

JANUARY 2009

## **SUMMARY OF ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The federal Section 5310 Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program assists non-profit agencies in acquiring vehicles to transport elderly and disabled clients. It is expected that each vehicle will be used for at least 25 hours of client transportation per week. Under this program, agencies can receive up to 90 percent of the cost of a vehicle that will be used for client transportation. Types of vehicles available under this program typically include:

- ❖ Maxi-Van with lift and raised roof
- ❖ Dual rear wheel cutaway (larger van with lift and raised roof)
- ❖ Maxi-Van without lift
- ❖ Mini-Van without lift
- ❖ Ramped mini-van

Program requirements include the following:

- ❖ eligible applicants are private, nonprofit corporations with IRS 501(c)(3) status. (It is possible for a government to apply if it can certify that no nonprofit agencies in its area are readily available and willing to provide the service.) Indian Nations and Districts within Indian Nations also are eligible applicants.
- ❖ applicants must have available the 10 percent cash match required for the federal funds and an additional 2 percent match to help fund administrative costs of the state agency (Arizona Department of Transportation) which operates this program.
- ❖ applicants must have funds available to pay **all** operating and maintenance costs for the vehicle.
- ❖ the primary use of the vehicle will be for transportation of the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- ❖ the vehicle is titled to the recipient agency, but the Arizona Department of Transportation holds a lien on it. (This lien may be lifted, upon request of the recipient agency, after either four years of use or 100,000 miles.)
- ❖ applicants must offer accessible transportation to their clients. (In practice this means that applicant agencies must have at least one vehicle that is accessible, i.e., equipped with a raised roof and wheelchair lift.)

Each year the Arizona Department of Transportation initiates an application process, usually in January. Pima Association of Governments assists by publicizing the availability of applications, providing technical assistance to potential applicants, and then convening a committee to review and rank the applications received in this area. As part of this process in the PAG region, PAG's Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Assistance Review Task Force interview each applicant agency's representative(s) before developing its ranking. This interview process typically occurs in March or April of any given application cycle.

Applications are reviewed in terms of the following goals:

- ❖ need for proposed service
- ❖ appropriateness of proposed service
- ❖ level of utilization of equipment
- ❖ coordination of transportation resources and services
- ❖ financial and management capability
- ❖ accessibility, safety and training programs

After a local priority list is developed, it is presented to the PAG Regional Council for review. Following Regional Council approval, the priority list is submitted to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). ADOT reviews all the priority lists it receives from around the state and develops a statewide priority list. In recent years, 12-14 vehicles have been available annually for agencies in our region. Since vehicles are awarded on a competitive basis statewide, there is no guarantee of a specific number for our region.

After ADOT has developed its statewide priority list, it seeks approval from the responsible federal agency, i.e., Federal Transit Administration of the U. S. Department of Transportation. When federal approval is received and release of federal funds is authorized, ADOT seeks bids from vendors, such as automobile dealers, to provide the vehicles. The various approval and vehicle procurement processes take quite some time. As a result, it is likely to be more than a year from the time of application before a successful applicant agency actually receives the vehicle it requested.

**Timeline for 2009 Cycle**

January 20 & 21, 2009	Public Notice published regarding availability of grant opportunity in Star & Citizen
January 29, 2009	Pre-application workshop
<b>February 27, 2009</b>	<b>Application deadline for PAG region</b>
March 5, 2009	5310 Review Task Force meets (agency presentations)
March 11, 2009	Status Report brought to PAG Management Committee
March 26, 2009	Recommendations brought to PAG Regional Council for approval
April 10, 2009	Deadline for PAG region priority list to ADOT