Program Purpose
The Orange County Transportation Authority’s (OCTA) new Orange County Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Disabled (EMSD) Grant Program is intended to enhance mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities by providing local transportation funds to support the special needs of seniors beyond traditional public transportation services, and for those with disabilities beyond that required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Funds Available
Approximately $3.6 million in local (non-Transportation Development Act) funds are available with the amounts based on federal Section 5310 amounts allocated to Orange County1.

Eligible Applicants
- Private non-profit organizations.
- Public agencies where no private non-profits are readily available to provide the proposed service.

Eligible Activities
- At least 55% (minimum) of the funds awarded must be used to support the purchase of Vehicles and Related Equipment (Traditional 5310 Projects) for service that goes beyond traditional public transportation services. Related equipment includes dispatching equipment and mobile communications. A 20% local non-federal match is required for these capital projects.
- No more than 45% (maximum) of the funds awarded may be used for Operating Assistance (Enhanced 5310 Projects), which include operating transportation services beyond that required by ADA, as well as mobility management, and driver and travel training. A 50% local non-federal match is required for operating assistance with a 20% match needed for mobility management, and driver and travel training.
- The maximum request amount is $600,000 per applicant to ensure an equitable distribution of funds.

Project Eligibility
- All projects must be supported by the Orange County Public Transit- Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan2.
- Applicants must have management oversight and control over the operations of the service and equipment.

Funding Priorities (in order of priority)
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 successful 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.

Vehicle Eligibility
- Awarded vehicles must provide a minimum of 20 hours of service per week per vehicle or in coordination with other agencies.
- Vehicles proposed for replacement must meet or exceed its useful life and be in active service during the applicant’s normal days and hours of operation.

Service Eligibility
Applicants must be able to document that the proposed service will serve additional persons or trips, expand the service area or hours, and/or increase the frequency of trips.

Program Requirements
Once approved by OCTA’s Board of Directors, applicants will be notified and enter into an agreement with OCTA, which remains in effect throughout the project’s useful life. Grantees are responsible for the proper use, operating costs, and maintenance of all project equipment, and must be prepared to comply with all applicable regulations and requirements. The grant program guidelines and application materials are available for review and download on OCTA’s website3.

Questions?
Please contact Ric Teano, Grant Compliance Manager, at (714) 560-5716 or by email at rteano@octa.net

1 Does not include Transportation Development Act funding. 10% is deducted to cover the administrative costs of the program.
2 https://octa.net/uploadedFiles/Bus_Service/coordination_plan.pdf
3 www.octa.net/EMSDgrant/
Orange County Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Disabled (EMSD) Grant Program (Formerly FTA Section 5310 Program)

**PROGRAM TIMELINE (TENTATIVE)**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 23, 2018</td>
<td>OCTA Special Needs Advisory Committee Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8, 2018</td>
<td>OCTA Transit Committee Recommendation to Release Call for Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 12, 2018</td>
<td>OCTA Board Authorization to Release Call for Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19, 2018</td>
<td>Call for Projects Notifications Released Application &amp; Guidance Documents Available via OCTA Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27, 2018</td>
<td>Grant Applicant Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14, 2018</td>
<td>Applications due to OCTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30, 2018</td>
<td>Evaluation Committee Scoring Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12, 2018</td>
<td>OCTA Transit Committee Recommendation of Selected Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23, 2018</td>
<td>OCTA Board Approval of Selected Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 6, 2018</td>
<td>Award Notifications</td>
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