



ARDOT/Federal Transit Administration Public Transportation 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
General Inquiry Information

The 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program is a program that is federally funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for non-profit agencies who **specifically** serve Seniors and/or Individuals with Disabilities in Arkansas with ARDOT being the recipient who oversees the capital funding and program maintenance. Therefore, you must be a non-profit serving the referenced demographics to qualify.

The application process for this program only opens once a year. The application cycle for the 5310 program typically opens for the state fiscal year around the end of March or the beginning of April each year. The opening of an application cycle is dependent on federal apportionments and funding availability.

As FTA is only able to offer a limited amount of funds, we are only able to offer capital awards for rolling stock (vehicles). As a result, this program offers vehicles at an 80/20 split. The FTA grants 80% of the vehicle price and the 20% local match is the agency's/entity's responsibility (*currently an average local match is around \$15,000 to \$24,000 subject to availability and contract pricing*).

As stated, since funding is limited, all vehicle maintenance is the responsibility of the entity/agency. The vehicle must be maintained to industry standards and will be inspected by ARDOT staff annually. Once inspected, corrections must be completed and proof submitted in a timely manner as dictated by the inspector's report.

The agency must also maintain a \$1,000,000.00 insurance policy on any FTA funded vehicle. An important note – FTA retains their investment in the vehicle for the life of each vehicle. Therefore, should the agency sell the vehicle after the vehicle meets its useful life, FTA would get 80% of the sale price back.

Applications are reviewed and approved in part with the assistance of past utilization reports and past inspection/maintenance reports. New agencies are subject to financial audit, on-site visits, and qualifying criteria. The funding for this program is limited due to the estimated increased vehicle prices, the vehicle availability, and grant funds availability.

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. My agency is for-profit. Do we qualify?

No. The ARDOT/FTA 5310 Program is only for eligible legal entities which are non-profit or public entities operating within the State of Arkansas whose agency/program goals and objectives are consistent with Section 5310 Program limitations and which possess the experience, financial capacity, technical capacity, and administrative ability to carry out project(s) proposed in the agencies mission.

2. My agency is non-profit and we transport children and non-emergency transport riders. Do we qualify?

Possibly. The agency being non-profit is only half of the requirement. The riders/clients being transported must be Seniors or Individuals with Disabilities. Disabilities can include but not limited to a developmental delay, physical disability, mental health disorder, or the elderly over 60 years of age.

3. When can I apply for the ARDOT/FTA 5310 grant?

The application cycle for the 5310 grant opens one time annually. This is usually around the end of the first quarter or beginning of the second quarter of the calendar year.

4. How long does the grant process take?

There is not a specific time frame available, however, the process can take up to 18 months or longer depending on FTA grant award timing and vehicle production timing.

5. Are the vehicles we apply for on hand at ARDOT?

No. We do not have vehicles on hand for purchase or lease. We only order vehicles when the agency has been awarded a grant and has completed an order form.

6. What is required of the agency once accepted into the program?

When agencies apply to obtain a vehicle from the program, the agency agrees to monitoring by the department, reporting to the department, and maintenance of granted vehicles.

7. How long are reporting requirements?

The reporting requirements are based off the useful life of the vehicle granted. However, the department also reserves the right to determine if/when the vehicle has met its useful life.

8. How much money do we have to contribute to obtain a vehicle?

A twenty percent (20%) match (20% of the cost of the vehicle) is required at the time of vehicle pick up. Additionally, all maintenance and repair costs are the responsibility of the agency.

9. Does my agency need a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number through SAM.gov?

Yes. Any agency who is a recipient of federal funds must have an active UEI number to be the recipient/subrecipient of federal funds. It must be confirmed that the agency has not been disbarred, suspended or disbarred from participation in Federal assistance programs.

10. Does my agency have to complete a Title VI plan? Why? How often?

- Yes.
- As a condition of receipt of federal assistance any subrecipient shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from excluding from a program or activity, denying benefits of, or otherwise discriminating against a person on the basis of race, color, or national origin (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.), as implemented by the Department of the Treasury's Title VI regulations, 31 CFR Part 22.
- The Title VI plan is renewed every three years.

11. Does obtaining a vehicle through the program make the agency the sole owner of the vehicle? Will my agency receive a title for the grant vehicle?

No, it does not. The FTA retains their investment in the vehicle for the life of the vehicle and therefore, the title remains the property of ARDOT/FTA.

12. My agency has new staff/new address/new director. Do we need to relay that information to the 5310 program manager?

Yes, it is imperative that ARDOT is aware of any staff changes of subrecipient awardees. Communication, collaboration, and coordination is of the utmost importance to the program succeeding and therefore any changes should be relayed as soon as possible.

13. What are the repercussions of not maintaining or utilizing a grant vehicle?
There are repercussions for not maintaining or utilizing grant vehicles. Future award approvals may be based off the agencies use and maintenance of awarded vehicles. ARDOT retains the right to evaluate the use of awarded vehicles and reassign unutilized vehicles to another subrecipient.
14. Are quarterly performance monitoring reports required?
Yes. Quarterly Performance Monitoring (QPM) reports are required by subrecipient awardees until notice of release from those reporting requirements.
15. Does the agency have to submit corrections after inspections?
Yes. Grant award vehicles will be inspected by ARDOT staff no less than annually and corrections required as a result of those inspections should be turned in to ARDOT staff in the requested time frame. Failure to do so will affect future grant awards and the agencies standing in the program.
16. If the grant vehicle is in an accident or sold, does the agency get the money?
Yes, but the agency only receives a 20% portion of the vehicle loss settlement in an accident. FTA/ARDOT receives 80% of the loss settlement as the FTA investment is for the life of the vehicle.
Once useful life is met, if the agency decides to sell the vehicle, there is a process that must be followed. The agency must contact their 5310 program manager to determine that process.
17. What types of trips are allowed/acceptable under this program?
The purpose of the trips acceptable under the 5310 program include but are not fully limited to education, employment, medical, nutrition, personal, recreational, residence, agency or administrative.
18. The agency would like to take the vehicle on a trip across state lines. Is that acceptable?
It may be acceptable given the purpose. All requests to cross state lines in an FTA/ARDOT funded vehicle should be submitted to the 5310 program manager in a timely manner for review and approval.

Additional Resources: Easter Seals (nationally) <https://www.easterseals.com/>, United Way of Central Arkansas <https://www.uwcark.org/grants> or Americorps <https://americorps.gov/partner/funding-opportunities> for additional resources.