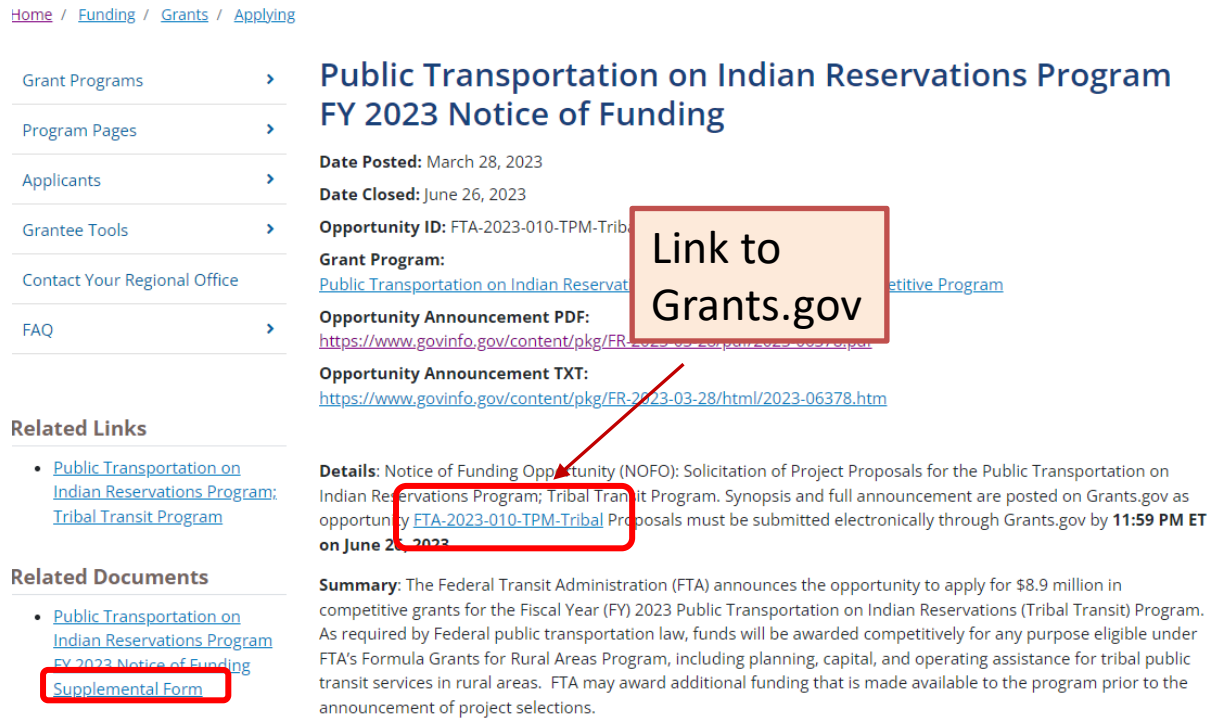


https://www.transit.dot.gov/
https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity

FTA NOFO Page contains:

