

Moving Public Transportation Into the Future

Maryland Transit Association: Financial Management Training

November 10, 2022

Presented by:

Rich Garrity
RLS & Associates, Inc.

Session Content



Recent Impactful Events



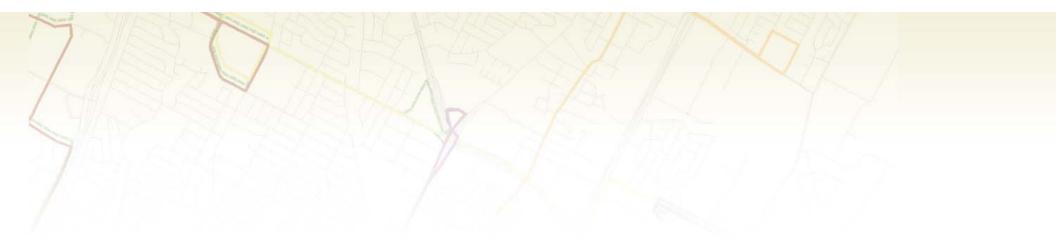
Pandemic Relief Funding



Hot Topics in Financial Management



Other Trending Topics



Module 1

RECENT EVENTS

- New Laws and Regulations
 - National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Pub.
 - L. 113-291, Never Contract with the Enemy
 - 2 CFR § 183
 - 2 CFR § 200.215
 - National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Pub.
 - L. 115-232, Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment
 - Revisions to 2 CFR § 200

- New Laws and Regulations
 - Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
 - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), as enacted in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- Revisions to 2 CFR § 200 Effective 2014
 - Set Government-Wide Standards
 - \$3,500 Micro-Purchase Threshold
 - \$150,000 Small Acquisition Threshold
- Congress Revised These Standards
 - Effective with OMB-18-18, June 20, 2018
 - \$10,000 Micro-Purchase Threshold
 - \$250,000 Small Acquisition Threshold

- NFE Establishment of Higher Micro-Purchase Threshold
 - 2 CFR § 200.320(a)(iv) Provides an Option to Any Non-Federal Entity That Enables the Organization to Establish a Threshold Higher Than the Micro-Purchase Threshold Identified in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)
 - The Entity May Adopt A Threshold Of Up To \$50,000, But There Are Conditions

Conditions

- Annual Self-Certification
- Justification for the Higher Threshold Must be Made
- Entity Must be a "Low Risk" Auditee in Most Recent Single Audit
- Must Conduct Annual Risk Assessment Process
- If a Public Entity, Higher Threshold Must be Consistent with Prevailing State Laws

 Changes to 2 CFR § 200 Now Allow Any Non-Federal Entity to Use the *de minimis* Rate Even If the Entity Had Previously Negotiated an Indirect Cost Rate with the Federal Government

 Changes to 2 CFR § 200 Clarify that a Recipient is Only Response for Oversight of a Subrecipient's Audit Findings that Relate to the Funding Source Passed Through to the Subrecipient, Not All Audit Findings

- Never Contract with the Enemy Act
 - 2 CFR § 183
 - Applies Only to Grants Performed Outside the U.S.
 - Some Burden to Check SAM.gov to Ensure Your Agency Does Not Do Business with an Entity That Has Been Debarred Due to Violations of this Act

- Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment
 - o 2 CFR § 200.216
 - The NFE Cannot Procure, Obtain, Extend or Renew a Contract to Procure or Obtain
 - Equipment
 - Services
 - Systems
 - From
 - Huawei Technologies
 - ZTE Corporation

- Revisions to 2 CFR § 200.320 Defining Procurement Methods
 - Informal Procurement Methods
 - Micro-Purchases
 - Small Purchases
 - Formal Procurement Methods
 - Sealed Bids
 - Proposals
 - Noncompetitive Procurement

