

Mobility, Access, and Transportation Insecurity Program

RFP Webinar
Feb. 1st and 8th, 2024

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What is Transportation Insecurity?

- Unable to reach needed destinations in a timely, safe, and comfortable manner.
- Miss or don't take trips because of lack of stable transportation.
- As with food insecurity where people may not know where next meal is coming from, some populations lack certainty about how they will move.
- Causes missed or limited opportunities and experiences because of lack of resources or access to adequate systemic support.



MATI Overview

- New program funded by the Federal Transit Administration. Will be administered by the University of Minnesota and MATI program team.
- Attempt to solicit and support community-up ideas. Goal is to not just support innovative interventions, but also to track and evaluate how they impact individual and collective lives.
- Not limited to traditional transportation approaches or modes, nor to transportation alone. Want to see proposals that tie to interconnected issues—housing, health, access to opportunity, education.

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MATI Overview

- Phase 1 (selected through this RFP) will fund up to 8 applicants. Selected applicants will receive up to \$150,000 to support the **development and submission of a plan** for a proposed demonstration project to address transportation insecurity. This phase will take 9–12 months.
- Phase 2 (selected from among successful Phase 1 applicants via a second competitive process) will fund up to 4 applicants for the full deployment of the proposed demonstration. Selected applicants will receive up to \$700,000 over 24 months to **launch the demonstration project**.



MATI Roles

Task	Applicants and local partners	MATI Team	Federal Transit Administration	MATI Research Committee
Funding			Primary	
Program Management		Primary	Secondary	
Applicant Selection		Primary		
Plan Development	Primary	Secondary		
Deployment and Management	Primary	Secondary		
Data Collection	Primary	Secondary		
Research and Evaluation		Primary		
Program guidance and feedback	Secondary		Primary	Primary

■ Primary
 ■ Secondary



MATI Process

MATI RFP

Review

Phase 1 Sites

Review

Phase 2 Sites

Applicant coalitions submit response to initial RFP proposing a demonstration.

Set of sites selected to participate in Phase 1. Deliverable is a fully developed plan for intervention demonstration. Sites submit plan to MATI team to compete for demonstration project funds.

Subset of Phase 1 sites are selected for demonstration funding. Deliverable is the demonstration itself.

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Program Timeline

- Selection of Phase 1 participants – Spring 2024
- Phase 1 Execution—development and delivery of demonstration plan, Summer 2024 - Winter 2025
- Competition to fund demonstration plans, Spring 2025.
- Phase 2 Execution—demonstration projects deployed, Summer 2025-Summer 2027.



RFP Release

MATI RFP released on January 11, 2024

Office Hours

Office Hours will be held every Tuesday from Feb 13-March 19, 2024

RFP Questions Due

Submit by April 1, 2024.
Responses posted to MATI webpage.

Webinars

MATI Webinars will be held on Feb. 1 and 8, 2024.

Expression of Interest Due

Submit EOI form by March 15, 2023. Responses by April 1, 2024.

Full Proposal Due

Due by 5 pm CST on April 30, 2024.

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RFP Details – Required Steps

Expression of Interest by March 15th

1. Identification of demonstration community.
2. Identification of the transit agency that serves that community. (To be eligible to apply, applicants must be in a geography covered by a transit agency. The agencies themselves do not have to be on a proposing team. See the eligibility section for more.)
3. Identification of proposed team makeup.
4. Identification of team lead.
5. Description of proposed project idea (2,000-character limit, approximately 350 words).

Expressions of interest will be reviewed to confirm basic eligibility and fit of the project with the MATI program. Applicants will be given a direct yes/no confirmation from the MATI team by April 1, 2024.