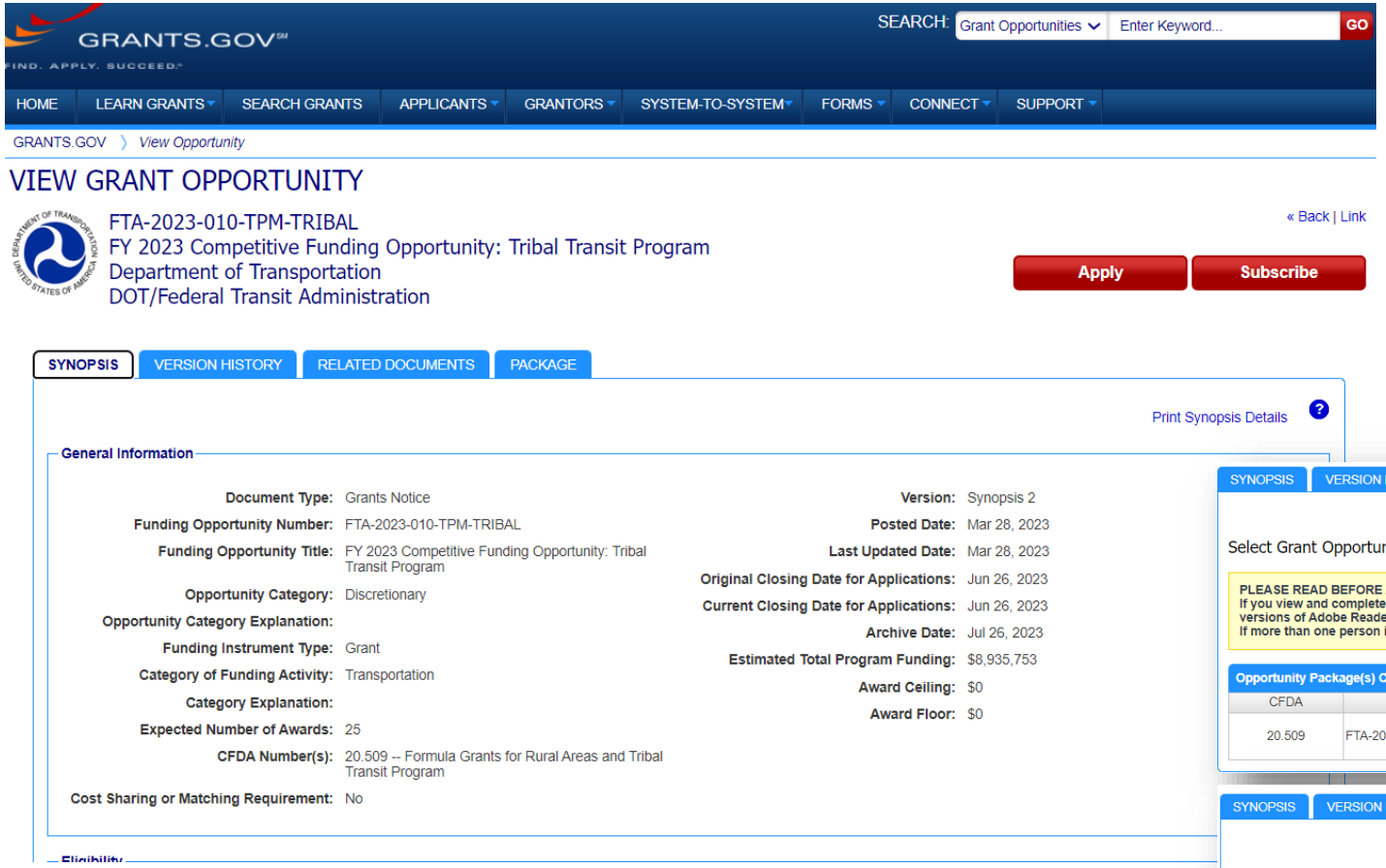
- Summary Description
  - Application requirements
  - Eligibility
- Supplemental Form
  - Applicants should complete and attach this to their submission
- Links to Grants.gov
- Links to Program Information
- Other references and links