- New Provisions Under 49 U.S.C. § 5339
 - Applicants Must Use "Innovative Procurement Tools"
 - If Under Five (5) Buses in a Stand-Alone Procurement,
 FTA Will Now Require Written Justification for Not Using an Authorized Procurement Tool
 - Examples
 - » Cooperative Procurements
 - » State Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
 - » Innovative Leasing Arrangements

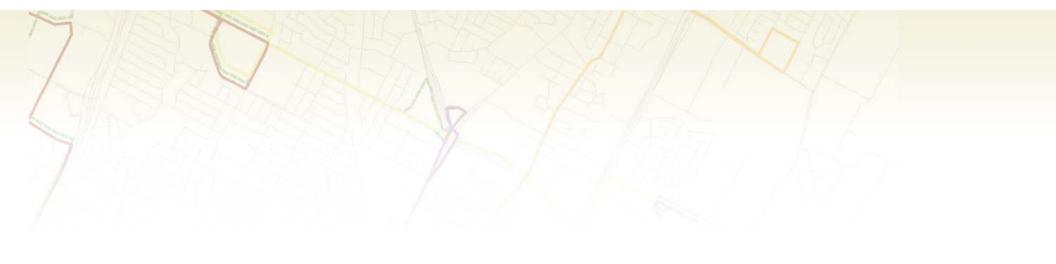
BABA

- New Requirements
- Effective November 10, 2022
- Adds Buy America Requirements to Construction Materials Used in FTA-Funded Projects
- FTA Also Requesting Comments on Two Possible Relief Items

- Buy America Waiver
 - Non-Availability Public Interest Waiver for Unmodified Vans and Minivans
 - Caution
 - Waiver is Not Total
 - Only Applies to Non-Accessible Vehicles that Meet the Definition of "Vanpool"
 - Waiver Applies Only to Domestic Content, Final Assembly Must Occur in the U.S.
 - Engines/Motors Must be U.S.-Manufactured
 - October 25, 2022 Two Years

- Useful Life Rebuild Flexibility
 - Dear Colleague Letter, November 2, 2022,
 Changing Extended Useful Life on Medium Size,
 Light-Duty Transit Buses ("Cutaways") Rebuilds
 - Applies to Vehicles With a Minimum Useful Life of Five Years (or 150,000 Miles)
 - Rebuilds Require Useful Life Extension of Four Years
 - Now, the Extended Useful Life is Reduced to Two Years or 50,000

- New Rules on the Treatment of Disposition Proceeds
 - For Vehicles That Have Exceeded Useful Life
 - Subrecipient is Entitled to Keep First \$5,000 in Proceeds
 - Over \$5,000, an Amount Equal to the Federal Rate of Participation Times the Amount Over \$5,000 Must be Returned to FTA using the pay.gov Web Portal
 - The Subrecipient May Retain the Local Share of the Amount Over \$5,000



Module 2

PANDEMIC RELIEF FUNDING

Pandemic Relief

- Three Key Legislative Acts
 - Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
 - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)

CARES Act

- CARES Act is NOT a Program
 - A Legislative Act that Provided Additional Funding to Two FTA Programs
 - Section 5307
 - Section 5311
 - \$25 Billion
 - All Regulatory Provisions Applicable to These Programs Apply
 - Some Administrative Flexibilities

CARES Act

- Primary Changes
 - Both Capital and Operating Expenses Were Funded at 100% Federal Share
 - 100% Share Applied to Expenses Incurred On or After January 20, 2020
 - FTA Made Clear Certain Non-Traditional Expenses Were Eligible
 - Large UZAs Permitted to Use CARES Act funds for Operations

CARES Act

- FTA Made Clear Certain Non-Traditional Expenses Were Eligible
 - Personal Protective Equipment and Cleaning Supplies
 - Administrative Leave
 - Reductions in Service
 - Leave for a Quarantined Worker
 - Leave for an Employee to Receive the COVID-19 Vaccine and Subsequent Recovery

