

41527 - Enhancing Mobility through Travel Training in King County for People Who Are Blind or DeafBlind Project

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:	38335-2027-2029 Consolidated Grant Program - Mobility Management
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	Sep 9, 2026 3:01 PM
Program Area:	Consolidated Grant Program
Status:	Submitted
Stage:	Final Application
Initial Submit Date:	Sep 9, 2026 1:35 PM
Initially Submitted By:	Adam Scanlon
Last Submit Date:	
Last Submitted By:	

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Name:	Mr.	Adam	Michael	Scanlon
	Salutation	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Title:	Grants Manager			
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Address*:	2501 S Plum St			
	Seattle	Washington	98144-4711	
	City	State/Province	Postal Code/Zip	
Phone*:	(313) 310-3112			
Fax:				

Organization Information

Legal Name*:	Lighthouse for the Blind Inc
DBA Name*:	The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.
Organization Type*:	Non Profit
Organization Website:	http://www.LHBlind.org (Please enter http://... for this field)
SAM UEI #:	DFUTTHKLBR85
Physical Address*:	2501 S Plum St
	Seattle Washington 98144-4711
	City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
Mailing Address*:	2501 S Plum St

Seattle Washington 98144-4711
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Remit to Address*:

2501 S Plum St

Seattle Washington 98144-4711
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*:

(206) 322-4200 Ext.

Fax:

Fiscal Year End

September

Last day of*:

Indirect Cost Rate:

0.00%

IDR Expiration Date:

Organization Contact Information

Organization Contact Information

Organization Director*:

Patrick O'Hara
First Name Last Name
President and CEO POHara@lhblind.org
Title Email Address

Applicant Contact*:

Adam Scanlon
First Name Last Name
Grants Manager AScanlon@lhblind.org
Title Email Address

Project Contact:

Alayna Baumgartner
First Name Last Name
Employee and Community Services Department Manager ABaumgartner@LHBlind.org
Title Email Address

Summary of Project Information

Summary of Project Information

Identify whether the project in this application is sustaining, new, or expansion.

Need for Service:

Continuing service (new to this grant program)
Expansion can't be combined with sustaining existing service in the same application for the first biennium.

Capital equipment for a mobility management project includes items that have a useful life of more than one year, exceed your organization's capital cost threshold or \$10,000, and are subject to depreciation and inventory tracking.

Examples for mobility management include information kiosks and technology.

Does your mobility management project include the purchase of capital equipment*:

No

Checking "Yes" for federal funds means that your organization is willing and able to comply with the associated federal requirements, such as federal drug and alcohol testing procedures, Title VI activities, and federal small business enterprise (FSBE) requirements. For examples of federal requirements from last biennium, refer to the [Public Transportation Grant Guidebook](#).

Willing to Accept FTA funds for the biennium*:

Yes

If project is a purchase-of-service type, the eligible funding source and match rate may be affected.

Is this a purchase-of-service project?:

No

If your organization has proof of 501(c) nonprofit status, the project may be eligible for state paratransit special needs competitive funds.

Does your organization have 501(c) nonprofit status?:	Yes
Choose the congressional district(s), legislative district(s), and county(ies) this project will serve (include the entire project area)	
Congressional & Legislative District map	
Congressional District(s)	9
Select as many as apply	
*:	
Legislative District(s)	37
Select as many as apply	
*:	
County(ies)	King
Select as many as apply	
*:	

Scope of Work

Scope of Work

Select the [Regional Transportation Planning Organization \(RTPO\)](#) / [Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\)](#) that will be ranking this project from the drop-down menu.

RTPO/MPO*: Puget Sound Regional Council

Project Summary (Scope)

Provide a brief, high-level description of what your project proposes to do (address what the project is, whom it serves, and where the service occurs).

This summary will be used in your grant agreement and may also be used to describe your project to the Legislature.

Proposed summary/scope of work*:

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.'s Enhancing Mobility through Travel Training for Individuals Who Are Blind or DeafBlind project will empower individuals with disabilities with Orientation and Mobility skills, resources, and information to travel safely and independently in King County.

