Section 104 of AGOA includes requirements that the country has established or is making substantial progress toward establishing, inter alia: a market-based economy; the rule of law, political pluralism, and the right to due process; the elimination of barriers to U.S. trade and investment; economic policies to reduce poverty; a system to combat corruption and bribery; and protection of internationally recognized worker rights. In addition, the country may not engage in activities that undermine U.S. national security or foreign policy interests or engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights. Please see section 104 of AGOA and section 502 of the 1974 Act for a complete list of the AGOA eligibility criteria. 

Section 506A of the 1974 Act requires that, if the President determines that a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is not meeting the eligibility requirements, he must terminate the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country. For 2013, 39 countries were designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. These countries, as well as the countries currently designated as ineligible, are listed below. Section 506A of the 1974 Act provides that the President shall monitor and review annually the progress of each sub-Saharan African country in meeting the foregoing eligibility criteria in order to determine whether each beneficiary sub-Saharan African country should continue to be eligible, and whether each sub-Saharan African country that is currently not a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, should be designated as such a country. 

The Subcommittee is seeking public comments in connection with the annual review of the eligibility of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for AGOA’s benefits. The Subcommittee will consider any such comments in developing recommendations on country eligibility for the President. Comments related to the child labor criteria may also be considered by the Secretary of Labor in making the findings required under section 504 of the 1974 Act.

The following sub-Saharan African countries were designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries in 2013:

- Angola
- Republic of Benin
- Republic of Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Republic of Cape Verde
- Republic of Cameroon
- Republic of Chad
- Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros
- Republic of Congo
- Republic of Cote d’Ivoire
- Republic of Djibouti
- Ethiopia
- Gabonese Republic
- The Gambia
- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Guinea
- Republic of Kenya
- Kingdom of Lesotho
- Republic of Liberia
- Republic of Malawi
- Republic of Mali
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Republic of Mauritius
- Republic of Mozambique
- Republic of Namibia
- Republic of Niger
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Rwanda
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Seychelles
- Republic of Sierra Leone
- Republic of South Africa
- Republic of South Sudan
- Kingdom of Swaziland
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Republic of Togo
- Republic of Uganda
- Republic of Zambia
- The following sub-Saharan African countries were not designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries in 2013: 
  - Central African Republic
  - Democratic Republic of Congo
  - Republic of Equatorial Guinea
  - State of Eritrea
  - Republic of Guinea-Bissau
  - Republic of Madagascar
  - Republic of Mali
  - Somalia
  - Republic of Sudan
  - Republic of Zimbabwe

**Requirements for Submissions:**

Comments must be submitted in English. To ensure the most timely and expeditious receipt and consideration of petitions, USTR has arranged to accept on-line submissions via http://www.regulations.gov. To submit petitions via this site, enter docket number USTR–2013–0035 on the home page and click “search.” The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice on search-results page and click on the link entitled “Submit a Comment.” (For further information on using the http://www.regulations.gov Web site, please consult the resources provided on the Web site by clicking on “Help” at the top of the home page.)
Federal Transit Administration

Discretionary Funding Opportunity

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.


SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of $29,000,000 in Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment Program funds for innovative safety, resiliency, and all-hazards emergency response and recovery research demonstration projects of national significance.

This NOFA makes funds available for cooperative agreements to engage in the demonstration of innovative technologies, methods, practices and techniques in three areas: (1) operational safety, (2) infrastructure or equipment resiliency and (3) all-hazards emergency response and recovery methods. Eligible applicants include providers of public transportation; state and local governmental entities; departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government including Federal laboratories; private or non-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and technical and community colleges.

This notice solicits competitive proposals addressing priorities established by FTA for these research areas, provides instructions for submitting proposals, and describes criteria FTA will use to identify meritorious proposals for funding. This NOFA is also available on the FTA Web site at: www.fta.dot.gov. FTA will announce final selections on the Web site and in the Federal Register. Additionally, a synopsis of this funding opportunity will appear on the government-wide electronic grants Web site www.grants.gov (GRANTS.GOV).

DATES: Complete proposals must be submitted electronically through the (GRANTS.GOV) “APPLY” function by December 2, 2013. Prospective applicants should initiate the process by registering on the GRANTS.GOV Web site promptly to ensure completion of the application process before the submission deadline. Instructions for applying can be found on FTA’s Web site at http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/3077.html and in the “FIND” module of GRANTS.GOV. Mail and fax submissions will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific information regarding the three areas of research targeted within this NOFA contact the following program specialists in FTA’s Office of Research, Demonstration, and Innovation (TRI):

For operational safety questions, contact Roy Chen, Office of Technology, email: royweishun.chen@dot.gov.

For infrastructure or equipment resiliency questions, please contact Terrell Williams, Office of Technology, email: terrell.williams@dot.gov.

For all-hazards emergency response and recovery questions contact Patrick Centolanz, Office of Technology, email: patrick.centolanz@dot.gov.

For general program information on this opportunity, contact Matthew Lesh, email: matthew.lesh@dot.gov. A TDD is available at 1–800–877–8339 (TDD/FIRS).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Contents

A. Authority
B. Purpose
C. Program Information
D. Proposal Submission Process
E. Proposal Information
F. Proposal Content
G. Evaluation Criteria
H. Review and Selection Process
I. Award Information
J. Award Administration
K. Technical Assistance
Appendix A: Registration in GRANTS.GOV

A. Authority

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012, Public Law 112–55, made $25,000,000 available to carry out innovative research and demonstrations of national significance under 49 U.S.C. 5312. Of that amount, this NOFA makes $20.8 million available for innovative safety,