

## Section 5317 New Freedom Program

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The purpose of the New Freedom grant program is to support services and facility improvements to address the transportation needs of persons with disabilities that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Funds are available to support the capital and operating costs of new public transportation service targeted toward people with disabilities or public transportation alternatives that go beyond those required by the ADA.

The foundation of the New Freedom program is larger fixed-route urban systems that are required to have parallel or "complementary" paratransit systems to meet the needs of disabled individuals. The stereotype project is extended hours or days, or expansion of service area or other operating parameters not available under previous funding mechanisms. For ADOT's program, Section 5317 is distinguished from Section 5310 by its "disabled persons only" focus and providing services not otherwise available through 5310 or other grant programs.

Eligible recipients include private nonprofit organizations, State or local governmental authority, and operators of public transportation services including private operators of public transportation services. Activities that could be funded under the program include, but are not limited to:

- Purchasing vehicles and supporting accessible taxi, ride-sharing, and vanpooling programs; including staff training, administration, and maintenance.
- Providing paratransit services beyond minimum requirements (3/4 mile to either side of a fixed route), including for routes that run seasonally.
- Making accessibility improvements to transit and intermodal stations not designated as key stations.
- Supporting voucher programs for transportation services offered by human service providers.
- Supporting mobility management and coordination programs among public transportation providers and other human service agencies providing transportation. These activities are considered a capital cost and are defined as short-range planning and management activities and projects for improving coordination among public transportation and other transportation service providers.

Matching fund ratios in New Freedom projects (including mobility management) are 80% federal, 20% local for capital, and 50% federal, 20% local for operating assistance.

All projects funded under this program must be derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation planning process. Successful applicants must be included in their Regional Coordination Plan and have participated in related activities.