

## *COTA's January 11, 2010 Grant Proposer's Conference*

### *Questions and Answers regarding JARC and New Freedom Programs*

Question: On the JARC Request for Proposal, it states services provided are for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals. Does this mean they must be eligible for welfare assistance? How specific should this be and is there specific criteria for who would qualify that could be served through this program?

Answer: Programs should be tailored to those individuals that are receiving public assistance.

Question: Under the New Freedom grant are funds only available for new programs?

Answer: Yes, the purpose is for new and/or expanded programs. For the purpose of the New Freedom Program, "new" service is any service or activity that was not operational on August 10, 2005, and did not have an identified funding source as of August 10, 2005.

Question: Please elaborate on what it means to have a sustainable program. In other words how are programs going to be sustained after the funds have been exhausted?

Answer: The funds available are reimbursable and will be paid once COTA's receives documentation such as a purchase order or proof of payment. Programs implemented must be able to operate if federal funds are available or not.

Question: Under the Franklin Coordinated Plan, what is Specialized Transportation? Is that separate from New Freedom?

Answer: Yes, that is the program through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Question: Regarding New Freedom, is there any documentation needed to be provided as far as physical use?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Who currently is providing service for these grants?

Answer: The Franklin County Department of Jobs and Family Services (FCDJFS) and Franklin County Department of Developmental Disabilities (FCDDD) received JARC funding. The City of Columbus and Lifecare Alliance received New Freedom funding.

Question: On the JARC program, have employment centers been approached to determine transportation needs, or has expanded service on COTA's fixed route line to the airport, or other employment centers around the city been considered?

Answer: Yes, there has been an on-going discussion regarding transportation challenges for workers and potential workers. Most of the information is available in the Franklin County Coordinated Plan. Surveys suggest the greatest challenge is for workers who desire to work 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift operations.

Question: So, workers who aren't part of that other sub-category may not necessarily be considered for this grant project?

Answer: They could be under JARC for low income, particularly individuals who have lost their jobs. JARC funding is for employment, job training, as well as, childcare.

Question: In that expanded program, does that include elements that were funded from the previous funding cycle? Does that mean those elements of that expanded program would not be funded?

Answer: New or expanded fixed route service and new or expanded demand response service constitute new public transportation services beyond those required by ADA of 1990 that assist individuals with disabilities with transportation, and are therefore eligible for funding under the New Freedom program. Eligibility of the projects are based on conditions such as services being identified in the grant applicant's transportation plan, services being available to the public at large but were planned and designed to meet the mobility needs of individuals with disabilities where existing fixed route and demand response transportation is unavailable or insufficient, services were not operational on August 10, 2005, and did not have an identified funding source as of August 10, 2005, etc. All new or expanded fixed route and demand responsive services funded under the New Freedom program will be subject to the requirements of the ADA and DOT ADA implementing regulations.

Question: The New Freedom, is there a limited number of projects that an organization can apply for?

Answer: No, there is no limit. The programs need to comply with federal guidelines and be eligible for funding.

Question: With the two year grant period, should budgets reflect the entire two years?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And these programs would begin when?

Answer: Programs will begin upon approval of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Question: Does this run on a Federal budget timeline or State? Because some end June 30<sup>th</sup> and some end September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Answer: Funds will last until the program ends.

Question: Will the opportunity for more questions be provided?

Answer: Yes, until January 31, 2010.

Question: When are proposals due?

Answer: **The date has been extended until Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. sharp. Six copies, which include one original, must be submitted in person to COTA at 1600 McKinley Ave. No emails or faxes will be accepted.**