CRRSAA

- Provided Additional Funding for Pandemic Relief
 - Funding Provided to Section 5310 in Addition to Sections 5307 and 5311
 - \$14 Billion
 - Similar Eligibility, But Priority on Payroll and Operations Expenses
 - Other Expenses Required Certification that No Employees Were Furloughed

CRRSAA

- Combined CARES/CRRSAA Apportionments
 Cannot Exceed a Set Percent of Reported 2018
 NTD Operating Expenses
 - Section 5307 75%
 - Section 5311 125%
- May Result in Some Areas/States Not Receiving CRRSAA Funding
- Section 5311(f) Set-Aside Not Applicable
 - ICB Expenses Eligible

CRRSAA

- CRRSAA and Section 5310
 - Apportionment
 - Large UZA 60%
 - Governor's Apportionment (Small UZAs and Rural)
 - Traditional Projects
 - The 55% Percent Rule for "Traditional" Projects Does Not Apply
 - Planning Requirement Applied
 - Must be Consistent with Coordinated HSA/Public Transit Plan

- Elements Common in Both Acts
 - 100% Federal Share
 - Pre-Award Authority Back to January 20, 2022
 - No Lapse Date
 - Funds Available Until Expended
 - Recipients are Encouraged to Use Funds
 Expeditiously for Operating and Payroll Expenses
 - No Caps on Operating Expenses

- Elements Common in Both Acts
 - Other Administrative Flexibilities
 - No Caps on Percent of Funds That Can be Used for ADA Complementary Paratransit
 - Recipients/Subrecipients Cannot Use Funds to Pay Third Party Contract Operators for Services Not Provided

- Elements Common in Both Acts
 - Other Administrative Flexibilities
 - Allocation/Distribution Plans in a State Management Plan (SMP) or Program Management Plan (PMP) Need Not be Followed
 - Requirement
 - One Percent Requirement for Section 5307 Projects for Security Remains
 - No RTAP Funding in Section 5311

- Elements Common in Both Acts
 - TIP/STIP
 - Operating Expenses Do Not Require a TIP or STIP Amendment
 - Capital Projects that Entail Substantial Functional, Locational, or Capacity Changes Require the Amendment
 - Requirement
 - Split Letters Still Required
 - DOL Certification Still Required

- Elements Common in Both Acts
 - No Restrictions on the Period of Performance
 - Grants For Operating Assistance and Preventive
 Maintenance May Cover a Period That Corresponds to
 the Expected Spend-Down Rate of the Funds
 - Special Documentation to Claim Operating Expenses
 - None
 - Follow 2 CFR § 200

- CARES/CRRSAA and Title VI
 - Adoption of Cashless Fare Structure During the Pandemic Could Have Title VI Implications
 - Cashless vs. Fare-Free
 - Minority Populations May be More Impacted by Cashless Fare Structures
 - Translation of Documents
 - Service Change Announcements

- CARES/CRRSAA and DBE
 - If CARES Funding Represents an Increase or Expansion of Current Third-Party Contracts, FTA Does Not Generally Require Designated Recipients to Update a DBE Program or Revise a DBE Goal
 - If the Transit Agency Does Not Have a DBE Program, One May Be Necessary
 - Consult FTA or MDOT/MTA

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

ARP

- Additional \$30.46 Billion for Public Transportation
- 100% Federal Share Maintained
- Similar to CRRSAA, Focus on Payroll and Operating Expenses
 - Other Types of Expenses Allowable Provided Recipient/ Subrecipient Certifies It Has Not Furloughed Any Employees
- Available Through September 30, 2024

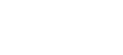
American Rescue Plan (ARP)

ARP

- Distribution of Funds Between Section 5307/ Section 5311 Similar to CRRSAA
 - Section 5307 Funds Limited to 132% of 2018 NTD Operating Expenses, Taking Into Account CARES and CRRSAA Funds
 - Section 5311
 - 150% of 2018 NTD Operating Expenses
 - Additional Funds Based on Actual Percent of 2018
 - Fixed Amount Set-Aside for Section 5311(f)
 - Includes RTAP

