

2017 TransitCenter Dispatch Grants

We are pleased to announce the 2017 Dispatch Grants program, a funding resource for strategic, time-sensitive project work and organizational capacity building.

Qualified recipients are non-governmental, non-profit civic organizations with 501c3 status whose primary activities include advocacy and education on urban transportation issues.

Many organizations face the reality that essential opportunities for both action and learning often arise on short notice, and fall outside of tightly managed work plans and budgets. Dispatch Grants are intended to be responsive to emergent needs and opportunities that become evident in the course of work. They can also support activities that are essential to the overall health of an organization and are often not funded in traditional project budgets: staff professional development, topical training, and collaboration with other organizations, among other things.

In 2017, Grants under this program will range between a minimum of \$3,000 to a maximum of \$15,000 per grantee in one calendar year. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed monthly. Applicants can typically expect a decision within 4 weeks.

Eligible activities are described below, though this list is not exhaustive. TransitCenter does not support lobbying or activities related to a ballot measure or support of a candidate. Finally, Dispatch Grants must be project based and are not available for general operating support. If you have a question about your proposal or would like to pursue a project that meets the above description but is not listed below, please contact dispatch@transitcenter.org and we will be happy to discuss.

Eligible work includes:

- Public outreach and education to build awareness of specific issues related to transit and solicit participation in planning and other civic processes; organizational base-building.
- Events for organizational members or the public to learn about a specific transit issue or action
- Demonstration projects that improve access to transit or transit performance
- Timely campaign support not related to a ballot measure or election: materials, web-design, media
- Coalition building and knowledge exchanges with organizations doing similar work. Funding available for travel costs, materials, and space if needed.
- Organizational capacity building, professional and leadership development, education, and technical training for staff. Including but not limited to:
 - Budget training
 - Project management
 - Staff management
- Other technical training about subjects including but not limited to:
 - Transportation network planning
 - Transit financing
 - Designing streets for transit
 - Integrating transit modes
 - Campaign planning
 - Strategic communications
- Conference participation and attendance