

Appendix 2

Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 4 Standard Evaluation Criteria

The following standard evaluation criteria are intended to provide consistent guidance to each county in prioritizing and selecting projects to receive Lifeline Transportation Program funds. Each county, in consultation with other stakeholder representatives on the selection committee, will consider these criteria when selecting projects, and establish the weight to be assigned to each of the criterion. Additional criteria may be added to a county program but should not replace or supplant the regional criteria. MTC staff will review the proposed county program criteria to ensure consistency and to facilitate coordination among county programs.

- a. Project Need/Goals and Objectives:** Applicants should describe the unmet transportation need or gap that the proposed project seeks to address and the relevant planning effort that documents the need. Describe how project activities will mitigate the transportation need. Project application should clearly state the overall program goals and objectives, and demonstrate how the project is consistent with the goals of the Lifeline Transportation Program.
- b. Community-Identified Priority:** Priority should be given to projects that directly address transportation gaps and/or barriers identified through a Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) or other substantive local planning effort involving focused outreach to low-income populations. Applicants should identify the CBTP or other substantive local planning effort, as well as the priority given to the project in the plan.

Other projects may also be considered, such as those that address transportation needs identified in countywide or regional welfare-to-work transportation plans, the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, or other documented assessment of needs within designated communities of concern. Findings emerging from one or more CBTPs or other relevant planning efforts may also be applied to other low-income areas, or otherwise be directed to serve low-income constituencies within the county, as applicable.

A communities of concern (CoC) mapping tool showing both CoCs adopted with Plan Bay Area as well as the most recent socioeconomic data available from the Census Bureau is available at: http://gis.mtc.ca.gov/samples/Interactive_Maps/cocs.html.¹

¹ There is a user's guide available to aid in the use of this tool.

- c. **Implementation Plan and Project Management Capacity:** For projects seeking funds to support program operations, applicants must provide a well-defined service operations plan, and describe implementation steps and timelines for carrying out the plan.

For projects seeking funds for capital purposes, applicants must provide an implementation plan, milestones and timelines for completing the project.

Priority should be given to projects that are ready to be implemented in the timeframe that the funding is available.

Project sponsors should describe and provide evidence of their organization's ability to provide and manage the proposed project, including experience providing services for low-income persons, and experience as a recipient of state or federal transportation funds. For continuation projects that have previously received Lifeline funding, project sponsor should describe project progress and outcomes.

- d. **Coordination and Program Outreach:** Proposed projects will be evaluated based on their ability to coordinate with other community transportation and/or social service resources. Applicants should clearly identify project stakeholders, and how they will keep stakeholders involved and informed throughout the project. Applicants should also describe how the project will be marketed and promoted to the public.
- e. **Cost-Effectiveness and Performance Indicators:** The project will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability to demonstrate that the project is the most appropriate way in which to address the identified transportation need, and is a cost-effective approach. Applicants must also identify clear, measurable outcome-based performance measures to track the effectiveness of the service in meeting the identified goals. A plan should be provided for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the service, as well as steps to be taken if original goals are not achieved.
- f. **Project Budget/Sustainability:** Applicants must submit a clearly defined project budget, indicating anticipated project expenditures and revenues, including documentation of matching funds. Proposals should address long-term efforts and identify potential funding sources for sustaining the project beyond the grant period.