# Bus Safety and Accessibility Competitive Funding Opportunity Webinar

Maria Roell, Program Manager

December 3, 2024





## **Agenda**

#### Objective

Provide information on how to apply

#### Agenda

- Opening Remarks: Mary Leary Associate Administrator, Research, Demonstration and Innovation, FTA
- Related Research
- Funding and Program Overview
  - Eligibility Information
  - Evaluation Criteria
  - Additional Selection Considerations
- Applying for FTA Opportunities on Grants.gov
- Questions



# FTA Mission, Vision, Values



#### **Mission**

Improve America's Communities through Public Transportation



#### **Vision**

A Better Quality of Life for All Built on Public Transportation Excellence

#### **Values**

**Equity** 

Service Provide reliable, transparent, responsive, and anticipatory services to meet stakeholder needs

Integrity Commitment to the highest professional and ethical standards

*Innovation* Foster new ideas, concepts, and solutions for improved outcomes

Sustainability Optimize decisions, resources, and systems to make long-term positive impacts on the environment, infrastructure, and safety

Remove barriers for systemically underserved communities to access all aspects of economic, social, and civic life

# **Related Research**





# **Bus Operator Compartment Design**

 2024 TCRP Report 249: Bus Operator Barrier Design Guidelines and Considerations

https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/27877/busoperator-barrier-design-guidelines-and-considerations

- 2020 FTA awarded \$1.6M in competitive grant funds to develop a draft design:
  - International Transportation Learning Center received \$1 million to redesign a transit bus compartment to improve safety for operators.
  - New Orleans Regional Transit Authority received \$600,000 to study the addition of shields and barriers on its bus fleet to protect bus operators.



# Bus Compartment Redesign Program Objectives

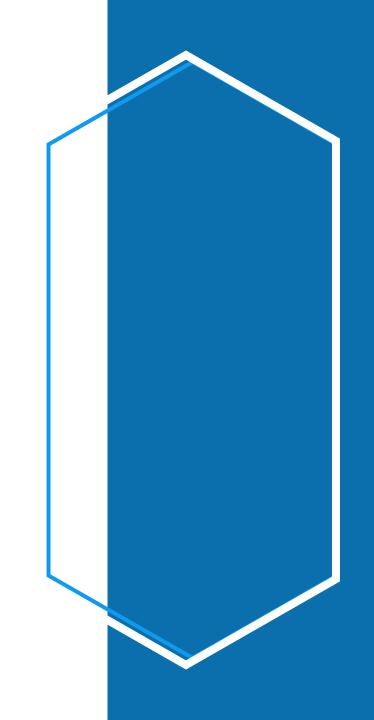
- Increase bus operator safety from assaults
- Improve ergonomics
- Reduce operator distractions
- Increase operator visibility
- Increase passenger accessibility
- Enhance Americans with Disabilities Act compliance





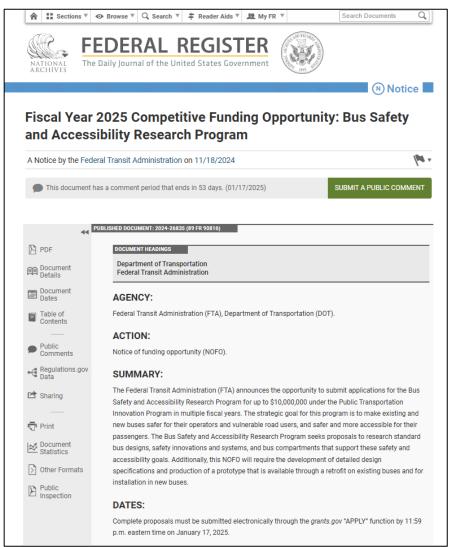
# **Funding and Program Overview**





# **Bus Safety and Accessibility NOFO**

- Notice of Funding Opportunity published November 18, 2024
  - Submission Deadline: January 17, 2025
- \$10 million available the award of one cooperative agreement
- See FTA's website for more information:
   <a href="https://www.transit.dot.gov/research-innovation/bus-safety-and-accessibility-research-program">https://www.transit.dot.gov/research-innovation/bus-safety-and-accessibility-research-program</a>



# **NOFO Requirements**

- Broad, collaborative, partnerships
  - Recipients must collaborate across multiple industry sectors, including all or some of these priority groups:
    - Transit vehicle manufacturers
    - Transit agencies
    - Transit labor unions
    - Disability organizations
    - Transit riders
    - Domestic and international research groups
    - Component manufacturers

# **NOFO Requirements**

#### Widely Implementable

- Innovative but must consider risks to implementation and interoperability
- Nationwide relevancy and fast, wide-scale adoption
- Current and new 35- and 40-ft or articulated bus models that have passed Altoona testing, comply with all other applicable Federal requirements, and are manufactured by companies eligible to compete for FTA-funded contracts.