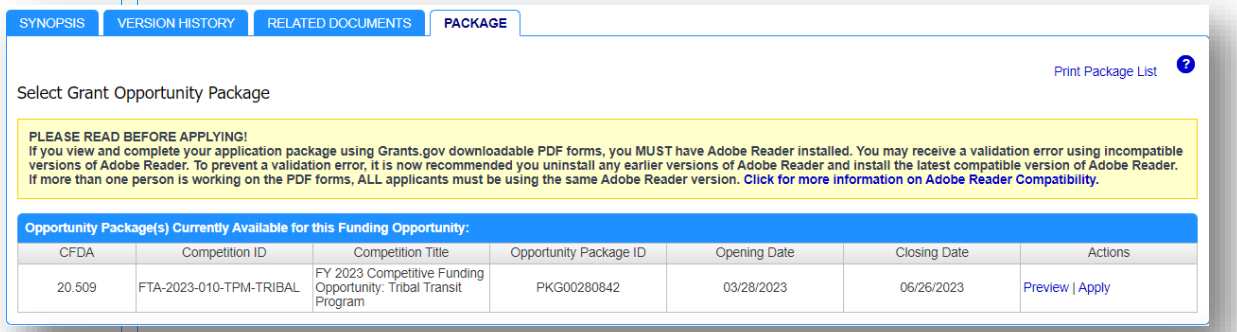


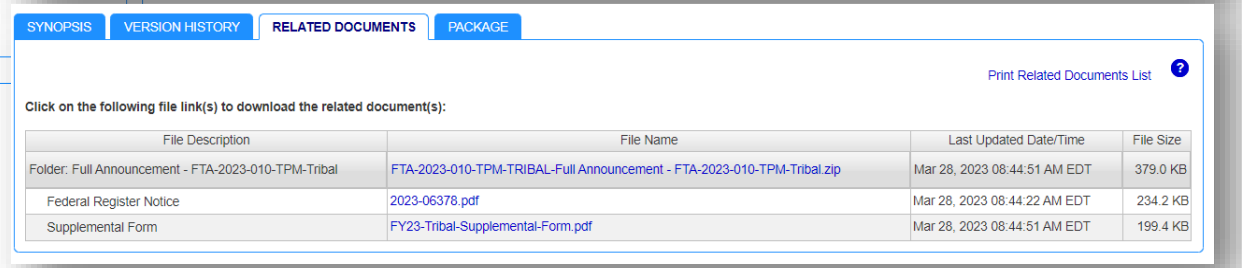
https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices

FTA NOFO provides hyperlinks to Grants.gov opportunity notice, related documents, and application package.

Download Application







NOTE: Anyone can download the application package from Grants.gov. However, only "authorized organizational representatives" can submit applications in Grants.gov.

Application Package

SYNOPSIS | VERSION HISTORY | RELATED DOCUMENTS | **PACKAGE**

Print Package List

Select Grant Opportunity Package

PLEASE READ BEFORE APPLYING!
If you view and complete your application package using Grants.gov downloadable PDF forms, you MUST have Adobe Reader installed. You may receive a validation error using incompatible versions of Adobe Reader. To prevent a validation error, it is now recommended you uninstall any earlier versions of Adobe Reader and install the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the PDF forms, ALL applicants must be using the same Adobe Reader version. Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility.

Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity:

CFDA	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions
20.509	FTA-2023-010-TPM-TRIBAL	FY 2023 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Tribal Transit Program	PKG00280842	03/28/2023	06/26/2023	Preview | Apply

Preview Opportunity Package Details

Opportunity Package Details:

Agency Contact Information: Elan Flippin
Office of Program Management
Phone: 202-366-3800
Email: TribalTransit@dot.gov.

Who Can Apply: Organization Applicants

PACKAGE FORMS: Download Instructions

Mandatory Forms (Click to Preview)	Optional Forms (Click to Preview)
» SF424 Mandatory Form [V3.0] » Grants.gov Lobbying Form [V1.1] » Attachments [V1.2]	---

Close

OMB Number: 4040-0002
Expiration Date: 01/31/2019

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424 - MANDATORY

1.a. Type of Submission: ☒ Application ☐ Plan ☐ Funding Request ☐ Other — Other (specify):
1.b. Frequency: ☒ Annual ☐ Quarterly ☐ Other — Other (specify):
1.d. Version: ☒ Initial ☐ Resubmission ☐ Revision ☐ Update
2. Date Received:
STATE USE ONLY:
3. Applicant Identifier:
5. Date Received by State:
4a. Federal Entity Identifier:
6. State Application Identifier:
1.c. Consolidated Application/Plan/Funding Request? Yes ☐ No ☒ Explanation
4b. Federal Award Identifier:
7. APPLICANT INFORMATION:
a. Legal Name:
b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):
c. Organizational DUNS:
d. Address:
Street1:
Street2:
City:
County / Parish:
State:
Province:
Country: USA: UNITED STATES
Zip / Postal Code:
e. Organizational Unit:

Please fill out the following form. Highlight Existing Fields

ATTACHMENTS FORM

Instructions: On this form, you will attach the various files that make up your grant application. Please consult with the appropriate Agency Guidelines for more information about each needed file. Please remember that any files you attach must be in the document format and named as specified in the Guidelines.

