



CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

LAW DEPARTMENT

To: Mayor & Members of City Council
From: Adam Kruse, ADA Coordinator
Date: November 6, 2017

REPORT: Proposed Terms for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Taxi Grant Program

In September of 2017, City Council allocated \$50,000 towards the development of a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Taxi Grant Program. The proposed program would provide funding to local taxi providers to purchase, and put into service, WAVs as an additional form of on-demand transportation for people in our community that use wheelchairs.

The purpose of this report is to submit proposed terms and conditions of the WAV Taxi Grant Program to City Council for its review. These proposals were approved by unanimous vote of the City of Columbia's Disabilities Commission at their regular meeting on October 12, 2017.

WAV TAXI GRANT PROPOSED TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

WAV Funding:

- 3 separate grants, funded at \$15,000 each:
- \$5,000 remaining for program development or marketing as needed
- Proposed Payment Schedule for each grant: \$12,000 upon execution of the agreement (prior to purchase of the vehicle), and \$1,000 for each year of successful operation under the terms of the agreement including submitting an annual report.

We estimate the cost of a brand new WAV minivan to be anywhere from \$45,000 to \$55,000. A comparable brand new minivan (that is not WAV) is estimated to cost approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000. The Commission's proposal to help incentivize taxis to purchase a WAV is to allocate a total of \$15,000 for each grant. The remaining \$5,000 amount is proposed to be reserved and used towards developing the program in the future (this could include advertisements for the program, accessibility training for recipients or potential incentive bonuses for continued operation beyond the minimum requirements).

Eligibility:

- Taxi providers licensed to operate in the City of Columbia

The Commission's proposal is to seek applicants who provide taxi services and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This type of service is consistent with the program's goal to improve accessible, on-demand transportation opportunities for people with disabilities in our community. A single taxi provider may apply for multiple grants to purchase more than one WAV.

Application Procedure:

Applicants would submit an application in response to the City's Request for Applications. In each application, the applicant will provide the following:

(a) Responses to specific questions for evaluation criteria

This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following: (i) organization history and operational experience, (ii) organization overview, (iii) how applicant would use the WAV and how such use would be in a manner consistent with the program's intended purpose, (iv) support and assurances as to why the applicant could meet all program requirements for the expected duration of the agreement, (v) timeline for procurement and initial operation of the vehicle, and (vi) justification for the City's partial funding of the purchase.

(b) Proposed WAV to be purchased, including its accessibility specifications

Applicant will provide information on the specific WAV it intends to purchase if funding is provided. This information includes the manufacturer, model, year, dealer, price, and vehicle specifications.

(c) Affirmation that applicant will meet the program's expectations and requirements

All applicants will confirm it intends to meet the program's requirements including, but not necessarily limited to, operating the WAV, timely repairs, comply with all licensing ordinances, submit necessary annual reports, nondiscrimination provisions under the ADA, use of the WAV solely for taxi purposes, not use the WAV for providing any rides that are reimbursed by Medicaid or Medicare.

(d) Any other information that the applicant wishes to provide

All competing applicants will have an opportunity to provide additional information consistent the program's purpose to assist in the selection.

Selection Procedure:

All applications will be reviewed, discussed and evaluated by the Disabilities Commission in an open manner at its regular meeting. Staff will forward completed and responsive applications to members of the Disabilities Commission for their review. Evaluations of applications will utilize a standardized rating sheet to grade each application on the defined criteria. The applicants with the highest scores by the Disabilities Commission will be recommended for approval to the City Council.

Program Requirements:

Vehicles	New condition strongly preferred, but not a requirement to apply
Vehicle Specifications	City will provide recommended specifications for the vehicle. Meeting these recommended specifications at a minimum is preferred, but it will not be a requirement to apply
Duration of Operation	WAV must be operated a minimum of 3 years
Training	Experience and training for chair securement and accommodating passengers with disabilities is criteria for evaluation of all applicants. In addition, information regarding ADA compliance (including pricing, service animals, and effective communications) will be provided by the City and required to be kept in the WAV at all times during operation.
Reports	Recipients will be required to submit 1 report on an annual basis including information regarding (i) estimated hours WAV was in service and available for rides to the public (includes information regarding repairs or closed hours), (ii) assurances the WAV is being operated consistent with the terms of the Agreement, and (iii) amount of use by people who use wheelchairs. Incentive funding will be tied into this report and the WAV's operation.
Medicaid/Medicare	Recipients will not be permitted to use the WAV to recover Medicaid or Medicare funding, as that is believed to be outside the purpose and scope of this program.

Further details regarding the application and agreements will be developed by staff upon approval of a proposed set of terms.