



FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

## Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) Program NOFO

### Background

The [Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone \(HOPE\) program](#) was established in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, for \$8.5 million to provide funds to eligible applicants that are in areas of persistent poverty. The FTA may award grants to eligible recipients for planning, engineering, or development of technical or financing plans for projects eligible under Chapter 53 of Title 49 United States Code. In FY 2020, FTA is encouraging applicants to propose projects that may introduce innovative technologies or practices in support of FTA's [Accelerating Innovative Mobility \(AIM\) initiative](#) and, consistent with the [R.O.U.T.E.S. Initiative](#), that address the challenges faced by rural areas of persistent poverty.

### Eligibility

The HOPE Program provides funds to eligible applicants defined as eligible recipients or sub-recipients under 49 U.S.C. 5307, 49 U.S.C. 5310 or 49 U.S.C. 5311 that are in areas of persistent poverty. Applicants are encouraged to work with non-profits or other entities of their choosing to develop an eligible project. An eligible project for the Notice of Funding Opportunity is defined as either a planning study, including a planning and environmental linkages study that advances the environmental analysis and review process as part of the metropolitan planning process, engineering study, technical study, or financing plan. The proposed projects must be in counties with 20% or more of the population living in poverty over the 30 years preceding the date of enactment of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, or December 20, 2019, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial census and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Alternatively, data to support eligibility may also be from any census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20% as measured by the 2013-2017, 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey (ACS) of the Census Bureau.

### Application and Submission

Applications must be submitted electronically through GRANTS.GOV. General information for submitting applications through GRANTS.GOV can be found on FTA's [Notice of Funding Opportunity page](#), along with specific instructions for the forms and attachments required for submission. Mail and fax submissions will not be accepted. A complete proposal submission consists of two forms: the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance (downloaded from GRANTS.GOV) and the supplemental form for the FY 2020 Areas of Persistent Poverty Program (downloaded from GRANTS.GOV or the FTA website). Applicants also may attach additional supporting information. Failure to submit the information as required can delay or prevent review of the application.



FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION



Federal Transit  
Administration