Important: Please attach your files in the proper sequence. See the appropriate Agency Guidelines for details.

1) Please attach Attachment 1 — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
2) Please attach Attachment 2 — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
3) Please attach Attachment 3 — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
4) Please attach Attachment 4 — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
5) Please attach Attachment 5 — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
6) Please attach Attachment 6 — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
7) Please attach Attachment 7 — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
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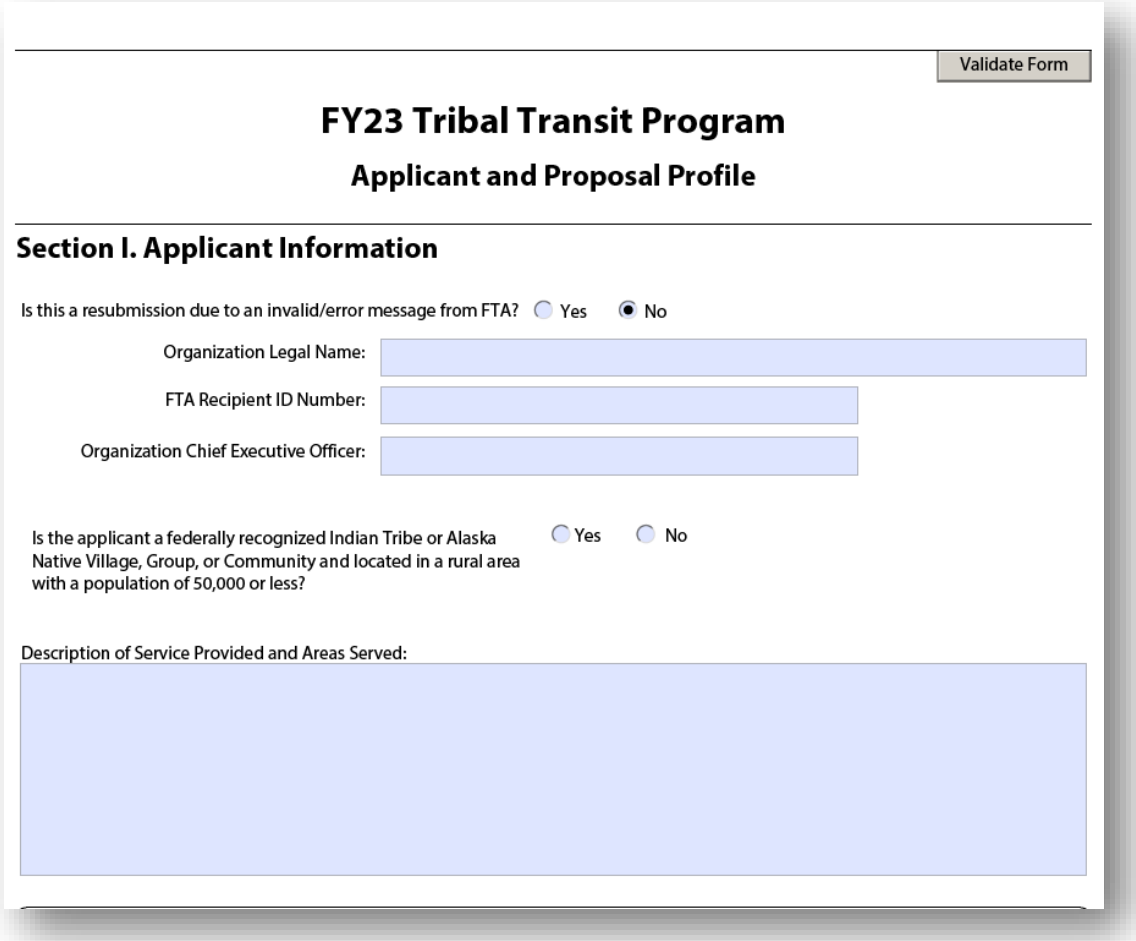
14) Please attach Attachment 14 — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

Application Package



Validate Form

FY23 Tribal Transit Program

Applicant and Proposal Profile

Section I. Applicant Information

Is this a resubmission due to an invalid/error message from FTA? ○ Yes ◉ No

Organization Legal Name:

FTA Recipient ID Number:

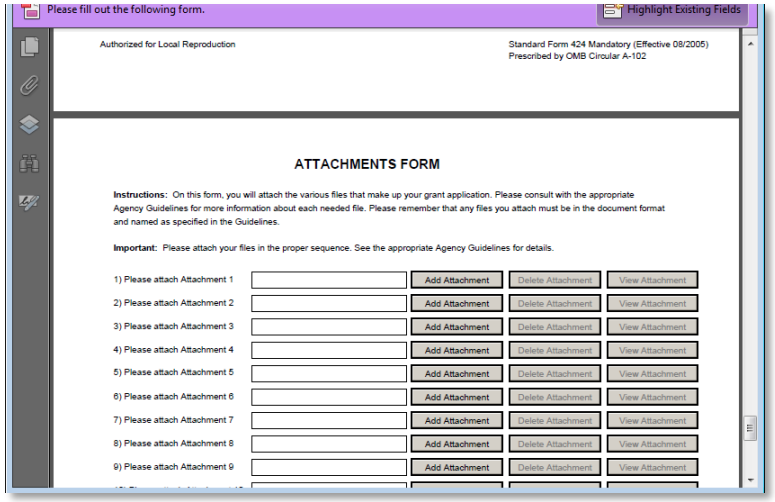
Organization Chief Executive Officer:

Is the applicant a federally recognized Indian Tribe or Alaska Native Village, Group, or Community and located in a rural area with a population of 50,000 or less? ○ Yes ○ No

Description of Service Provided and Areas Served:

The "**Attachment Form**" shown below is included in the SF-424 Grant Application Package in Grants.gov.

Please attach the **FTA Supplemental Form** to the **Attachment Form** shown below when submitting in Grants.gov.



Please fill out the following form. Highlight Existing Fields

Authorized for Local Reproduction

Standard Form 424 Mandatory (Effective 08/2005)
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

ATTACHMENTS FORM

Instructions: On this form, you will attach the various files that make up your grant application. Please consult with the appropriate Agency Guidelines for more information about each needed file. Please remember that any files you attach must be in the document format and named as specified in the Guidelines.

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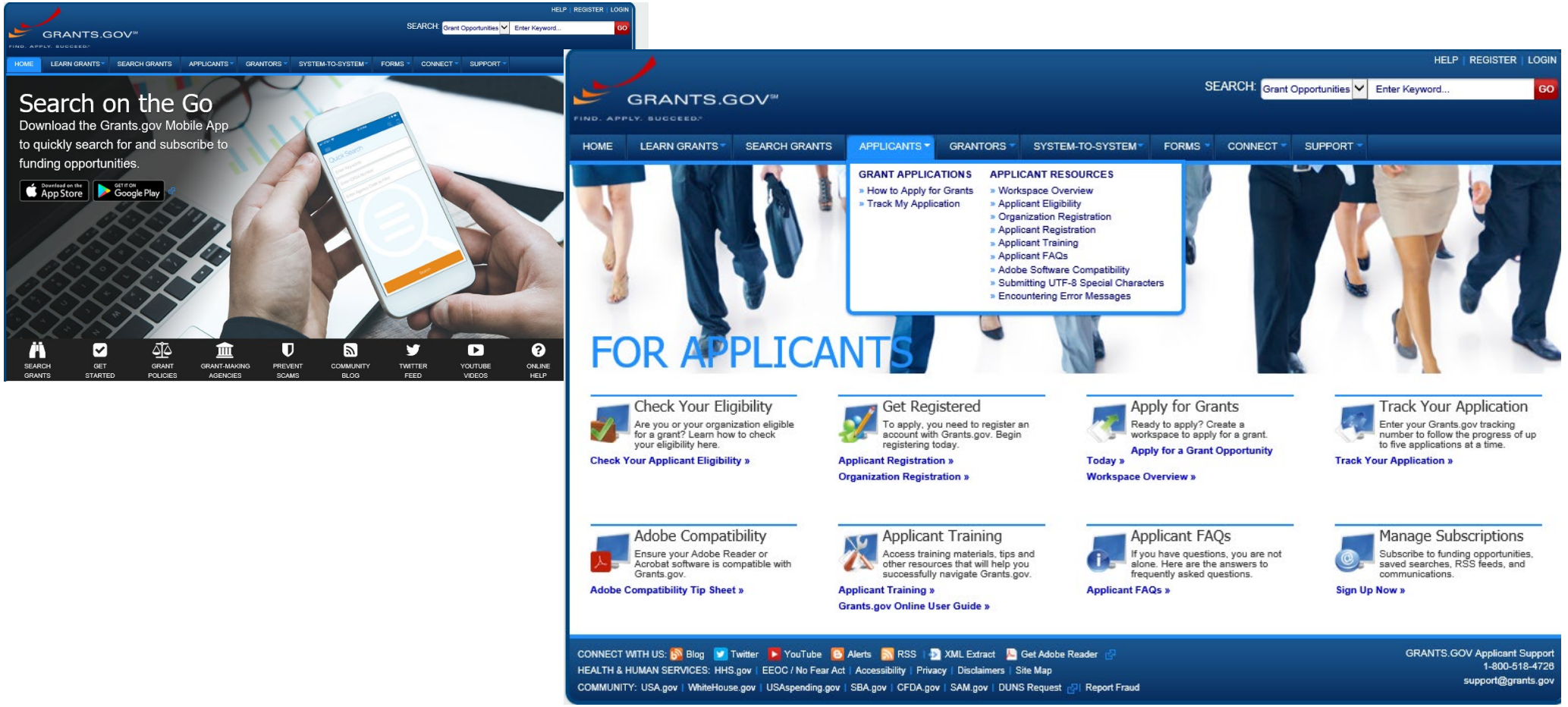
5) Please attach Attachment 5		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
6) Please attach Attachment 6		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
7) Please attach Attachment 7		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
8) Please attach Attachment 8		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
9) Please attach Attachment 9		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment

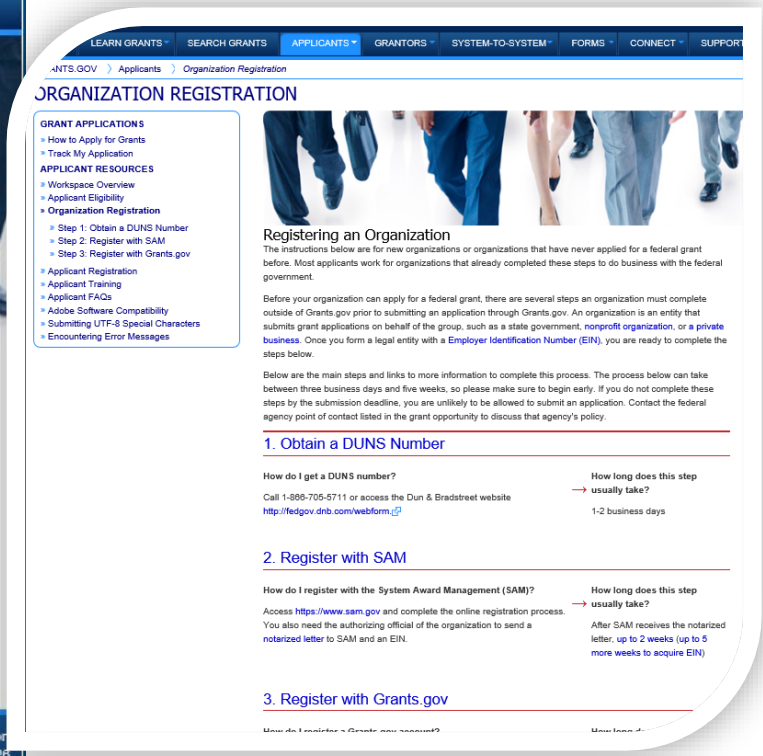
CAUTION: Do not use "**Supplemental Form**" from prior years or create your own form. Please use the file provided on the FTA website.

