

METRO TOC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. How does Metro's Transit Oriented Communities Technical Assistance Program work?

Metro's Transit Oriented Communities Technical Assistance Program (TOC TAP) is a competitive funding program that supports jurisdictions in LA County complete transit oriented community feasibility studies and plans. Applications to the Transit Oriented Communities Technical Assistance Program are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis.

Prospective applicants should review the [TOC TAP website](#), [program guidelines](#), and the [program web map](#) to confirm that the applicant and proposed project are eligible. For further questions, reach out to Metro staff at tocimplementation@metro.net.

2. Who can apply for the Transit Oriented Communities Technical Assistance Program?

Lead applicants for TOC TAP may include:

- Los Angeles County jurisdictions (cities and County of Los Angeles) are eligible to apply for the Transit Oriented Communities Activities in the [Eligible Transit Oriented Communities Activities matrix](#).
- For the MAT component, cities, County of Los Angeles, Caltrans, State and Federal agencies, and transit agencies are eligible to receive funding through this Program. Other transportation-related public joint powers authorities (JPAs) must be sponsored by one of the aforementioned public agencies for the MAT component. Additionally, eligible MAT scope items include those that extend beyond MAT funding allocations that a jurisdiction may have secured.
- Nonprofits and community based organizations can support an application as sub-applicants but cannot be awarded funds to complete a TOC TAP project.

Regarding eligible Transit Oriented Community Activities, applicants should also note:

- For First/Last Mile (FLM) activities, funding is not available to jurisdictions with pending or yet to be developed FLM Planning coordination with Metro. This includes most new Rail/BRT stations.
- For MAT activities, entities that have already acquitted Measure M Metro Active Transport (MAT) funding can apply for Technical Assistance to further support MAT activities.

3. What is the maximum amount an applicant can request?

Applicants can apply for up to \$200,000 in funding. TOC TAP funding is subject to annual budget programming.

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4. When are applications due for TOC TAP?

Applications to TOC TAP are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis.

5. How many times can my jurisdiction apply to TOC TAP?

One application per jurisdiction may be awarded every 12 months.

6. What is a passing score for a TOC TAP application?

A passing score is 70 points or above. Because funding is limited, a passing score does not guarantee funding. Awards will be delegated to applicants with the highest scores and limited to available funding.

7. Can an applicant receive funding for a project that is already underway?

Yes, however the applicant must demonstrate that Metro will fund tasks that have not been initiated. Metro will not reimburse the recipient to revise existing work products or supplement funding for an overbudget project.

8. Is staff time an eligible expense under TOC TAP?

No, TOC TAP cannot reimburse for staff time.

9. What are Equity Focus Communities?

Equity Focus Communities (EFCs) is a tool, adopted by the Metro Board of Directors in 2019, for Metro to identify where transportation needs are greatest by considering three criteria associated with mobility barriers:

- Households with low incomes (less than \$60,000 annual), and
- Black, Indigenous, and or People of Color (BIPOC) populations, or
- Households with that do not have a car

Use [this map](#) (See layer Metro Equity Focus Communities (EFCs) layer) to search for the project's proximity to an EFC. The EFC layer is updated every three years.

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10. If the project area does not fall within an EFC, can an applicant still apply for TOC TAP?

Yes, if the applicant's project area does not fall within a Metro defined EFC, it may still be a high-need community by another equity-based methodology. Recommended data sources, include, but are not limited to, those listed below:

1. [United States Census Bureau](#)
2. [National Equity Atlas](#)
3. [CalEnviroScreen](#)
4. [Race Counts](#)
5. [Healthy Places Index](#)
6. [Transportation Injury Mapping System](#)
7. [SCAG Local Profiles](#)
8. [USC Price Center for Social Innovation Neighborhood Data for Social Change](#)