

**Questions and Answers from JARC and New Freedom  
Informational Meeting 1/13/11**

Q: Once an applicant is awarded with JARC and/or New Freedom money, what sort of information will the FTA require in the monthly follow-up reports?

A: Along with more detailed reporting information provided to recipients once the grant is awarded, the FTA will require the number of monthly passenger trips and passenger miles for both JARC and New Freedom. JARC will also require reporting on the number of jobs accessed.

Q: If I wanted to participate in the JARC and/or New Freedom program, how would I know if my service route would qualify?

A: The prospective applicant would need to contact their United We Ride county lead to establish what the qualifying criteria are for each program. The applicant should discuss what audience they intend to serve. Please note: there cannot be any duplication of services. If your route is already in existence, you are not able to receive funds for additional service along that route.

Q: Please explain how passenger miles are calculated for the monthly service

A: An example of calculations for passenger miles is if 10 people get on at 1 stop and those 10 people get off at a stop in 10 miles, that is equal to 100 passenger miles.

Q: How much detail should we provide for the Title VI? How has it changed from previous years?

A: If you have submitted contracts previously nothing has changed. The Title VI Regulation paperwork has been sent out to all sub recipients. All sub recipients need to be in compliance with federal rules and regulations. Applicants need to explain their method for collecting and organizing Title VI complaints. If awarded federal funding, applicants are subject to NJ Transit review of these procedures.

Q: Do JARC and New Freedom programs have to adhere to Drug and Alcohol Regulation?

A: JARC and New Freedom are exempt, unless this funding is to be combined with 5311 funds or other federal funds that require this testing.

Q: Does New Jersey Transit do site visits to vehicle garages?

A: Yes, sites and vendors are subject to periodic site visits and review for compliance with federal requirements

Q: Should sub recipients do their own compliance inspections/visits if they have contracted for service?

A: Yes, this would be extremely beneficial to make sure that the service is in compliance with Federal regulations and is being delivered according to the contract.

Q: Is a list of labor organizations provided in the application packet?

A: No, however they will need to be submitted with your application. Not submitting this portion of the application will delay processing of the application. The list is now available on the NJTPA website.

Q: When can candidates approved for FY09 New Freedom funding expect money for New Freedom Service?

A: These applications have been submitted to the FTA; however we cannot give you any specific dates of the disbursement of funds.

Q: Some sub recipients have been given the permission to start their New Freedom service. Is there some type of form that has this in writing?

A: Yes please contact Jim Flynn for your pre-award letter.

Q: Will the Federal Fiscal 06-09 New Freedom funds be used through June 30, 2012?

A: The time frame could vary depending on yearly allocation and need.

Q: When will the funding awarded under the current application process be available?

A: Money for operational services for both JARC and New Freedom projects is anticipated to be available on July 1, 2012 and therefore, services that will be using this anticipated funding should not begin before July 1.

Q: If a sub recipient applies for a vehicle(s), when should they receive it?

A: It takes about 2 years for a sub recipient to receive vehicles, due to the FTA approval process along with NJ Transit's procurement process.

Q: On page 27, question 8 of the JARC application what does "Describe driver of vehicle" mean?

A: A description of the driver may consist of but is not limited to the drivers' driving experience (CDL, training and experience etc.), and whether they are volunteers or paid drivers.

Q: Is it the responsibility of the sub recipients to keep copies of the CDL?

A: It is a good idea to do so but it is not federally required.

Q: Must every sub recipient submit the Federal Certifications and Assurances document?

A: Yes the Certifications and Assurances must be submitted with application

Q: Is inter-county service ranked higher than intra-county?

A: Providing service for inter-county service is given 10 points when application is evaluated and intra-county service is given 5 points.

Q: If a sub recipient presents data, do we have to identify a source?

A: Yes, this is a new feature on the application. Any data used for an application needs to have identified source.

Q: How much would I have to match if I am getting vehicles?

A: there is a 20 % match on vehicles. For an example, if New Jersey Transit provides you with a vehicle that cost \$50,000, your match will be \$10,000. You will have to pay the \$10,000 before the vehicle is delivered to you. Once you have the vehicle it your responsibility to maintain the vehicle and its operations.

Q: How important is it that the applicant's proposed program be included in its county's coordinated plan?

A: The applicant's proposed program must be included in the county's coordinated plan. Therefore the applicant must contact the county lead to have the coordinated plan amended to include the project. This is for both JARC and New Freedom. NJTransit will need to refer to a page number in the coordinated plan that outlines the proposed program(s), in order for the application to be accepted by the FTA.

Q: How does the financial status of a current JARC and/or New Freedom project affect any new/future funding?

A: The amount of new funding allocated definitely depends on how much of the previous funding was spent. NJ Transit keeps track of how much is spent per month on a project and for past/current projects; this information will be a factor in determining how much money will be awarded for the most current application process.

Q: How are the applications evaluated?

A: After the applications are received, they are then reviewed by a selection committee that uses a detailed evaluation sheet to rank the applicants based on the need and quality of the proposed project.

Q: If someone wants to apply for New Freedom funding, can they do so for a project/service that began after the 2005 federal cut off date?

A: The funds requested must be for the new service added after 2005. The program that began before 2005 must be maintained. New Freedom funds cannot replace funds in an existing service or program.