

## CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires the establishment of a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan for the FTA human service transportation program known as the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. All projects selected for funding from this FTA program must be derived from this coordinated plan and be competitively selected.

The Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) has developed a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Allen County. The Fort Wayne Public Transportation Corporation (dba Citilink) is the designated recipient of the Section 5310 funds for the Fort Wayne Allen County Urbanized Area. Therefore, any project(s) selected for funding will require the responsible agency/party to enter into a contractual agreement with Citilink.

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act have allocated a total of \$92,667.00 in Section 5310 funding to the Fort Wayne Urbanized Area. The purpose of this Section 5310 COVID Relief Funding is to provide relief to paratransit providers serving seniors and individuals with disabilities within the Fort Wayne Urbanized Area during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The funding is for operating expenses only; capital funding will not be available. Eligible activities and expenses include: operating accessible paratransit services during the public health emergency; payroll, including administrative leave and incentives; preventative maintenance; and cleaning and personal protective equipment (PPE). Eligible expenses incurred on or after 1/20/2020 are reimbursable through this grant opportunity. All activities or expenses must provide or support services that are beyond the minimum requirements of ADA and meet the standard requirements of the Section 5310 Program.

NIRCC is seeking eligible projects to utilize Section 5310 COVID Relief Funding. There is a total of \$92,667.00 available for projects. NIRCC will select eligible projects to utilize Section 5310 COVID Relief Funding. Projects must address issues caused or impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Projects will not be awarded more than \$92,667.00 in total federal funds. All awarded funds must be expended within 18 months of the award. All project applications must conform to the guidelines established by FTA funding under the Section 5310 program. Projects must address at least one (1) of the Section 5310 Operational Strategies identified in the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan for Allen County (Available at [www.nircc.com](http://www.nircc.com)). Projects which do not qualify will be eliminated from consideration.

Eligible recipients of the Section 5310 Funds include: 1) Private non-profit organizations; 2) Eligible local public bodies (defined as a “municipal corporation” in Indiana Code 36-1-2-10) that either a.) are approved by INDOT to coordinate services for seniors and individuals with disabilities, or b.) certify to INDOT that no non-profit corporations are readily available to provide the proposed service; and 3) Operators of public transportation services, including private operators of public transportation services.

Those wishing to submit eligible Section 5310 COVID Relief Funding projects MUST request an application package from NIRCC. Applications will only be accepted in the format provided in the application package. The project evaluation criteria are provided in the application package. Application package requests MUST be made in writing and directed to Matt Vondran at NIRCC. Please send requests either by e-mail at [Matt.Vondran@co.allen.in.us](mailto:Matt.Vondran@co.allen.in.us) or regular mail through the US Postal Service to Attn. Matt Vondran, NIRCC, 200 East Berry Street, Suite 230, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. An informational meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2022 from 2-3:30 PM to be held via Microsoft TEAMS conference call/video to discuss any technical questions. Those intending to submit an application MUST attend this meeting and request an application package prior. Details regarding the informational meeting will be sent to everyone who requested and received an application package. Applications submitted by eligible entities that did not attend the required informational meeting will not be scored or considered for funding.

NIRCC must receive project applications no later than 4:00 PM (EST) on April 15, 2022. Any questions should be directed to Matt Vondran at NIRCC either by telephone at (260) 449-7903 or by e-mail at [Matt.Vondran@co.allen.in.us](mailto:Matt.Vondran@co.allen.in.us).

This notice is also to inform all public and private transit and paratransit providers operating within the Fort Wayne Allen County Urbanized Area that NIRCC intends to award Section 5310 Funds to private non-profit organizations, eligible local public bodies, and/or operators of public transportation services providing specialized transportation to seniors and individuals with disabilities. If you wish to comment or want additional information regarding this intent or process, NIRCC must receive your written requests no later than February 25, 2022 to the address listed above.