#### Support Economic vitality

- Comply with Buy America
- Executive Order 14005, "Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers" (86 FR 7475)
- Must support economic vitality at the national and regional level, including advancing domestic industry and promoting domestic development of intellectual property.

# **Eligible Applicants**

- Departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Federal Government, including Federal laboratories;
- State and local governmental entities, including multi-jurisdictional partnerships, and organizations such as Metropolitan Planning Organizations;
- Providers of public transportation;
- Private for-profit or not-for-profit organizations incorporated in a jurisdiction of the United States;
- Institutions of higher education and technical and community colleges.

# **Project Elements**

#### Required

- Highly reliable and accurate data
  - EX: sensors, vehicle location, battery condition, vehicle maintenance, etc.
- Driver Safety Systems
  - Standardization of the operator compartment including functional prototype
    - Blind spot reduction: A-pillar, mirrors, cameras, fareboxes, etc.
    - Prescriptive about safety requirements (e.g., mirror placement)
  - Streamlined VRU safety sensors
- Passenger Safety Systems
  - Enhanced accessible passenger compartment design
  - Enhanced constraint systems
  - Standardization of emergency call buttons

#### **Desired**

- Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)
  - EX: Lane departure, collision avoidance, pedestrian alerts

# **Project Structure**

#### Financial

- 20% local cost-share minimum
- Projects structured on **cost-reimbursable** basis

#### *Implementation*

- FTA will award a **Cooperative Agreement** to one successful applicant
- Complete 2 years from date of award

### **Technical Evaluation Criteria**

- Demonstration of transit vehicle design experience
- Demonstration of understanding in emerging transit needs and demands
- Personnel experience and organizational capacity
- Implementation strategy
- Technical, legal, and financial capacity
- Planning and partnerships
- Financial commitment

# **Application Materials**

#### 1. Forms

- o SF-424
- Supplemental Form

#### 2. Proposal

- Page limit: 23 total, limits per sections
- Microsoft Word, PDF, or compatible file format, double-spaced using Times New Roman, 12-point font
- Applications submitted in response to this NOFO become the records of FTA and may be subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. Please segregate and clearly mark any portions of the application containing confidential or privileged trade secrets or commercial or financial information. FTA may share application information within the Department of Transportation or with other Federal agencies if FTA determines that sharing is relevant to the respective program's objectives.

# **Proposal Sections**

- 1. Cover Sheet (not to exceed 1 page)
- 2. Abstract (not to exceed 1 page)
- 3. Table of Contents (not to exceed 1 page)
- 4. Project Budget (not to exceed 5 pages)
- 5. Project Work Plan (not to exceed 10 pages)
  - a) Methodology
  - b) Statement of Work
  - c) Staffing Plan
  - d) Coordination with FTA
  - e) Research and Data Collection
  - f) Communication Plan
  - g) Performance Measures

- h) Deliverables
- 6. Staff Qualifications (not to exceed 5 pages):
  - a) Organizational Capacity
  - b) Project Team Structure

# Applying for FTA Grant Opportunities in Grants.gov



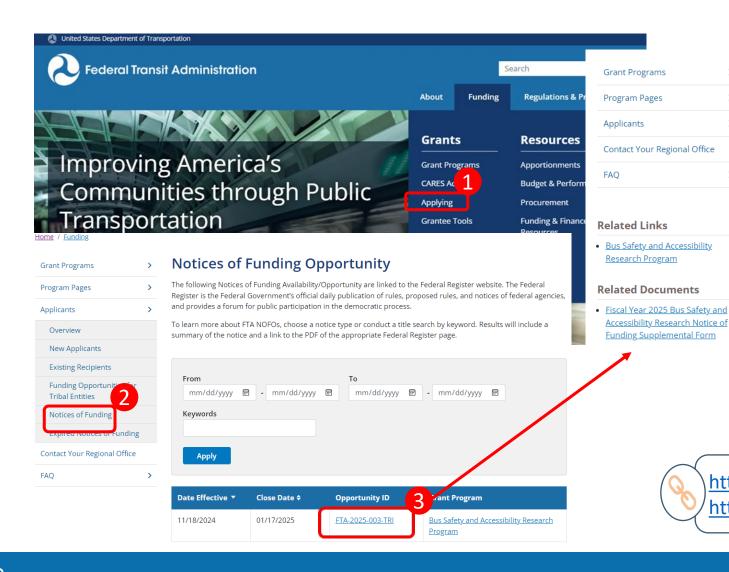
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# **FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity**



