



Aviation Group Client Update

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SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE PROGRAM GRANTS

The DOT has [announced](#) that it is inviting communities and/or consortia of communities to apply for a federal grant under the Small Community Air Development Program ("Small Community Program"). The Small Community Program is designed to assist small communities to enhance their air service.

Eligible small communities must meet the statutory criteria set forth by 49 U.S.C. 41743: (1) as of calendar year 1997, the airport serving the community was not larger than a small hub airport, and it has insufficient air carrier service or unreasonably high air fares; and (2) the airport serving the community presents characters, such as geographic diversity or unique circumstances that demonstrate the need for, and feasibility of, grants assistance.

Communities without existing air service are eligible for funds, but air service providers must meet all DOT requirements for air service certification, including safety and economic authorities. Communities that currently receive subsidies under the Essential Air Service ("EAS") Program are eligible to apply, but grant awards are limited to marketing or promotion projects that support existing or newly subsidized EAS. Grant funds will not be made to EAS-subsidized communities to support new competing air service, to authorize additional flights by EAS carriers, or changes to carriers' existing schedules.

There is up to \$11.5 million available for fiscal years 2013. There is no limit on the amount of individual award; in the past individual grants have ranged from \$20,000 to nearly \$1.6 million. Up to four communities, or consortia of communities per state may be selected to participate, with no more than forty total for each year that funds are appropriated.

The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, **July 26, 2013**.

If you have any questions or would like further information regarding this Program, please contact our office.

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