

5311 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 5311 program?	The Section 5311 program is the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Non-Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program. The FTA, on behalf of the U. S. Secretary of Transportation, annually allocates apportioned Section 5311 funds to the governor of each state. The Department is the delegated recipient in California.
How can the Section 5311 funds be used?	The Section 5311 program provides funding for public transportations projects serving areas that are outside of an urban boundary with a population of 50,000 or less. Funds may be used for capital, operating, planning or technical assistance projects. With these funds the mobility needs of rural transit users can be both supported and enhanced. Section 5311 Program grants are intended to provide access to employment, education and health care, shopping and recreation.
What types of funds are available under the Section 5311 program?	Each year, total appropriated funds are allocated to California and distributed in the following manner: 75% to the regional apportionment on a population basis, 15% to the Section 5311(f) Intercity Program , and 10% to the Department's administrative costs.
Who may apply?	State agencies, local public bodies, Indian tribes, private nonprofit organizations, and operators of public transportation services. Private intercity bus operators are eligible for Section 5311(f) funds only; otherwise, they may only participate as third party contractors.
How can we apply to receive Section 5311 regional apportionment funds?	<p>By contacting your local Transportation Planning Agency. Each region or county's Transportation Planning Agency plans and programs projects based on their own jurisdiction's transportation needs. All projects require early, coordinated and comprehensive planning and they should involve participation by a variety of stakeholders.</p> <p>This comprehensive approach is strongly encouraged at the federal, state, and local levels so that transportation investments are maximized to provide the most effective and efficient use of resources.</p>
What is the Program of Projects (POP)?	A POP is the form that is used to identify the regional apportionment and flexible funded projects that the Transportation Planning Agency approves for the subrecipients within its jurisdiction. POPs are due December 31 of each year to the local District office. Information included in the POP are the subrecipient's name, the type of project, net project cost and the Federal share. The POPs are the building blocks for the statewide grant that is submitted to FTA for the Department.
When do I have to submit the application for regional apportionment funds?	All applications must be submitted June 30 of the year following the year of apportionment.
Is there a local match required?	Yes, effective FFY 2007 per SAFETEA-LU* sliding rate: Operating Assistance 44.67% Capital (all) 11.47%

When do I get my money?	The Section 5311 is a reimbursement program and payment is processed based on satisfactory completion of eligible activities.
Timeline of events for the regional apportionment	<p>October - Transportation Planning Agency receives program of projects (POP) form and an estimated of the amount available for programming</p> <p>December 31 – POP and applications for flexible funded projects due to the local District office</p> <p>March – Applications for Section 5311(f) Intercity due</p> <p>April – Division of Mass Transportation submits statewide grant to Federal Transit Administration (FTA)</p> <p>June 31 following the year of apportionment – Applications for regional apportionment due to the local District office</p> <p>July – FTA approves statewide grant</p> <p>August – Standard agreements are distributed</p>
Where can I find the guidelines for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program commonly known as the Section 5311 Program?	General information can be found at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/ofta.htm . The guidelines for the 5311 program are located in the Handbook and Guide which can be accessed from the Division of Mass transportation home page at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/annual_5311.htm
Is there a local office in my county?	Although the Section 5311 program is managed and administered by the Division of Mass Transportation in Sacramento, district offices have been established to provide guidance to local TPAs, transit agencies and operators. Contact information can be found at the Division of Mass Transportation website at, http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/ofta.htm
What is the Section 5311(f) program?	The FTA requires that states spend a minimum of 15% of their annual Section 5311 apportionment to implement and fund intercity bus transportation. The Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program is designed to address the intercity travel needs of residents in non-urbanized areas of the state by funding services that provide them access to the intercity bus and transportation networks in California. Both public and private transportation providers are eligible to compete for funding. Capital and operating assistance projects are eligible.
Is there a requirement under Title VI or environmental justice to hold a public hearing when a 5311 funded service changes?	There is no requirement under Title VI. Regarding environmental justice, if the change in service can potentially adversely impact a minority or low-income community, then you should hold a public hearing to inform and receive input from the minority or low-income community that may be adversely impacted.
	*Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users