Applications on Grants.gov



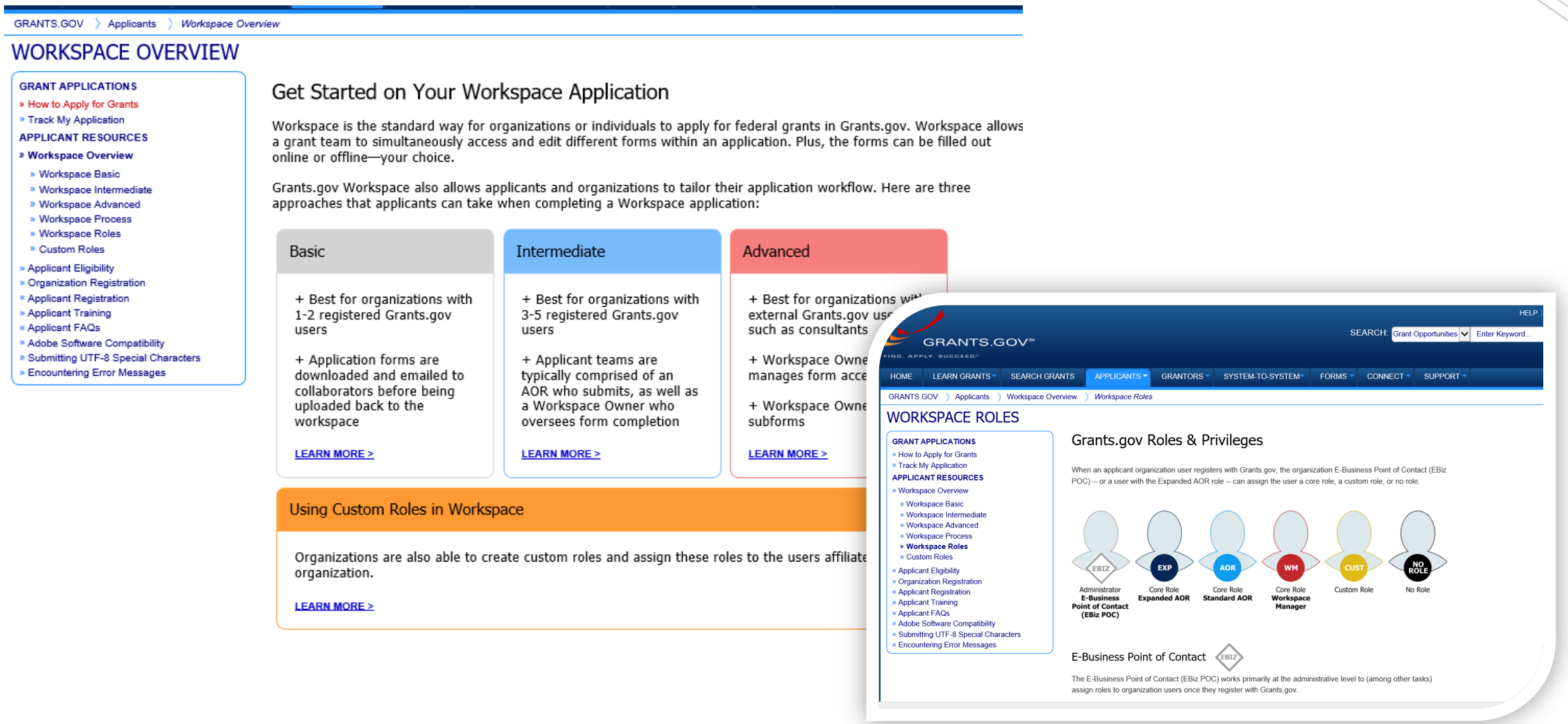
https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html

Applicant – Organization Registration



Organizations must register in Grants.gov in order to submit applications

Workspace in Grants.gov



Web Addresses

FTA Funding Opportunities:

https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices

Grants.gov:

http://www.grants.gov/
http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html

GRANTS.GOV Applicant Support
1-800-518-4726
support@grants.gov

Questions & Answers

Elan Flippin-Jones
Tribal Transit Program Manager
TribalTransit@dot.gov
202-366-3800

TTP Competitive Award Webpage
https://www.transit.dot.gov/tribal-transit

TRANSIT.DOT.GOV