



*Federal Transit Administration (FTA)  
National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP)*

## What's New:

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**August 30, 2004**

### **What's New Section Returns to FTA Website**

The Department of Transportation-Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is pleased to announce that the "What's New" feature has been restored to the FTA website. From the homepage [www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov), just click on the words (What's New) and that section will appear.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Section 5311 Program Manager, Lorna Wilson at [lorna.wilson@fta.dot.gov](mailto:lorna.wilson@fta.dot.gov).

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### ***United We Ride State Coordination Grants Available***

*United We Ride* -- a new five-part initiative-- to break down the barriers between programs and set the stage for local partnerships that generate common sense solutions and deliver A-plus performance for everyone who needs transportation has just made available funds for State Coordination Grants. States participating in the United We Ride National Leadership Forum will be eligible to submit an application for State Coordination Grants, to address gaps and needs related to human service transportation in their geographic regions. Proposals are due August 23, 2004. Follow the link below for more information.

[Federal Register Notice \(PDF\)](#)

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## FTA's National RTAP Program Seeks Nominations for "Achievements in Rural Transit Assistance" Awards Program

The Federal Transit Administration's National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) has established an "Achievements in Rural Transit Assistance" awards program to recognize RTAP State Programs, products and services that are benchmarks for the industry and are replicable by others.

### The Award Categories are:

**Outstanding Achievement for a RTAP State Management Program** to recognize a state agency or a designated administrating organization, for cost effective, original RTAP service that goes beyond the routine administration of programs and welds a partnership with local operators.

**Outstanding Achievement for a State RTAP Product or Service** to recognize a state agency or a designated administering agency for developing a product or service that makes a real difference in local agency performance and is cost effective and can be replicated by other state programs.

Up to two honorable mentions can be cited for each category.

You can download the nomination form [here](#). [Nomination forms](#) must be submitted by September 1, 2004.

Awards will be presented at a special ceremony at the 16th National Rural, Public & Intercity Bus Transportation Conference October 24-27, 2004 in Roanoke, VA

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**NEW! National RTAP Training Resource Catalog NEW!**

The National RTAP Program is proud to unveil the National RTAP Training Resource Catalog. You can access the catalog by using the link on the left side of this page or go to:

<http://www.nationalrtap.org/ResourceCatalog/>

The catalog is an excellent resource when you're looking for the latest training available. The catalog provides you with the ability to search more than 650 training resources. You can search by resource name, type, subject, author, agency, or keyword. The output of your search will tell you about each resource (i.e. how to access the resources, how much it might cost etc). You also have the option to update the materials in the catalog. So be sure to search through the catalog and find your own resources that might be available and make sure all the information is correct.

In order to keep the catalog up to date and relevant we vitally need your help. You have the capability to add new resources to the catalog. We hope you will take the time to add any resources that you might have available. The intent of this catalog is to keep it as a living document - ever growing in size and relevance. So be sure to come back often as new resources will be added.

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**Department of Transportation Releases FTA Fiscal Year 2004  
Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information; Notice**

[Federal Register Notice \(PDF\)](#)

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**FTA Announces *United We Ride***

*United We Ride* -- a new five-part initiative-- to break down the barriers between programs and set the stage for local partnerships that generate common sense solutions and deliver A-plus performance for everyone who needs transportation.

The *United We Ride* initiative will include:

- *A Framework for Action*. Created by a panel of experts from around the country that convened in August 2003, this publication is a self-assessment tool that States and communities can use to identify areas of success and highlight the actions still needed to improve the coordination of human service transportation.

- ***State Leadership Awards.*** These awards will recognize a select number of States that have accomplished significant progress in human service transportation coordination. Award applications should be submitted no later than January 9, 2004.
- ***National Leadership Forum on Human Service Transportation Coordination.*** This conference, planned for late February 2004, will bring together Governor appointed senior leadership teams seeking to raise the visibility of the issue among State leaders and secure commitments to action. The forum will be used to provide technical assistance, as well as to recognize those States that have already taken significant steps to improve human service transportation services.
- ***State Coordination Grants.*** States participating in the United We Ride National Leadership Forum will be eligible to submit an application for State Coordination Grants, to address gaps and needs related to human service transportation in their geographic regions.
- ***Help Along the Way.*** This technical assistance program will build on the work of the Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP), the Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP), Easter Seals Project ACTION and other stakeholders to provide hands-on assistance to States and communities in the development and delivery of coordinated human service transportation programs.