Accessible Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP)
2023-24 Program Criteria

Objective

The purpose of the Accessible Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP) is to assist inclusive transit services in the purchase of an accessible vehicle or in the conversion of an existing vehicle.

Eligibility

First priority will be given to organizations receiving funding from the Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) and new rural transportation services whose mandate includes providing accessible door to door transportation.

Pending budget availability applications will be considered from Municipal accessible transit services (i.e. Metro Transit Access-a-Bus and Handi-Trans CB) in areas not serviced by an organization receiving CTAP funding.

Applications <u>will not</u> be considered from the following organizations

- Fixed route transit services
- Taxi operators
- Shuttle operators
- Inter-city transit operators
- Other not-for-profit transit providers that do not meet the CTAP criteria
- Nursing homes
- Individuals

Funding

Organizations receiving CTAP funding or new rural transportation services whose mandate is to provide accessible door to door transportation will be eligible for 75% of the capital costs of the vehicle as follows:

- **up to a maximum of $75,000** towards the purchase of a ‘new’ vehicle
- **up to a maximum of $75,000** towards the purchase of a ‘used’ vehicle not previously funded under ATAP, is less than 3 years old and has an odometer reading of less than 75,000kms.

Municipal accessible transit services will be eligible to receive 50% of the capital cost of the vehicle to a maximum of $60,000.

Terms and Conditions

Vehicles purchased prior to April 1st, 2023 or costs associated with converting mini vans incurred prior to April 1st, 2023 will not be eligible for funding under this program.

However, if the applicant chooses to incur the expenditure after April 1st, 2023 but prior to approval, they assume 100% of the financial risk of the purchase and/or conversion if the application is not funded under ATAP.

All converted vehicles funded under ATAP must meet the D409 standard for vehicle safety.

Grant Payments

Grant payments for approved projects will be processed as follows:

(a) An advance of 80% of the contribution payable under this agreement will be released upon the Province receiving the signed Funding Agreement.

(b) The remaining 20% of the contribution under this agreement will be held back until the following conditions of this agreement have been met.

- (i) a copy of the bill of sale,
- (ii) a letter certifying that the Vehicle meets ALL certifications, standards and federal and provincial regulations where the vehicle will be in commercial service,
- (iii) certification that an adequate training program toward improved awareness skills in meeting the needs of passengers with disabilities as well as a training program relating to the use of the Vehicle acquired with assistance from the Program have been carried out,
- (iv) a written statement that the monies received from the contribution will be used for the purchase of the Vehicle,
- (v) a copy of the Utility and Review Board Certificate of Authorization for the transportation service, if required.
- (vi) proof of payment in the form of a cancelled cheque (both front and back).

Eligible Expenses

- Vehicle cost
- Conversion cost
- Painting

Ineligible Expenses

- Vehicle registration, licensing and inspection
- Travel expenses related to picking up the vehicle

Online Application Dates

Please refer to the ATAP website for the online application submission process and due date

Incomplete applications or applications received after this date will not be considered. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted.

Please ensure you attach a minimum of 3 separate vehicle quotes to your application.

Program Contact

Any questions regarding the ATAP can be directed to:

Greg Sewell
Director, Active Transportation and Community Transit
Telephone 902-719-7673
E-mail: Gregory.Sewell@novascotia.ca