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

- ARP
 - Section 5310
 - Additional \$50 Million Nationwide
 - Allocated Based on FY 2020 Allocation Ratio
 - Supplemental Section 5307/Section 5311
 - Set-Aside of \$2.2 Billion, on a Competitive Basis, for Systems that Need Additional Assistance
 - Must Have Spent 90% of CARES Funding



Module 3

HOT TOPICS IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Basic Requirements

- The Recipient Must
 - Have Financial Policies and Procedures for Managing Federal Awards
 - Internal Controls
 - Determining the Allowability of Costs
 - Have an Organizational Structure that Defines,
 Assigns, and Delegates Fiduciary Authority

Basic Requirements

- The Recipient Must
 - Have the Financial Management Systems to Prepare Reports and Track the Use of Funds to Establish Compliance with the Grant Award
 - Have Procedures to for Charging Indirect Costs to FTA Awards, Including Developing Annual Cost Allocation Plans and Obtaining Approval from a Cognizant Agency

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Basic Requirement

- The Recipient Must
 - Conduct Required Single Audits, as Required by 2 CFR Part 200.500 et. seq., Submit Required Documentation to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse, and Resolve Audit Findings
 - Provide the Local Share to Match FTA Awards and Maintain/Operate FTA-Funded Assets
 - Compute the Federal Share of Operating Expenses Correctly

Basic Requirement

- The Recipient Must
 - Provide Sufficient Oversight of Its Subrecipients
 - Requisite Financial Resources
 - Eligible Matching Funds
 - Internal Controls
 - Indirect Costs
 - Single Audits

- Missing, Insufficient, or Out-of-Date Financial Operating Procedures
- ECHO Documentation Deficient
- Financial Management Systems Deficiencies
- Ineligible Operating Expense Calculation
- Funds Not Disbursed Timely

- Insufficient Internal Controls Over Cash or Other Fare Media
- Improper Documentation of Personnel Expenses
- No Written Policy Concerning Allowability of Costs
- Lack of Written Fiscal or Grants Management Procedures
- Improper Claims of Indirect Costs

- Insufficient Internal Controls Over Cash or Other Fare Media
 - Issues
 - Failure to Properly Secure Farebox Collections
 - Insufficient Bank Deposit Policies
 - Lack of Secure Storage for Other Fare Media

- Insufficient Internal Controls Over Cash or Other Fare Media
 - Best Practices
 - Assign Two People to Count at Fare Turn-In
 - Create Secure Deposit of Cash After Administrative Hours
 - Limit Access to Counting Areas
 - Get a Safe If Deposits are Less Frequent Than Daily

- Improper Documentation of Personnel Expenses
 - Issues
 - Personnel Whose Time is Split are Required to Maintain a Record of Time Spent by Activity
 - Must Account for All Activity
 - Estimate Generally Not Permitted

- Improper Documentation of Personnel Expenses
 - Best Practices
 - Know the Conditions in 2 CFR § 200.430(i)(vii) When Documentation is Required
 - Applies to Hourly and Salaried Employees This Provision is Not Impacted by DOL Rules
 - Maintain Timesheets OR Capture These Salaries
 Through Indirect Costs

- No Written Policy Concerning Allowability of Costs
 - Issues
 - Written Fiscal Policies Make No Mention of the Requirements of 2 CFR § 200.302(b)(7)
 - An Entity Must Have Written Procedures for the Determination of the Allowability of Costs

- No Written Policy Concerning Allowability of Costs
 - Best Practices
 - Know the Conditions in 2 CFR § 200.430(i)(vii) When Documentation is Required
 - Applies to Hourly and Salaried Employees This Provision is Not Impacted by DOL Rules
 - Maintain Timesheets OR Capture These Salaries
 Through Indirect Costs