Full proposal due by April 30th via email

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RFP Details – Eligibility

- Must serve or primarily occur within a census designated urban area of at least 50,000 people that also has an active designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C 5307).
- The designated recipient is not a required team member, but one must be present in the geographic area served by the demonstration.
- Applicants may propose a demonstration that is focused on a particular community within the broader eligible geography.
- Applicant teams may include eligible team members from outside an urban area and/or aim to serve residents of non-urban areas, but the proposed demonstration must be oriented around actions within the defined urban area. (e.g., connecting rural or suburban communities to services located only in an eligible urban area).



RFP Details – Team Structure

Eligible Team Members

- Nonprofit organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Federally recognized Tribal Nations
- Local units of government (cities, counties, metropolitan planning organizations, and other special districts)
- Public transportation agencies or other private transportation provider (e.g., micromobility or shared-mobility providers)
- State or territorial departments of transportation
- Non-transportation state or local agencies (e.g., housing, public health, or economic development)
- For-profit/private organizations providing a service to lead applicant
- Universities or other research organizations
 - These team members may contribute to the execution of an applicant’s research, data collection, and evaluation plans. These plans will be created in conjunction with the MATI program team and applicant team members will not conduct separate evaluation or research on a demonstration project.



RFP Details – Team Structure

- Applicants may propose any team structure or division of tasks as long as the following criteria are met:
 - Nonprofit or community-based organization participants must represent at least 40% of the budget **in Phase 1**.
 - An applicant lead must be identified from the above eligible entities. That lead applicant member should have at least 30% of the proposed budget allotted to them **in Phase 1**.
 - Team members that are not receiving funding through the proposed budget are not allowed to be the applicant lead.
- Any team member may participate in a proposal/support a proposal without having a dedicated budget. To be considered a committed partner without budget, a team member must document their intended participation and demonstrate dedication of internal resources/time, which may be considered an in-kind match.
- Applicants that consist of at least one nonprofit or community-based organization and a committed public agency/jurisdiction will receive greater consideration in review.



RFP Details Budget

- Phase 1 budget of up to \$150,000 to support the development of the Demonstration Project plan. See the budget template.
 - Budget for project manager to lead development of demonstration plan.
 - Budget for other team members to participate in the development of a demonstration plan.
 - Travel of likely 1 day, 2 nights, for project manager and 1 other team member to an in-person convening of selected MATI Phase 1 applicants in summer/fall 2024.
- Other eligible spending includes but is not limited to:
 - Community honoraria, reimbursement or food for engagement with community members, or translation services during planning for a potential demonstration.
 - Planning, engineering, or development of technical materials required for the development of a demonstration plan, either by existing team members or by subcontractors that can provide needed expertise.
- There is no match requirement for either phase of the MATI program. Match is allowed in either phase and should be documented with letters of support.



Key Proposal Elements

Project Statement

- Define your intervention and why you think it will be impactful.
- Who it will impact? How will that group be involved in shaping it?

Project Team

- Why is your proposal team positioned to be effective?
- How will the work be divided and carried out?



RFP Details – Selection/Review

Project Elements

- How the proposal identifies and serves a specific priority population(s).
- How the proposal identifies and proposes to address critical issues in transportation insecurity.
- Scalability/applicability of a proposed demonstration beyond the demonstration site.

Team Elements

- Adequate inclusion of nonprofit or community-based organizations in the applicant team.
- Demonstrated commitment level of applicant team.
- Level of community member buy-in and participation in the proposal and planned demonstration.

Feasibility, MATI Programmatic Fit, and Long-term Impacts

- The feasibility of implementation for the proposed demonstration within the parameters of the MATI program and budgets.
- The potential long-term sustainability of an applicant's partnerships and the potential for future funding/management of the proposed project.

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Future Touchpoints

- Webinar on Feb. 8th, 2024 at 2 pm central.
- Office Hours every Tuesday 12-1 central.
 - Questions asked in office hours will be added on a rolling basis to the main MATI site's FAQs section.
- Question submission by April 1.
 - FAQs will posted to main MATI site on a rolling basis.



Questions?

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Bookmark the MATI webpage, sign up for RFP updates!

<https://www.cts.umn.edu/programs/MATI>.



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