

Chapter 5

Priorities for Implementation

5.1 Establishing Priorities

Implementation of this plan is expected to occur through efforts made by transit agencies and other transportation providers for target populations in the OKI region, including projects and programs that they initiate. Priorities for implementation include projects or programs that address the needs identified in Chapter 4 of this plan.

It is expected that many of the efforts undertaken to implement this plan will rely, at least in part, on federal funding available through the Federal Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) program. This Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan is targeted to serving the populations served by these three federal programs and is the basis for awarding federal funding for them in most of the Cincinnati urbanized area.

A description of the competitive selection process for federal Specialized Transportation program funds is provided in Appendix A of this plan for reference, along with an application form. While the competitive selection process information in Appendix A provides more detail, the following general evaluation criteria will be used for project selection and are consistent with the federal Program Guidance and Application Instructions, which include selecting projects that:

1. address gaps in current service provisions for targeted communities as defined in the local coordinated plan;
2. make use of available resources and leverage resources to the extent possible;
3. coordinate with other Federal programs (e.g., coordinated services, financial partnerships);
4. can be achieved with the given technical capacity of the project sponsor; and
5. demonstrate evidence of broad solicitation for input (coordinated planning process).

In addition to meeting these general criteria, funding requests that address the identified needs and that advance the associated strategies identified in Chapter 4 will receive a higher score in the competitive selection process than those that do not. The strategies in Chapter 4 and the criteria considered on the grant application form (see Appendix A) were developed with input from the 5310 Oversight Team and thus reflect the direct experience and expertise of transportation providers for the target populations.

5.2 Additional Considerations

In addition to addressing the identified needs and strategies, applications for funding will also be evaluated based on how the project addresses the following considerations:

- **Service to targeted populations** - Targeted populations include elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities for Section 5310. Applicants must provide a description of how their project will provide service to the identified targeted populations.

- **Elimination or reduction of duplication in services** - To ensure appropriate levels of communication have occurred with other agencies providing similar services, the applicant will be asked to describe efforts taken to help eliminate or reduce duplication in services and to indicate other agencies contacted and the results of such efforts, including any letters, agreements, or contracts.
- **Sustainability** - Once a project has been initiated, it is important that the project sustain itself. The low-income or disabled population may become dependent upon the services, and applicants need to take precautions so that these services can be continued should the federal funds become unavailable in the future. Applicants in the Cincinnati urbanized area should indicate how their projects will be sustained after the funding period is complete; accordingly, projects that demonstrate contingency planning for alternate funding sources will be stronger and will receive higher priority.

The project selection process also involves the 5310 Oversight Team working with OKI to evaluate applications for funding. To avoid any bias in the process, individual members of the 5310 Oversight Team do not participate in evaluating their own projects if they have submitted grant applications. The expertise and involvement of the 5310 Oversight Team provides additional and valuable perspective from providers and advocates of transportation services for target populations.