- Lack of Written Fiscal or Grants Management Procedures
 - Issues
 - Agency Fiscal Policies Tend to be Written as Software Procedure Manuals
 - Policies Do Not Address Federal Requirements or Any Grant Administrative Elements

- Lack of Written Fiscal or Grants Management Procedures
 - Best Practices
 - Ensure Financial and Managerial Personnel are Trained on 2 CFR § 200 Requirements
 - Seek Out Model Policies from Peer Organizations
 - Update Fiscal Procedures Accordingly

- Improper Claims of Indirect Costs
 - Issues
 - Indirect Costs Claimed Not Based on Current Indirect Cost Allocation Plan (ICAP)
 - ICAP Lacks Required Components
 - ICAP Not Approved by Any Cognizant Agency
 - Improper Application of de minimis Rate
 - Improper Calculation of Modified Total Direct Costs

- Improper Claims of Indirect Costs
 - Best Practices
 - Update ICAP Annually
 - Understand the Six (6) Basic Elements Required in an ICAP
 - Ensure the Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRP) Has Been
 Certified by an Appropriate Local Official
 - If Receiving Funds Primary as a Subrecipient, the Primary Recipient May Approve Your Cost Allocation Plan

- Improper Claims of Indirect Costs
 - Best Practices
 - Note that With Changes to 2 CFR § 200, All Entities May Use the de minimis Rate (Even if the Entity Had Previously Negotiated an Indirect Cost Rate with the Federal Government
 - Understand What Must be Excluded When Calculating Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)
 - Capital Costs
 - Rents
 - Contract Costs Over \$25,000

Module 4

OTHER TRENDING TOPICS

Reference Documents

- Critical to Understand the Governing Documents
 - 2 CFR part 200
 - 2 CFR part 1201
 - FTA Circular 5010.1E

Hot Topics

- Cost Allowability Principles
- Indirect Costs
- Audits
- Market Price Instability

Allowability Principles

- Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
 - Predominant Mission Is to Assist the President in Overseeing the Preparation of the Federal Budget and to Supervise Its Administration in Executive Branch Agencies

Allowability Principles

- OMB Has Management Role in Federal Grants
- Guidance in Three (3) Primary Areas
 - Cost Principles
 - Grant Management/Administrative Requirements
 - Audit

Allowability - Basic Standards

- Necessary and Reasonable/Allocable
- Conform to Any Limitations or Exclusions Set Forth in the Federal Cost Principles, Federal Laws, Terms and Conditions of the Federal Award
- Be Consistent With Policies and Procedures
 That Apply Uniformly to Both Federal Awards
 and Other Activities of the Non-Federal Entity

Allowability - Basic Standards

- Be Accorded Consistent Treatment
- Be Determined in Accordance With Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
- Not Be Included As a Cost or Used to Meet Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements of Any Other Federal Award
- Must be Adequately Documented

Allowable to the Extent the Indirect Costs
 Claimed are Consistent with the Organization's
 Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRPs) and
 Approved Rates

- ICRPs Are Submitted to a Cognizant Agency for Indirect Costs
 - OMB Assigns Agency for Entity's that Receive More that Exceed Certain Thresholds
 - For Entities Below the Thresholds, Typically the Federal Agency that Consistently Provide the Most Funding Will Serve as the Cognizant Agency

- When a Subrecipient Receives Funding Only as a Subrecipient from a Pass-Through Agency, the Pass-Through Agency May Review, Negotiate, and Approve the Indirect Cost Rate Proposal
 - MDOT/MTA = Pass-Through Entity
 - Your Program = Subrecipient

- Indirect Cost Rates are Typically Updated Annually Based on the Most Recent Audited Data
- Beginning in December 2014, a New Type of Indirect Cost Rate was Introduced, the de minimis Rate
 - This is an Automatic Ten Percent Indirect Cost Rate that Requires no ICRP Preparation or Approval

