



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

DATE: March 4, 2008

SUBJECT: Applications for JARC/W2W and New Freedom Programs

TO: Metropolitan and Regional Planning Organization Executive Directors

FROM: Toby L. Fauver, AICP  
Deputy Secretary  
Local and Area Transportation

Attached are the F.Y. 2008-2009 applications for Job Access Reverse Commute (Federal Section 5316)/Welfare to Work and New Freedom (Federal Section 5317) Programs. As detailed in our correspondence dated October 5, 2007 regarding Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans, the Department is making JARC/W2W and New Freedom applications available to metropolitan and regional planning organizations. PennDOT administers JARC and New Freedom funds for all non-urbanized (less than 50,000 population) and small urbanized (50,000 to 199,999 population) areas of the state. Large urbanized areas (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Reading, Scranton and Mercer) are direct recipients of federal JARC and New Freedom funds. The following process applies to the distribution and evaluation of the applications outside of these large urbanized areas:

1. Ensure that your Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan has been formally adopted and is fully compliant with FTA final guidance.
2. Distribute JARC/W2W and New Freedom applications, along with a copy of your formally adopted coordinated plan. Include all public transportation providers as well as any other eligible applicants in your area, particularly agencies that have welfare to work projects (Attachment #1). For contact information on the public transportation providers in your area, you may access PennDOT's website at [www.dot.state.pa.us](http://www.dot.state.pa.us). Choose Public Transportation, and then click on Public Transportation Map. Agencies are listed by county and by type of service provided.
3. Establish an evaluation team which must include local transportation agencies.
4. Collect completed applications no later than May 1, 2008.
5. Evaluate and rank completed applications using the attached scoring sheet as a guide (Attachment #2) or by using a locally developed evaluation methodology.
6. Ensure that the transit agency(ies) within your region have reviewed the projects and support them as being aligned with the coordinated plan. Projects lacking the endorsement of the local transit agency(ies) will not be considered for funding.
7. Prioritize applications based on final scores.
8. Submit a request for JARC and New Freedom projects to the Department by May 30, 2008.
9. Document the process for selecting projects using the attached guideline (Attachment #3), and submit with your project funding request.

The Department is committed to funding sustainable projects. At the present time we have three years of available funding (see attachment #4). Although we will have a higher amount to distribute initially, allocations in future years are expected to remain fairly constant. We will give the highest priority to:

- capital projects which provide the infrastructure for service
- IT technology to improve the delivery of passenger service
- vanpools.

Because funding is very limited, there will be no consideration of operating projects unless there are resources available to sustain the project. Consideration may be given to operating projects which demonstrate that the applicant has the institutional and fiscal capacity to sustain the project beyond the initial source of funding. In addition, required local match is one of the options the Department is considering for JARC and New Freedom projects to make sure that there is local project oversight and ownership. A more detailed description of federal eligibility for JARC and New Freedom projects is included in Attachment #5.

The following provides program highlights for JARC, Welfare to Work, and New Freedom:

- JARC program funds are available for capital and operating expenses that improve access to transportation services to employment and employment related activities for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals and to transport residents of urbanized areas and non-urbanized areas to employment opportunities. The Department is currently funding welfare to work projects statewide. Activities associated with those projects may be eligible for JARC funds. Consequently, we anticipate leveraging federal JARC funding for use in welfare to work projects.
- With regard to welfare to work projects, FY 2008-09 will be a transition year for local match. We would not enforce a local match option for existing welfare to work projects in FY 2008-09. During the transition year we will be visiting areas where welfare to work projects are in progress. Agencies with responsibility for oversight of welfare to work projects will be subject to an evaluation of return on investment for those projects. Following the transition year, our local match option would be consistent with that described above for JARC and New Freedom projects. NOTE: Unless there is another project in place by July 1, 2008, current welfare to work projects will continue in FY 2008-09. During FY 2008-09 if local stakeholders choose to transition away from existing projects, they should present a plan to address the transportation needs of individuals currently being served.
- New Freedom program funds are available for capital and operating expenses that support new public transportation services beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and new public transportation alternatives beyond those

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required by the ADA. Eligible projects will enable individuals with disabilities to fully participate in their communities. The Department administers the Rural Transportation Program for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) which will be available in 65 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. The PwD Program has already provided greater mobility options for individuals with disabilities. One of the Department's priorities for New Freedom funding is vehicle replacement and fleet expansion for shared-ride services which are offered at discounted rates to persons with disabilities.

Please remember, all projects funded under these programs must be derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation planning process. If you have questions, please contact Eileen Ogan, Chief, Specialized Transportation Division at (717) 787-1213.

cc: Pennsylvania public transportation organizations

Attachments:

1. Current Welfare to Work projects.
2. JARC and New Freedom scoring sheets.
3. Selection process guideline.
4. JARC and New Freedom funding amounts.
5. JARC and New Freedom eligible projects