#### Fiscal Year 2025 Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Notice of Funding Opportunity

Date Posted: November 18, 2024

Date Closed: January 17, 2025

Opportunity ID: FTA-2025-003-TRI

**Grant Program:** 

Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Program

Opportunity Announcement PDF:

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-11-18/pdf/2024-26835.pdf

Opportunity Announcement TXT:

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-11-18/html/2024-26835.htm

Details: 11/18/2024. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): Solicitation of Project Proposals for the FY 2025 Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Competitive Funding Opportunity. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the opportunity to apply for \$10,000,000 to research standard design and develop prototypes to make existing and new buses safer for operators, riders, and vulnerable road users, as well as more accessible for passengers. See the Federal Register Notice. Synopses and a full announcement are posted on Grants.Gov as opportunity FTA-2025-003-TRI. Proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.Gov website by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on 01/17/2025.

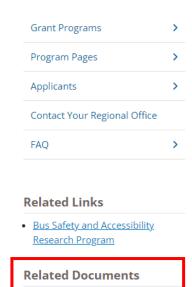
https://www.transit.dot.gov/ https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices



# **FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity**

#### FTA NOFO Page contains:

- Summary description
- Supplemental Form
- Links to Grants.gov
- Links to program information
- Other references and links



# Fiscal Year 2025 Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Notice of Funding Opportunity

**Date Posted:** November 18, 2024 **Date Closed:** January 17, 2025 **Opportunity ID:** FTA-2025-003-TRI

**Grant Program:** 

Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Program

**Opportunity Announcement PDF:** 

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-11-18/pdf/2024-26835.pdf

**Opportunity Announcement TXT:** 

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-202

Link to

Details: 11/18/2024. Notice of Funding Opp Grants.gov Project Proposals for the FY 2025 Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Competitive Funding Opportunity. The rederal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the opportunity to apply for \$10,000,000 to research standard design and develop prototypes to make existing and new buses safer for operators, riders, and vulnerable road users, as well as more accessible for passengers. See the Federal Register Notice. Synopses and a full announcement are posted on Grants.Gov as opportunity FTA-2025-003-TRI. Proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.Gov website by 11:59 PM

Eastern Time on 01/17/2025.



 Fiscal Year 2025 Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Notice of Funding Supplemental Form