- Effective November 12, 2020, This Rate is Now Available to Most Non-Federal Entities
 - Previously Limited to Entities that Had Never
 Negotiated an Indirect Cost Rate with the Federal Government

Audit Period

- Audit Period
 - Typically, Performed on an Annual Basis
 - Some Minor Exceptions

Auditee Responsibilities

- Auditee Responsibilities
 - Preparation of Financial Statements
 - Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA)
 - A Description of Significant Accounting Policies Used In Preparing The Schedule
 - A Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
 - The Auditee Must Also Prepare a Corrective Action Plan for Current Year Audit Findings

Auditee Responsibilities

- Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA)
 - List of Individual Federal Awards
 - Name/Cluster Name
 - Subrecipients
 - Name of Pass-Through Agency
 - Grant Identification Number
 - CFDA Number (Section 5311 20.509)
 - Total Amounts Provided
 - Significant Accounting Policies
 - Statement as to Whether Entity Used de minimis Indirect Rate

Auditee Responsibilities

- Optional Elements
 - Multiple Federal Award Years
 - Separate Listing of Amounts Expended, By Year
- Corrective Action Pan

Auditee Follow-Up

- Auditee Must Prepare a Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
 - Include Audit Reference Number
 - Status
 - May Exclude
 - Those Findings Corrected
 - Those Findings No Longer Valid or Warranting Further Action
 - Reasons Must be Described
 - » Two Years Have Passed
 - » Federal Agency /Pass Through Entity Not Following Up
 - » Management Decision Was Not Issued

Corrective Action Plan

- Corrective Action Plan For Current Year Audit Findings
 - Must Address Each Finding
 - Name of Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action
 - Action Planned
 - Anticipated Completion Date
 - Rebuttal
 - The Corrective Action Plan Must Include An Explanation and Specific Reasons Why the Entity Believes Corrective Action is Not Required

Report Submission

- Specific Timeframes for Completion
 - Report Must be Submitted to Federal Audit
 Clearinghouse (FAC) Within 30 Calendar Days After
 Receipt of Audit Report

or

- Nine Months After End of Audit Period
- Must Be Available to the Public
 - Some Exceptions for Indian Tribal Organizations

- Supply Chain Issues
 - Vehicle/Chassis Availability
 - Consolidation of the Market Space
 - Competition from Fleet Operators
- Dramatic Price Increases
- Cancellation of Contract Orders
- Lack of Vendors for Current Procurements

- Supply Chain Issues
 - Perfect Storm
 - COVID
 - Plant Shutdowns During the Pandemic
 - Chip Shortages
 - Limited Buy America Compliant Vehicles
- CTAA Estimates 20,000 Vehicle Shortage for Body-on-Chassis Type Vehicles

- Individual Buyers are Clearly at a Disadvantage
 Given Current Market Conditions
 - FTA Efforts to Provide Buy America Waiver May Provide Limited (Unmodified Vans) to Community Transportation Providers
- State Purchasing and Local Government Purchasing Cooperatives May Represent the Best Options in an Exceptionally Competitive Marketplace

- Initial State DOT/FTA Actions
 - Recognition of the Issue
 - Willingness to Reduce Scope/Quantity and Approve Budget Amendments
 - For Local Procurements, Some Allowance May Have to be Provided for Initial Independent Cost Estimates (ICE)

- Initial State DOT/FTA Actions
 - Rebuilds
 - Traditionally Not Extensively Used on this Class of Vehicle
 - FTA Just Relaxed Its Standards for Extended Useful Life for Rebuilds of this Class of Vehicle
 - This May Become a Necessary Option

Presenter

Rich Garrity, Director of Compliance Initiatives RLS & Associates, Inc.

Corporate:

3131 S. Dixie Highway, Suite 545 Dayton, OH 45439 (937) 280-5007

Rich:

801 S. Shore Drive Surf City, NC 28445 (910) 328-5770

rgarrity@rlsandassoc.com