



# Specialized Transportation Grant Program

Cycle 13 Call for Projects

## Kickoff Meeting

October 10, 2023

## Questions and Answers

| # | Question  | Answer  |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Can this [grant program] support Imperial County?   | No. The Senior Mini-Grant Program funds projects in San Diego County. The Section 5310 Program funds projects in the urbanized areas of San Diego County. Caltrans administers the Section 5310 Program for Imperial County.  |
| 2 | Can you repeat the award dates?   | Staff anticipates releasing the STGP Cycle 13 Call for Projects on July 1, 2024. Staff anticipates that Cycle 13 awards will be made in March 2025.   |
| 3 | Where can I see projects that have been supported so far?                                   | SANDAG has a list of STGP awards from Cycle 10, 11, and 12 on the STGP web page ( <a href="http://www.sandag.org/stgp">www.sandag.org/stgp</a> ) under the Call for Projects header.  |
| 4 | Have you given additional thought to changes to the evaluation criteria/procedures/scoring? | Yes. SANDAG anticipates holding a STGP Cycle 13 Workshop in February to gather input from stakeholders on the project selection criteria. In the meantime, SANDAG welcomes stakeholder feedback. SANDAG anticipates updating its procedures on how it administers the STGP next calendar year to coincide with the development of the Cycle 13 Call for Projects. |
| 5 | Any word on [funding] hybrid or electric vehicles?  | SANDAG purchases vehicles on behalf of awarded grantees through the California Association of Coordinated Transportation/Basin Transit Purchasing Cooperative (Cooperative) to secure advantageous pricing and ensure compliance with federal requirements. The Cooperative now offers a few accessible electric cutaway buses.                                   |

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|    |   | Applicants can expect to see these and potentially other electric vehicles as part of the STGP Cycle 13 Call for Projects.   |
| 6  | Would you be more specific on how we can participate in the stakeholder group meetings?   | In February, SANDAG plans to hold a workshop for stakeholders to focus on the project selection criteria. The workshop date has yet to be determined. Following the workshop, staff plans to present to stakeholder groups and working groups, soliciting further input on the project selection criteria. Additionally, staff will engage the Transportation Committee and the Independent Taxpayers Oversight Committee. Those committee's meetings are open to the public and SANDAG encourages public participation. SANDAG will keep stakeholders apprised. |
| 7  | If a stakeholder did not receive funding from [STGP] Cycle 12 are there other resources available until Cycle 13 is available?                            | SANDAG does not anticipate any other funding through the STGP becoming available until the Cycle 13 Call for Projects. If that changes, SANDAG will notify stakeholders. SANDAG anticipates releasing the Access for All (AFA) Grant Program Cycle 2 Call for Projects within a month. For more information on the AFA Grant Program, visit the <a href="#">AFA web page</a> .   |
| 8  | Are these grants ever awarded to small businesses in San Diego County or do they usually go to medium to big businesses?                                  | Neither. For-profit businesses are ineligible applicants for STGP funding. Eligible applicants are local public agencies and nonprofit organizations.  |
| 9  | Are there any other SANDAG grant program like the old Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program, which supports jobseekers with transportation needs? | No.  |
| 10 | Are there specialized transportation programs in Napa County?   | SANDAG is unfamiliar with the specialized transportation programs in Napa County specifically. However, the Section 5310 Program is a national program, so there are Section 5310  |

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|    |  | <p>Programs administered by state Departments of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations like SANDAG.</p>   |
| 11 | <p>If we are headquartered in San Diego County but we provide service in Imperial County, is that still eligible?</p>  | <p>At least 80% of the service must be for older adults and individuals with disabilities within San Diego County. Please also note that costs associated with providing service in Mexico would be ineligible.</p>  |
| 12 | <p>How can we get a better nexus between public transit and affordable housing?</p>  | <p>This is a larger policy question outside the scope of the Specialized Transportation Grant Program. However, there are two SANDAG grant programs that address this nexus: the <b>Smart Growth Incentive Program</b> (SGIP) and the <b>Housing Acceleration Program</b> (HAP). The SGIP funds comprehensive public infrastructure projects and planning activities that facilitate compact, mixed-use, transit-oriented development and increase housing and transportation choices. The HAP aims to help local jurisdictions build their capacity to produce more housing and better integrate it into their communities. Additionally, SANDAG encourages stakeholders to engage with the <b>SANDAG 2025 Regional Plan</b>, which can address this policy question.</p> |
| 13 | <p>Those with developmental disabilities and other disabilities who rely on paratransit services do not have access to same-day services like non-disabled peers. Riders have to plan ahead, which is itself a challenge. What plans are in place?</p> | <p>In a <b>Dear Colleague Letter</b> issued on September 14, 2023, the Federal Transit Administration acknowledged that “fixed route riders can spontaneously travel for last-minute work obligations, spur-of-the-moment social engagements, and unexpected events – an impossibility for people with disabilities who rely on next-day paratransit service.” The SANDAG Access for All (AFA) Grant Program funds projects and programs that expand on-demand Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle services for individuals with disabilities in the San Diego region. For more</p>  |

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|---|----------|--|
|   |          | information on the AFA Grant Program, visit the <a href="#">AFA web page</a> . |

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