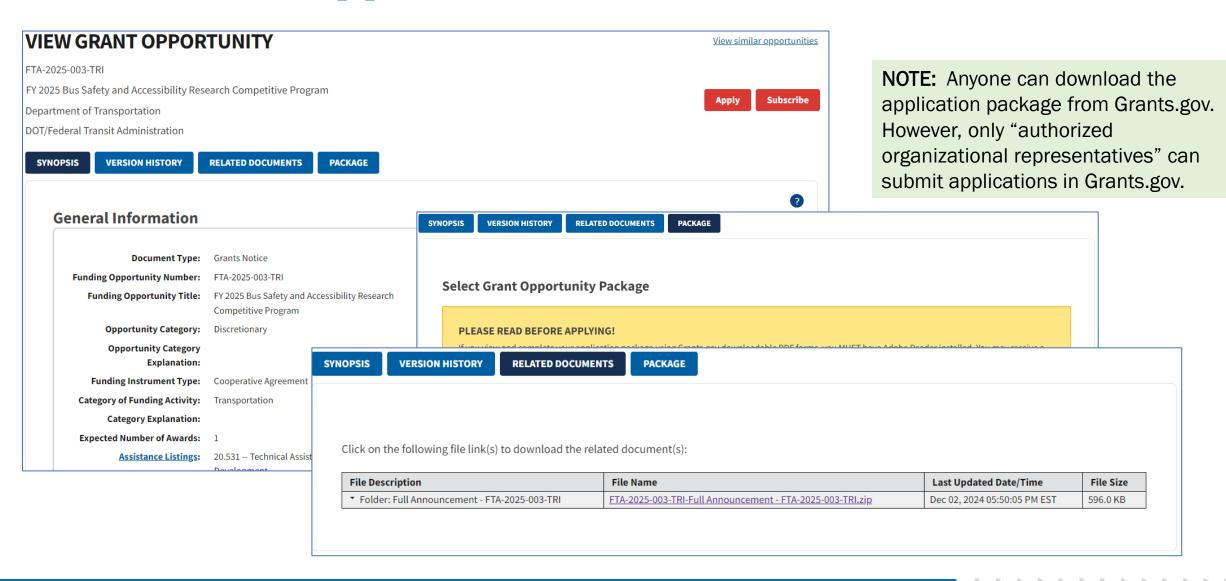


https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices

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



# **Download Application**



# **Application Package**

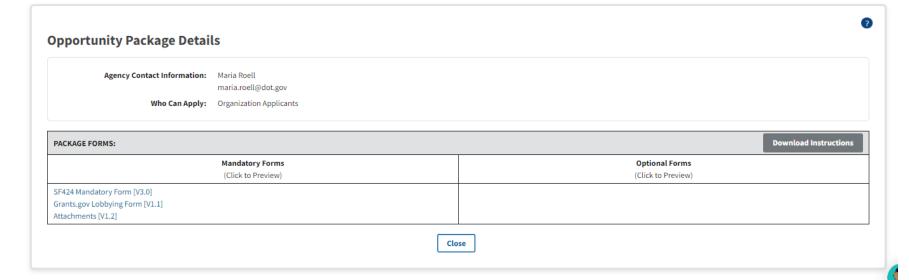
#### **Select Grant Opportunity Package**

#### 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:

Assistance Listing Number	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions
20.531	FTA-2025-003-TRI	FY 2025 Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Competative Program	PKG00288747	Nov 18, 2024	Jan 17, 2025	Preview   Apply



		OMB Number 4040-000 Expiration Date: 01:01:001
APPLICATION FOR FED	ERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424	- MANDATORY
1.a. Type of Submission:  Application Plan	1.b. Frequency:  Annual  Quarterly	1.d. Version:  Initial Resubmission Revision Update  2. Date Received:  STATE USE ONLY:
Funding Request Other Other (specify):	Other Other (specify):	3. Applicant Identifier: 5. Date Received by State:
		4a. Federal Entity Identifier:  6. State Application Identifier:
1.c. Consolidated Application Yes No Expl	Plan/Funding Request?	4b. Federal Award Identifier:
7. APPLICANT INFORMATION	:	
a. Legal Name:		
b. Employer/Taxpayer Identifi	cation Number (EIN/TIN):	c. Organizational DUNS:
d. Address:		
Street1:		Street2:
City:		County / Parish:
State:		Province:
Country:	UNITED STATES	Zip / Postal Code:

ATTACHMENTS FORM					
Instructions: On this form, you will attach the various files th Agency Guidelines for more information about each needed fil 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		
8) Please attach Attachment 8	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment		
9) Please attach Attachment 9	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment		
10) Please attach Attachment 10	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment		
11) Please attach Attachment 11	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment		
12) Please attach Attachment 12	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment		
13) Please attach Attachment 13	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment		
14) Please attach Attachment 14	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment		
15) Please attach Attachment 15	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment		

# **Application Package**

Validate Form

# FY 2025 Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Competitive Funding Opportunity

**Applicant and Proposal Profile** 

Organization Legal Name:	
Organization Legal Name.	
FTA Recipient ID Number (if applicable):	
Organization Chief Executive Officer:	
(Name and Direct Phone Number)	
Applicant Eligibility (select one):	<ul> <li>Departments, Agencies, and Instrumentalities of the Government, including Federal Laboratories</li> </ul>
	State and Local Governmental Entities
	<ul> <li>Providers of Public Transportation</li> </ul>
	Private or Non-Profit Organizations
	<ul> <li>Institutions of Higher Education</li> </ul>
	Technical and Community Colleges

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

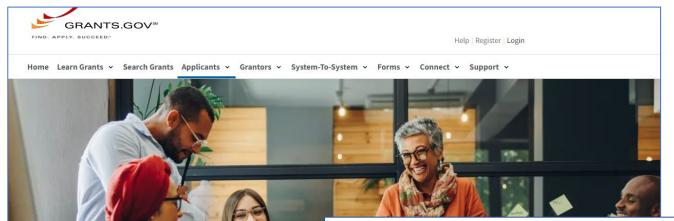
Form to the Attachment Form shown below when submitting in Grants.gov.

