ORANGE COUNTY ENHANCED MOBILITY FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED GRANT PROGRAM

AT A GLANCE

SERVICE AREA:
All 34 Orange County cities and the County of Orange

FUNDING:
$4 million in local funds

WEBSITE:
octa.net/emsd

CONTACT:
Jennifer Farinas
Program Manager
jfarinas@octa.net
(714) 560-5392

ALTERNATE:
Louis Zhao
lzhao@octa.net
714-560-5494

IMPLEMENTATION:
Joanne Jacobsen
jjacobsen@octa.net
714-560-5660

Fact sheet as of 7/6/21

Orange County Transportation Authority

550 S. Main St
P.O. Box 14184
Orange, CA 92863-1584
(714) 560-OCTA
www.octa.net

OVERVIEW

The OCTA Board of Directors (Board) has approved the release of the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Disabled (EMSD) Grant Program Call for Projects. EMSD is intended to support the needs of seniors beyond traditional public transportation, and for individuals with disabilities beyond that required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Up to $4 million in local funds is available to program in FY2021/22 or FY2022/23 (ending June 30).

PROGRAM GOALS

1) Improve the mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities in Orange County;
2) Support local agencies and non-profits providing specialized service within their communities;
3) Augment the OCTA Senior Mobility Program (SMP), OC ACCESS and OC Bus fixed-route service;
4) Provide seamless service through improved first and last mile connections;
5) Incorporate and encourage technology-based solutions to improve mobility options;
6) Promote non-profit and public agency outreach to senior and disabled patrons with an emphasis in reaching disadvantaged, underrepresented, and/or diverse communities to ensure that services are meeting their needs; and
7) Prioritize funding for agencies that collaborate which is demonstrated by:
   • partnering together to create efficiencies and lower operating costs for service, and/or
   • increasing vehicle revenue hours beyond the minimum 10 hours

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Private non-profit organizations
- Public agencies where no private non-profits are readily available to provide the proposed service (a public hearing is required as documentation)

ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES

- **Capital Projects** - At least 55% (minimum) of the funds awarded will be used for ADA accessible vehicle and related equipment purchases and leases.
- **Operating Projects** - The remaining 45% (maximum) may be used for operating assistance, COVID-19 restoration of service, mobility management, COVID-19 response equipment, driver and travel training, and first and last mile trips.

LOCAL MATCH REQUIREMENTS

- A 10% local match is required for capital, which includes the purchase and lease of vehicles and equipment, mobility management, driver and travel training projects, and COVID-19 response equipment.
- A 25% local match is required for operating assistance, COVID-19 restoration of service, and first and last mile trips.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

1) Paratransit vehicle replacement and related equipment for existing vehicles that meet or exceed their useful life.
2) New paratransit vehicles and related equipment that support the expansion of existing service.
3) Expansion of existing transportation services that address the target population's transportation needs, which include expanding existing mobility management, and driver and travel training projects.
4) New transportation services that address the target population's unmet transportation needs, including new mobility management, and driver and travel training projects, and first and last mile trips.

PROVISIONS OF USE

- All projects must be included in the Orange County Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan available at: http://www.octa.net/pdf/HumanServicesTransportation.pdf
- Applicants must have management oversight and control over the operations of contracted service and purchased/leased equipment
- Grantees are responsible for the proper use, operating costs, and maintenance of all vehicles and project equipment, and must be prepared to comply with all applicable regulations and requirements.
- The maximum request amount is $600,000 per applicant to ensure an equitable distribution of funds

APPLICANT WORKSHOP

OCTA will host an EMSD application preparation workshop on July 26, 2021 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm virtually to assist eligible applicants. If you would like to attend, please RSVP at www.octa.net/emsd. Upon receipt of an RSVP, details will be provided on how to participate in the virtual workshop.

APPLICATION BASICS

Online applications for the EMSD program are due on September 9, 2021, no later than 4 PM via the program webpage at **www.octa.net/emsd**. Applicants may submit via mail or hand delivery by the application deadline (no postmarks will be accepted). Late applications will not be accepted, so please ensure that you have uploaded all required documentation ahead of the application deadline. We suggest uploading your documents at least 48 hours ahead of the submittal deadline to allow for time for troubleshooting if necessary.
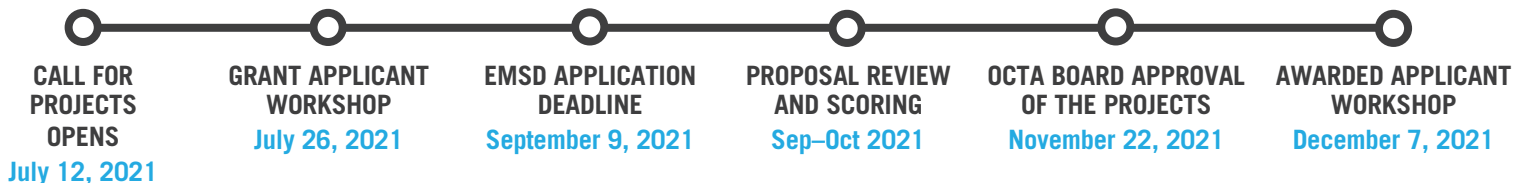
A completed application will contain the following documents:
1) Completed capital and/or operating application
2) Non-profits must submit a private non-profit status inquiry
3) Local cities and county agencies must submit documentation of a public hearing
4) Resolution from governing body or similar confirming match commitment and legal authority to submit
5) Any other required documents, such as most recent financial statement/single audit, documentation of reduced service, etc.

Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding, so please ensure that submittals contain all of the required documentation.

EMSD Grant Document Downloads: Application materials will be posted on the EMSD webpage at www.octa.net/emsd.

KEY PROGRAM MILESTONES*

CALL FOR PROJECTS OPENS	GRANT APPLICANT WORKSHOP	EMSD APPLICATION DEADLINE	PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SCORING	OCTA BOARD APPROVAL OF THE PROJECTS	AWARDED APPLICANT WORKSHOP
July 12, 2021	July 26, 2021	September 9, 2021	Sep–Oct 2021	November 22, 2021	December 7, 2021

*Please note the schedule above is subject to change.