

Application Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 Taxicab, Livery, and Hackney Transportation Partnership Grants Application

1. Can the funds for this grant be used to reimburse for previously taken trips?

No, the grant program cannot be used for previously taken trips. Only future trips can qualify for this funding.

2. Is there a cap or a range of funding being offered through this program?

At this time we have not designated a specific amount grantees can request. We want to ensure that the application remains flexible to serve our diverse municipalities throughout the Commonwealth. The grant application requires a budget for the funds requested so we can understand how you will spend the amount you request.

3. How are the funds distributed to the municipalities?

If MAPC and MassDevelopment approve the grant application, the grantee and MAPC must execute a grant agreement. MAPC will distribute the grant as an upfront lump sum award after execution of the grant agreement.

4. What will be the start date for the funds?

The start date for the funds will be when MAPC and the grantee have executed a contract. To help expedite the process, we ask that you download and review the grant agreement with MAPC while completing the grant application.

5. Can the grant be used to serve individuals who don't live in my city or town?

There is no requirement that the individuals being served must live in the municipality requesting the funds. There are no limitations on eligible trips for residents versus non-residents. If you know of residents from nearby municipalities who could benefit from your proposed program, you could coordinate with those municipalities to determine trip needs.

6. Do you know of any other funding sources currently available or coming up to help with public transit or community transit?

MassMobility maintains a webpage with transit funding opportunities: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/funding-for-community-transportation>

7. Would a regional collaboration of housing authorities and/or Health and Human Services Agencies be eligible for funds?

If the housing authorities and HHS agencies are part of a local or state agency, then yes, they are eligible to apply. Any state or local public agency is eligible to apply.

8. If the emergency order is lifted, can the funds from this grant opportunity still be used?

Yes, the grants are available for use until December 31, 2020 because we see that the needs may extend beyond the emergency declaration by Governor Baker. More information can be found in the emergency procurement memo found [here](#).

9. Can you define what an HHST is?

We are defining an HHST as a public entity. The lead applicant must be a public agency.

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10. Is there a match required for this funding opportunity?

No match is required.

11. Would a program with volunteer drivers be eligible for this funding?

No, this program is intended to support taxi, livery, and hackney companies. Volunteer drivers are not eligible for this grant.

12. We have a program that allows people to offer rides for a fee that act as our taxis and limos, similar to an Uber or Lyft program. Would this be eligible for this funding opportunity?

This program is intended to support taxi, livery, and hackney companies. Eligible parties must be registered as a business and/or have a license to operate as a taxicab, livery, or hackney in one or more municipalities in Massachusetts.

13. Are partnerships with Uber or Lyft eligible?

Uber, Lyft, or other Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) are not eligible under this grant. This grant opportunity is only for taxi, livery, or hackney companies.

14. Where does the money come from for this grant opportunity?

This grant is funded through the MassDevelopment Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Fund (TIEF). The money comes from the fee on Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft. Under the TIEF statutory requirements, TNCs are not eligible for consideration under this grant program.

15. Can a portion of the fund be used to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies?

No, this funding can only be used for subsidizing trips.

16. Can a portion of the funds be used to pay staff who are out on leave for illness?

No, this funding can only be used for subsidizing trips.

17. What happens if we haven't spent all of the money by December 31st, 2020?

They have to give money back to us.

18. Can some of the funds be used to lease vehicles that are wheelchair accessible?

Funds cannot be used to lease vehicles for this program

19. How does the grant define taxi, livery, and hackney businesses?

We are defining taxi, livery, and hackney companies as businesses who register themselves as a taxi, livery, or hackney provider with a municipality and use plates designated for that service.

20. Can a portion of this funding be used for staff time to run this program?

Overhead can only account for a maximum of 5% of total funding. 95% of grant funds must go towards paying for the eligible trips taken to serve vulnerable populations.

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21. Can a proposal include a fee in the budget for the administration of the grant program?

Yes, but for a very limited purpose. A proposal may include a budget for administration of the program solely for new costs for personnel or equipment that are needed to run the program. An administrative fee cannot exceed 5% of the total budget of the proposed program. Proposers must include details identifying these new costs.