Project Description

Provide a detailed description of the tasks, activities, and deliverables your project will complete. Your narrative should reflect the full life of the project and demonstrate how the proposed activities align with the grant program's goals.

Description of project*:

The Enhancing Mobility through Travel Training for People Who Are Blind or DeafBlind Project advances mobility, community participation, and independence in King County.

The Lighthouse requests \$496,700 in funding to deliver a continuing Orientation and Mobility services at existing levels, specifically specialized training sessions that prepare Lighthouse employees who are blind or DeafBlind with the skills to travel safely and independently in their workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities. Training is individualized to each participant's goals and covers 17 key skills, including public transit navigation, route planning, wayfinding, use of electronic travel aids, cane techniques, and street crossing. These services help participants overcome transportation barriers that often limit access to employment, community engagement, and daily living activities.

The project empowers participants to travel using King County Metro buses, Sound Transit's Link light rail system, paratransit services, pedestrian infrastructure, and others. As individuals gain mobility skills, they maintain employment, access community resources, and can participate fully in their communities. All services reflected in this proposal are delivered in King County.

The Lighthouse is the largest employer of people who are blind in Washington. By increasing safe and independent travel for individuals with disabilities, the project creates a more accessible transit ecosystem for everyone in King County.

Project Need

Why is this project needed, and how does this proposal address the need? How would the community be affected if the grant is not awarded?

Include a description of the transportation problem that aligns with the need identified in the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP). Explain how the problem was identified and describe how the proposed project will address it.

Need*:

The Enhancing Mobility through Travel Training for People Who Are Blind or DeafBlind Project is aligned with the Puget Sound Regional Council's identified Mobility Need #5: More rider education opportunities and awareness of available transportation services.

In alignment with the PSRC Coordinated Mobility Plan's Prioritized Strategy 5, this continuing service project will conduct mobility management supports that helps potential riders navigate transportation options and complete their trips with tailored support to address language and technology barriers. It will do so by deliver specialized mobility training to individuals with visual or visual and hearing disabilities, helping them navigate transit services to reach their destinations, including their workplaces and home environments.

The transit landscape in King County has undergone major changes in recent years, creating new obstacles for individuals who are blind and DeafBlind individuals to overcome to travel safely. The Link, a local light rail system, has expanded significantly, building new stations, expanding to a 2-line system, and adding multi-level connections. These changes require ongoing training for individuals with visual disabilities to navigate neighborhoods that surround their workplace and learning new routes for their daily commute to work.

Area Served

Is this project primarily serving a rural area?* No
Any service that supports public transportation in rural areas with populations less than 50,000.

Is this project primarily serving the Seattle, Tacoma, Everett urbanized area?: Yes

Special Needs Transportation

To be eligible for special needs transportation funding, applicants must address how their project advances the efficiency in, accessibility to, or coordination of transportation services provided to persons with special transportation needs, as defined in [RCW 81.66.010\(3\)](#).

Does this project advance efficiencies in, accessibility to, or coordination of special needs transportation?* Yes

Describe how your project advances these areas, and the approach you are using to achieve these improvements. Additionally, identify the special needs population(s) to be served by this project.

Special Needs Transportation:

As stated above, the transit shifts in King County disproportionately affect blind and DeafBlind people, who depend on rigorous preparation and routines to navigate their daily commute and around the community. Several construction projects have also caused disruptions to many travel routes in the Seattle area. The ability to travel is a critical skill for our community, the majority of whom rely on public transportation to travel to work. For people to sustain employment, they must have strong mobility skills and the training to learn them.

All staff responsible for specialized mobility training are Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists, a profession that requires an advanced degree, special licensure, and continuing education to maintain their skills and credentials.

The Lighthouse has delivered specialized Orientation and Mobility training for decades and is one of the only agencies with Orientation and Mobility Specialists certified through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals. Other specialized providers, such as local school districts, the Washington Department of Services for the Blind, and the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs only provide training to school-age children, unemployed individuals, and veterans of the U.S. military, respectively, making Lighthouse employees ineligible.

