

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Community Development Transportation Lending Services

Organizational Description

Community Development Transportation Lending Services (CDTLS, the Fund) is a fully operational non-profit subsidiary of the Community Transportation Association America (CTAA), a national, non-profit, professional membership association of organizations and individuals committed to improving mobility and creating economic opportunity through transportation. CTAA and CDTLS feel that transportation is an essential service without which millions of Americans would be shut off from the mainstreams of community life. Community Transportation focuses on peoples' needs and responds with innovative and flexible services.

FUNDING

A major component of CTAA's array of services is the Community Transportation Development Fund, a low interest lending service originally funded as an Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) in 1989 by a \$2.12 million dollar loan award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Fund received an additional \$500,000 IRP award in 1999, and another award of \$750,000 in 2004. Over time the Fund has grown to include other lending partners, both private and public. CDTLS is certified by the U. S. Treasury as a Community Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) and as a Community Development Entity (CDE). CDTLS provides financing for transit and related economic development projects. The Fund currently consists of two major sources of funding: USDA's Intermediary Relending program (including RDLF funds) and commitments from the nonprofit Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF) for participation loans. To date, CDTLS has received loan, grant awards and commitments of over \$7 million. Additionally, through CRF, CDTLS has further loan funds available through the New Markets Tax Credit program and additional conventional loan funds as needed from CRF. To date, CDTLS has lent out \$994,500 in New Markets Tax Credit loans. For all CDTLS loan funds to date, Transportation Lending Services has lent out \$9,397,795.

The USDA IRP funds are the backbone of TLS as these are 30 year 1% loans which allow us to maintain a low interest lending service by mixing/leveraging them with higher rate private funds. CDTLS has drawn down \$4,338,934 from USDA, and has lent out \$7,290,295 in IRP funds (includes lending loan repayments).

MISSION

CDTLS is designed to assist transportation providers and local communities in improving or expanding local transit services, building facilities, and promoting economic development in communities through financial assistance for many types of transportation projects. A comprehensive and descriptive brochure is attached. The Fund provides its financial and technical assistance specifically to organizations and entities in the transportation industry. That industry is composed of transportation providers, local human services agencies, public officials, transit associations, suppliers, manufacturers, consultants and advocates throughout the country.

Although financing is not limited to members, CDTLS's leading edge is generally to be found in CTAA's national network, with the Association serving as the industry's voice and providing much of its vision. CDTLS focuses on *lending* to build the capacity of the community transportation industry. Its mission can best be stated as follows:

Community Development Transportation Lending Services promotes mobility and economic development in distressed communities nationwide by providing effective financial and technical assistance.

Currently CDTLS has lent out nearly 95% of all of its available USDA IRP funds has a default rate of less than 3.2%.

BACKGROUND and CTAA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Community Development Transportation Lending Services (CDTLS) is a non-profit subsidiary of the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), a national non-profit professional membership organization with over 4,000 members including public, non-profit and private transportation providers; human services and other community agencies; regional, state and local transportation and human services officials; and consultants and suppliers. Formally known as Rural America and incorporated as CTAA in 1989, CTAA is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors, 10 of whom are elected regionally by members and five of whom are appointed by the Board. Fifty State Delegates, also elected by members, broaden the reach of the organization and help to guide its activities. The five members of CTAA's Finance Committee comprise the Board of Directors of CDTLS. CTAA's Executive Director is also the Executive Director of CDTLS.

Both CTAA and CDTLS' service areas are national, and their target market population consists of the Atransportation disadvantaged.. A majority of this population is comprised of low-income persons, including the disabled (often low-income due to their disability), elderly persons (often living on a fixed income), persons without automobiles, as well as the general public, often in the more rural areas where public or community transportation can be scarce. The mission of CDTLS' lending service is to provide financing to eligible community public or private transportation organizations that provide or will provide transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged. This financial assistance to existing or emerging transportation businesses, often complemented by CTAA's many resources and technical assistance capabilities, not only creates job opportunities in the transportation industry, but the transportation services themselves create further access to crucial employment opportunities, as well as to essential medical, retail and commercial services. **Transportation is a key component of community and economic development.**

CTAA and CDTLS staff are known for dedication and success in serving the needs of the people in the transit field. We have earned a reputation for being both knowledgeable about community transit issues and responsive to requests for financial and technical assistance from public and private transportation, paratransit, specialized transit, and human services transit providers.

For example, CTAA serves as a principal transportation technical resource to the U.S.

Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, Labor, and Agriculture on a broad range of issues, including client and employment transportation, accessibility, coordination and service delivery. Since 1987, CTAA has also facilitated grassroots input to and provided technical advice to the Joint DHHS/DOT Coordinating Council on Human Services Transportation. CTAA's approach is a comprehensive one, involving forming partnerships; information gathering, analysis and dissemination; technical assistance; low interest loans, and training. CTAA's main programs/functions/activities are:

- § National Resource Center
- § National Rural and Tribal Transportation Technical Assistance
- § National Transit Training and Development Programs
- § *Community Transportation* and *Rail* Magazines
- § Annual National EXPO
- § JOBLINKS Program
- § Non-emergency Medical Transportation Initiative
- § Senior Transportation Initiatives
- § Institute for Transportation Coordination
- § Center for Transportation and Mobility Training
- § And of course, **CDTLS** – a separate non-profit financing subsidiary

CTAA is also involved in assisting several organizations, public and nonprofit, in developing initiatives, partnerships, and strategies for welfare-to-work transportation in rural and urban areas. In October, 1996 and again in 2002 CTAA organized a conference in Washington, DC, titled APeople, Jobs and Transportation which addressed welfare-to-work transportation issues. One of CTAA's objectives is the attainment of access to jobs through adequate transportation for welfare recipients, low income and other disadvantaged individuals. Additionally, over the last 15 years CTAA has managed sixty-eight (68) JOBLINKS demonstration projects across the country for the U.S. Department of Labor and Federal Transit Administration. **These and all of CTAA's program areas benefit from the availability of CDTLS' low interest financing capabilities**