



July 28, 2026

FY 2026 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program (Bus Program)

Agency	U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Office of Program Management		
Program Description	The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the opportunity to apply for approximately \$21 million in competitive grants for the FY 2026 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program (Bus Program) under Federal Assistance Listing Number 20.526. 49 U.S.C. 5339(b) authorizes FTA to competitively award Bus Program grants to State (including territories and Washington, D.C.), local, and tribal governments that operate fixed-route bus services for capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, purchase, or lease buses and related equipment, or to rehabilitate, purchase, construct, or lease bus-related facilities. Program goals are to enhance safety and renew transit systems through the deployment of modern buses and associated equipment and facilities, and to maximize benefits for families and communities. Per statute, FTA will make selections within 75 days of the application due date. Funding Opportunity Number: FTA-2026-010-TPM-BUS. Federal Assistance Listing Number: 20.526.		
Application Due	11:59 p.m. Eastern time on September 21, 2026.		
Total Funding	Approx. \$21 million	Max Award: 10% of the total available amount	Min Award: No minimum grant award amount
Award Amount	5		
Local Match:	Yes. 80 % in general 85 % for transit buses that are compliant with the Clean Air Act or accessible to people with disabilities 90 % for equipment and components of facilities related to low- or zero-emission buses or to make the facility accessible to people with disabilities (49 U.S.C. 5323(i)). Local match is also required for workforce development funds.		
Eligible Applicants	States (including territories and Washington, D.C.), local government entities, and federally recognized Indian tribes. Except for Indian tribes, eligible recipients must allocate funds to or operate fixed-route bus service. Eligible subrecipients are all otherwise eligible recipients and private nonprofit organizations engaged in public transportation, which are not required to allocate funds to or operate fixed-route bus service.		
Eligible Activities/ Projects	Purchasing, leasing, or rehabilitating buses regardless of propulsion type or emissions; and purchasing, leasing, rehabilitating, or constructing bus-related facilities and equipment, regardless of propulsion type or emissions. Projects must relate to public transportation (49 U.S.C. 5302(15)). The development or deployment of prototype vehicles is not eligible. All new transit bus models must successfully complete FTA bus testing (49 CFR part 665), and all buses must be procured from certified transit vehicle manufacturers in accordance with the DBE regulations (49 CFR part 26).		
Review Criteria	FTA will evaluate applications using the following criteria: Demonstration of Need; Demonstration of Benefits; Planning and Local or Regional Prioritization; Local Financial Commitment; Project Implementation Strategy; and Technical, Legal, and Financial Capacity. An evaluation committee will rate applications based on how well they respond to the evaluation criteria. Applications will be rated as Highly Recommended, Recommended, or Not Recommended. After considering the findings of the evaluation committee, the FTA Administrator will determine the final selection and amount of funding for each project. As part of the selection process, the Administrator may also consider geographic diversity; diversity in the size of the transit systems receiving funding; propulsion types receiving funding; whether an applicant is from an urban, small urban, or rural area or is a tribal government; and whether the applicant has received other Federal transit funds and its management of those funds.		
Link:	https://www.transit.dot.gov/notices-funding/fy-2026-notice-funding-opportunity-grants-buses-and-bus-facilities-infrastructure https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/363321		
Application Submission	Complete proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov (Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on September 21, 2026, under opportunity ID FTA-2026-010-TPM-BUS. Mail and fax submissions will not be accepted. Applicants must be registered in SAM.gov and provide a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).		
BAC Partnership Opportunity	The Build America Center (BAC) is a technical assistance program funded by the USDOT, offering grant development services to localities at NO CHARGE. For more information, please visit our websites: https://bac.umd.edu/ and https://billaunchpad.com/		

If your agency is interested in exploring this opportunity, contact us at bac@umd.edu for details on collaboration