Instructions: On this form, you will attach the various f Agency Guidelines for more information about each nee and named as specified in the Guidelines.			
Important: Please attach your files in the proper seque	nce. See the appropriate Agency Guideline	es for details.	
1) Please attach Attachment 1	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
2) Please attach Attachment 2	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
3) Please attach Attachment 3	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
4) Please attach Attachment 4	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
5) Please attach Attachment 5	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
6) Please attach Attachment 6	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
7) Please attach Attachment 7	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
8) Please attach Attachment 8	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
9) Please attach Attachment 9	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
10) Please attach Attachment 10	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
11) Please attach Attachment 11	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
12) Please attach Attachment 12	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
13) Please attach Attachment 13	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
14) Please attach Attachment 14	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr
15) Please attach Attachment 15	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachr

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



# **Applications in Grants.gov**



Organizations must register in Grants.gov to submit applications.

**HOW TO APPLY FOR GRANTS** 

**How to Apply for Grants: Getting Started** 



<u>Learn</u>

Go to the Grants Learning Center for an overview of grants.



<u>Check</u>

Make sure you are eligible before applying.



<u>Search</u>

Find federal grants that align with your work.



Register

Sign up with Grants.gov to apply using Workspace.



pply

Complete and submit your application using Workspace.



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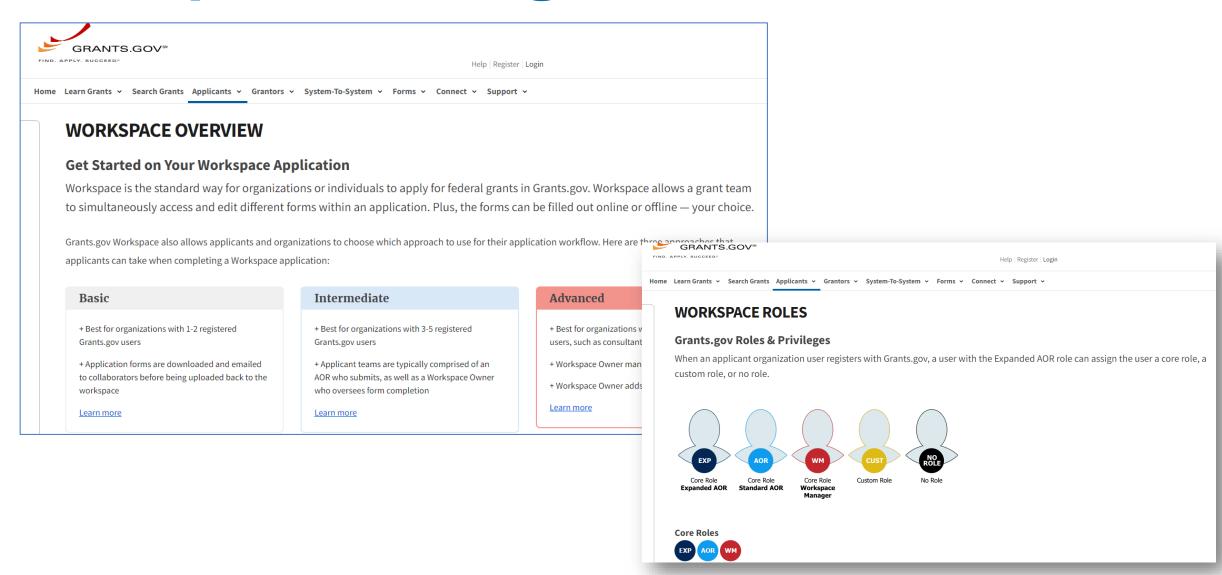
Enter your Grants.gov tracking number(s) for submission



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



# **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



# Thank you!

**Mohammed Yousuf** 

Mohammed.yousuf@dot.gov

**Maria Roell** 

Maria.roell@dot.gov

**Mary Leary** 

Mary.leary@dot.gov

**Johnita Glover** 

Johnita.glover@dot.gov