The Lighthouse has a Senior Orientation and Mobility Specialist on staff who specializes in mobility training specifically for individuals who are DeafBlind (those with both visual and hearing disabilities), who utilize Protactile or tactile American Sign Language. Through our expert staff, the Lighthouse provides mobility training that meets the communication and cultural needs of members of the DeafBlind community in King County.

Project Staff

Provide the names of the key staff who will be working on this project, along with their years of experience and relevant qualifications. Include their experience managing similar projects, with specific attention to responsibilities for grant financial management, budget oversight, documentation, and compliance.

Project Staff*:

Alayna Baumgartner is the Employee and Community Services Department Manager and leads program monitoring and evaluation for the Orientation and Mobility program. Before assuming her current role in 2026, she served as an Administrative Assistant for all Lighthouse programs for four years. Alayna earned her Bachelor's in English Language/Literature and Spanish Language/Literature from Western Washington University.

Jennifer Geffre is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist who serves as Orientation and Mobility Supervisor and leads project implementation and service delivery. Jennifer received a Master's in Orientation and Mobility from Western Michigan University and has more than 10 years of

experience. She is also a graduate of the American Sign Language program at Highline College. Jennifer previously worked for the South Dakota Rehabilitation Center for the Blind.

Scott Bando is the Controller and will lead grants management, budget oversight, and financial reporting and compliance for this project, and has worked for the Lighthouse for fifteen years. Scott has a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Finance from The University of Montana and became Certified in Financial Management and a Certified Management Accountant through the Institute of Management Accountants in 2009. Scott provides oversight for all Lighthouse financial matters, including federal contracts as a supplier of the U.S. Department of Defense for manufactured products and services.

Relationship to Other Projects

Relationship to Other Projects

Is this project dependent on any other projects submitted by your organization?* No

Did you, or will you, apply for this project in another grant program this biennium?* No

Have you applied for the same project in a prior biennium and did not receive funding?* No

Are you applying for other projects within this funding opportunity?* No

Planning and Coordination

Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan

Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan	Page number(s) or TBD	How is the need in the CPT-HSTP met by this project?
Puget Sound Regional Council	63-72	The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. will meet the CPT-HSTP need by delivering a mobility management project that offers specialized training, resources, and information to individuals with disabilities in King County. Through this project, Lighthouse employees who are legally blind or legally blind and deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened will develop the skills to travel and utilize transit services independently to maintain family-sustaining careers with comprehensive benefits.

Cross-region Project

Does this project have a service area that crosses RTP/MPO planning boundaries?* No

Project Coordination

Describe coordination efforts. Include details such as:

- How is the project reflected in regional plans?
- Which prioritized strategies are being addressed?
- Who was involved in defining the transportation problem?
- Other alternatives considered for addressing the problem.
- Demonstrations of local/regional coordination in implementing the proposed project.

Coordination Efforts*:

The Enhancing Mobility through Travel Training for Individuals Who Are Blind and DeafBlind Project will conduct a mobility management program that helps potential riders navigate transportation options and complete their trips, with tailored support to address language and technology barriers, as outlined in the Puget Sound Regional Council's Coordinated Mobility Plan.

The Lighthouse's Orientation and Mobility Specialists collaborate closely with area transportation agencies to advance transit accessibility and ensure services are not duplicated. For example, King County Metro has some Travel Trainers but does not have Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists to serve individuals who are blind or DeafBlind, including Lighthouse employees. Likewise, Sound Transit does not offer Certified

Orientation and Mobility Specialists to serve the blind and DeafBlind communities.

Lighthouse Orientation and Mobility Specialists also support individuals who are blind or DeafBlind with completing paratransit applications to access King County Metro and other accessible transit services. Staff supports individuals who are DeafBlind through mobility training that incorporates sign language interpreting services and prepares individuals who are blind or DeafBlind to utilize current technologies such as accessible GPS software, transit websites and mobile applications, mobility aids, and signing up for informational transit alert programs to increase awareness of and access to area transportation options. Lighthouse staff collaborates with King County Metro, Sound Transit, Seattle Department of Transportation, and other providers to provide feedback on various transportation initiatives to advance accessibility for people with disabilities, especially blind and DeafBlind transit users.

