



2019-2022 Regional Travel Options Frequently Asked Questions

My organization is outside the Metro boundary, but our program offers services or operates within the Metro boundary. Is my organization eligible?

The organization applying for an RTO grant must be located within the Metro boundary and the proposed project or program must primarily benefit residents and businesses of the Metro region, but may also be open to members of the public who live outside the Metro region.

Which RTO grant category should my organization apply for?

The RTO grant program structure has slightly changed from the 2017-2019 grant cycle. 2019-2022 RTO grants are now available in six categories, detailed in the Grant Application Handbook found on the RTO webpage: oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/travel-options-grants

The requirements and deadline information varies by category. RTO recommends reading through the grant categories section and the scoring section of the handbook thoroughly, and completing a Letter of Interest once applications open January 1st, 2019. RTO will provide feedback on the Letter on Interest and ensure that applications are placed into the appropriate category. Alternatively, you may email RTO at any time at rto@oregonmetro.gov to ask questions or schedule a call or meeting to discuss project ideas.

How are Emerging Partner applications reviewed and scored?

Applicants seeking Emerging Partner funding should be at a level 2 or 3 on the RTO Strategy's Travel Options Capability Index (Attachment D in the Grant Application Handbook) and are asked to self-assess their capability in the grant application. Proposed projects in this category should demonstrate how the organization intends to move up to level 4 on the Capability Index. Emerging Partner applications will be scored beginning April 1st, 2019, using the criteria and scoring guidelines outlined in the Grant Application Handbook. Once all applications have been scored and funds have been awarded, the Emerging Partner grant cycle will remain open and continue to receive and score applications until all funds have been awarded.

How can I join the Collaborative Marketing Group?

The Collaborative Marketing Group (CMG) is an informal collection of local governments, agencies, nonprofits, and transit providers working to ensure travel options education and resources reach residents of the Metro region. If you are interested in attending a Collaborative Marketing Group meeting, you can email rto@oregonmetro.gov and request to be added to the CMG email list.

Where can I learn more about the upcoming RTO grant opportunities?

RTO is holding a grant informational session on January 23rd, 2019. You can learn more about the info session and RSVP by visiting oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/travel-options-grants. Additional informational sessions will be offered throughout the 2019-2022 cycle as needed. You can also email rto@oregonmetro.gov and request to be added to the grant interested parties email list.