TIFIA Distribution Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General FAQ

1. What is TIFIA?
    a. *The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program "provides credit assistance for qualified projects of regional and national significance."*
    b. *USDOT website: https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/financing/tifia*
    c. *Caltrans website: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/budgets/tifia-program*

2. Is this a new program?
    a. *The TIFIA itself is not a new program but the distribution of additional apportionment for STBGP-eligible and TAP-eligible projects is new as of FFY 2024-2025.*

3. What are the FHWA Notice numbers?
    a. *N4510.900 issued March 10, 2025*
    b. *N4510.904 issued August 4, 2025*
    c. *N4510.914 issued May 15, 2026*

4. Why were these apportionments distributed?
    a. *The apportionments were distributed pursuant sections 2103, 2104, and 2105 of the Fiscally Responsible Highway Funding Act of 2024 (FRHFA). The FRHFA allows the Secretary of Transportation to distribute unobligated amounts of TIFIA contract authority (apportionments).*

5. Do the TIFIA distribution apportionments come with additional OA?
    a. *No, the obligation of TIFIA for STBGP-eligible projects will utilize the existing regional formula OA. Obligation of TIFIA for TAP-eligible projects will utilize the state's share of formula OA. This is consistent with how Caltrans currently tracks regular STBGP and regular TAP (ATP) obligations.*

6. Have there been multiple TIFIA distributions? Was there a TIFIA cancellation notice?
    a. *TIFIA Distribution #1: N4510.900 dated March 10, 2025 ($1,800,000,000)*
    b. *TIFIA Distribution #2: N4510.904 was issued on August 4, 2025, and stated that there would not be an additional distribution pursuant to section 2104 of the FRHFA because there was no estimated contract authority (apportionments) that would remain unobligated. ($0)*
    c. *TIFIA Distribution #3: N4510.914 dated May 15, 2026 ($55,400,000)*

7. Will there be future TIFIA distributions?
    a. *The original TIFIA Distribution Notice (N4510.900) originally stated there could be two more distributions pursuant to sections 2104 and 2105 of the FRHFA. Actions for both sections have occurred (N4510.904 & N4510.914) and there are currently no future TIFIA Distributions scheduled to occur. This may change in the future if there is another act to release excess TIFIA apportionment.*

8. What apportionments are available to the MPOs/RTPAs?
    a. *TIFIA Distribution #1 ([N4510.900])*
        i. *$66,679,177 of TIFIA for STBGP-eligible projects for urbanized areas with population over 200K.*
        ii. *$16,093,962 of TIFIA for TAP-eligible projects in any area of the state and in various population categories. The TIFIA for TAP-eligible projects will go through the regular CTC ATP process.*
    b. *TIFIA Distribution #2 ([N4510.904]) $0 for STGBP & TAP eligible projects*
    c. *TIFIA Distribution #3 ([N4510.914])*
        i. *$2,052,237 of TIFIA for STBGP-eligible projects for urbanized areas with population over 200K.*
        ii. *$495,336 of TIFIA for TAP-eligible projects in any area of the state and in various population categories. The TIFIA for TAP-eligible projects will go through the regular CTC ATP process.*

9. Can TIFIA Population over 200K apportionments be used for the oversight adjustment?
    a. *No, these funds are a one-time distribution, and the state cannot use the funds.*

10. How will DLA be tracking these apportionments?
    a. *Regional balances TIFIA for STBGP-eligible projects are included in the monthly activity reports and a separate TIFIA-only report is posted on the DLA TIFIA website.*
    b. *TIFIA for TAP-eligible projects tracking is TBD. The funds will be tracked at a high level similar to regular TAP funds, but it is unknown if more detailed tracking reports will be provided.*

11. How long are these apportionments available for obligation?
    a. *Y041 apportionments issued by N4510.900 in March 2025 are available for obligation until September 30, 2028. Any apportionments not obligated by September 30, 2028, will lapse.*
    b. *Y061 apportionments issued by N4510.914 in May 2026 are available for obligation until September 30, 2029. Any apportionments not obligated by September 30, 2029 will lapse.*

12. Can the TIFIA apportionments be loaned?
    a. *The TIFIA for STBGP-eligible projects can be loaned and the process would be the same as an STBGP Urban loan. The borrowing region will need to repay the loaning region with a different type of apportionment since TIFIA is a one-time augmentation.*
    b. *The TIFIA for TAP-eligible projects cannot be loaned since the apportionments follow the regular CTC ATP process.*

13. Do the TIFIA apportionments have transferability under Section 126, Title 23 U.S.C?
    a. *These apportionments have no transferability under Section 126, Title 23, U.S.C. See section 3(j) on N4510.900 and N4510.914.*

14. Can toll credits be used with the TIFIA funds?
    a. *Yes, as of right now we are still operating under the existing Toll Credit Policy. Please adhere to the MPO/RTPA shares of Toll Credits to remain within limits.*

TIFIA for STBGP-eligible projects

1. What type of projects are eligible to use these apportionments?
    a. *Per FHWA Notice N4510.900 and N4510.914, section 3(e) states "The funds are available for any purpose described in Section 133(b) of Title 23, U.S.C., and are subject to the set-aside under Section 133(h) of such title."*

2. What are the applicable apportionment codes?
    a. *Y041 & Y061*

3. What is the CTIP Fund ID?
    a. *Fund ID TIFIA_S; Fund ID name 2025 Distribution of TIFIA_STBGP*

TIFIA for TAP-eligible projects

1. What type of projects are eligible to use these apportionments?
    a. *Per FHWA Notice N4510.900 and N4510.914, section 3(e) states "The funds are available for any purpose described in Section 133(b) of Title 23, U.S.C., and are subject to the set-aside under Section 133(h) of such title."*

2. What are the applicable apportionment codes?
    a. *Y045 & Y065 Transportation Alternatives eligible projects in any area*
    b. *Y046 & Y066 Transportation Alternatives eligible projects in urbanized areas with population over 200K*
    c. *Y047 & Y067 Transportation Alternatives eligible projects in urbanized areas with population 50,000 to 200,000*
    d. *Y048 & Y068 Transportation Alternatives eligible projects in urban areas with population 5,000 to less than 50,000*
    e. *Y049 & Y069 Transportation Alternatives eligible projects in areas with population less than 5,000*

3. What is the CTIPS Fund ID?
    a. *Fund ID TIFIA_T ; Fund ID name 2025 Distribution of TIFIA-TA*