By selecting yes, you acknowledge that you Yes
coordinated or will coordinate this project
with the planning organization(s) within the
region(s) this project serves*:

How does your project connect to, coordinate with, leverage, or enhance other modes of transportation in your service area (e.g., aviation, intercity bus or rail, park-and-rides, bicycle/pedestrian)?

In your response, include how the multimodal partnerships for this project will improve or enhance access to social services.

What efficiencies will be gained within the service area as a result of this project?

Multimodal Partnerships*:

Through Orientation and Mobility training, people who are blind or DeafBlind receive access to various modes of transportation in King County, including King County Metro's bus system, Sound Transit's Link light rail system, pedestrian routes, and a multitude of street crossing scenarios. Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists provide individualized training that meets the unique travel goals of each participant.

All employees who are blind or DeafBlind are eligible to receive introductory training in navigating their workstation, Lighthouse facilities, and their commute to and from work, whether by bus, light rail, ADA paratransit services, or walking routes in South Seattle.

Participants can also receive additional instruction to navigate their home neighborhoods and establish routes to locations such as the local grocery store, post office, or their healthcare provider's office. Participants learn to effectively utilize transit agency websites, mobile applications, and tools like GPS and AI-powered electronic travel aids to enhance their mobility independence and reduce barriers to accessing available transit options.

Budget

Duration of Project

Duration of Project*: Two Years

Expenses

Expenses	If Other, List the Expense	** July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027 (Current Estimate)	July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2029 (Projected)	Variance Between Biennia	** July 1, 2029 - June 30, 2031 (Projected)	Variance Between Biennia
Labor & Benefits		\$665,800.00	\$687,600.00	3.27%	\$0.00	-100.00%
Other	Travel/Vehicle Maintenance	\$11,700.00	\$8,700.00	-25.64%	\$0.00	-100.00%
Project Supplies		\$11,000.00	\$4,100.00	-62.73%	\$0.00	-100.00%
Training		\$2,900.00	\$4,200.00	44.83%	\$0.00	-100.00%
Other	Indirect Costs (de minimis rate)	\$122,000.00	\$124,300.00	1.89%	\$0.00	-100.00%
		\$813,400.00	\$828,900.00		\$0.00	

Sources of Revenue/Match

Revenue/Match Source	If Other, List the Source	** July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027 (Current Estimate)	July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2029 (Projected)	** July 1, 2029 - June 30, 2031 (Projected)
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Local: Contract Revenue		\$135,400.00	\$132,000.00	\$0.00
Local: Private Grant		\$84,600.00	\$80,000.00	\$0.00
Local: Other	Allocated Unrestricted Grants/Donations	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00	\$0.00
Local: Reserves		\$82,700.00	\$82,700.00	\$0.00
Local: Other	Allocated Support from Lighthouse Operations	\$473,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Fares and Donations

Row	July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027 (Current Estimate)	July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2029 (Projected)	July 1, 2029 - June 30, 2031 (Projected)
Fares and rides donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Variances

Variance between 2025-2027 and 2027-2029: 1.91%

Variance between 2027-2029 and 2029-2031: -100.00%

Variances:

Funding sources are projected to remain flat, including contracted services, allocated unrestricted contributions, and Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind Foundation, assuming market returns are sufficient to maintain distribution levels. Any funding shortfall is absorbed by Lighthouse operations.

Note: The variance is lower than the 4.5% inflation factor, as budget projections are extrapolated from the second half of the current year to provide an accurate estimate of forecasted project costs.

Other Sources and In-Kind Match

Other Sources*:

The Lighthouse also allocates a portion of unrestricted support to Lighthouse Employee and Community Services from unrestricted private corporate and foundation grants, Major and Annual Fund donors to support the Orientation and Mobility services, as well as funds from the endowment with the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind Foundation and the Lighthouse operations budget, as needed.

Are you using in-kind match?*: No

Other Support

Other Support:

Through the Philanthropy Department, Lighthouse staff cultivate partnerships with local and national foundations, corporations, service organizations, Tribal organizations, and individual donors to raise awareness of and increase community support to deliver services that empower people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities toward independence and career advancement.

Recent funders of the Orientation and Mobility Program include the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, the Louise H. and David S. Ingalls Foundation, STCU, the Vinod K. Rajpaul Endowment Fund of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. The Lighthouse also has individual giving programs, such as Major Donors, Annual Fund, and the Lighthouse Legacy Society, which includes bequests. Allocated funds from unrestricted individual donations are applied to Orientation and Mobility, as needed.

The Lighthouse also has contracts in place with King County Metro, Washington State Department of Services for the Blind, and the University of Washington to provide limited orientation and mobility services through referrals for non-employee community members from these agencies.

Budget Development Methodology

Budget development methodology*:

The Lighthouse fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30, and budgets are compiled using the prior year as a guide. Program costs and funding are updated based on conditions and expectations for the subsequent year. Costs for this project are primarily from three full-time staff (3 Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists) and related program costs, such as teaching/instructional tools, program vehicle maintenance, staff training and continuing education, as well as related operating expenses and a fixed percentage of General and Administrative costs using the de minimis rate of 15%.

The Current Estimate (July 2025 to June 2027) consists of July 2025 to July 2026 General Ledger actuals, Board-approved budget periods August 2026 to September 2026, and proposed budgets for October 2026 to June 2027. Projected biennium periods are estimated using a 4.5% local inflation factor (US Bureau of Labor Statistics - CPI, Seattle area June 2026) applied to the second half (July 2026 to June 2027) of the Current Estimate and compounded annually. In preparing the Current Estimate and projected estimates, costs recognized in the Lighthouse's program General Ledger that are related to service delivery within King County were omitted for the purpose of this application.

Summary

July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2029

Total Expenses:	\$828,900.00
Match Total:	\$332,200.00
Requested Amount:	\$496,700.00
	This is the amount of grant funds your organization is requesting from July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2029
Percentage of Match:	40.08%

July 1, 2029 - June 30, 2031

Total Expenses:	\$0.00
Match Total:	\$0.00
Requested Amount:	\$0.00
	This is the amount of grant funds your organization is requesting from July 1, 2029 - June 30, 2031
Percentage of Match:	0.00%

Indirect Costs

Indirect Costs

Are you charging indirect costs to this grant/project?* Yes

Select the method your organization uses to apply indirect costs to this project.

Method*: De minimis rate self-certification

Measurable Outcomes

Measurable Outcomes

For mobility management, summarize the intended outputs of this project in both quantitative (statistical) and qualitative (narrative) formats.

There may be some projects where traditional performance measures (e.g., revenue vehicle hours/miles, passenger trips) do not apply.

In those cases, quantitative objectives can be used instead by submitting the following information: the number of trainings conducted, outreach events completed, passengers served, or other measurable outcomes generated by this project.

Identify the data sources and monitoring processes you will use to track these outcomes.

Be sure to include a quantitative output, as this will serve as the baseline measurement for your next biennium application. Qualitative measures are optional.

Intended Outputs*:

Through the Enhancing Mobility through Travel Training for Individuals Who Are Blind or DeafBlind Project, The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. will deliver the following outputs and outcomes during the biennium period of performance from July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2029:

Year One - July 1, 2027, June 30, 2028

- Provide specialized mobility training by Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists to 70 individuals who are legally blind or legally blind and Deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened in King County

- Deliver 1,000 training sessions (instances of service) by Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists
- 90% of project participants will demonstrate improved travel skills and proficiency in navigating their commute, work environments, or using transit services, as measured by Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist assessments
- 100% of participants in the project will be Lighthouse employees who are legally blind or legally blind and Deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened

Year Two - July 1, 2028, June 30, 2029

- Provide specialized mobility training by Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists to 70 individuals who are legally blind or legally blind and Deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened in King County
- Deliver 1,000 training sessions (instances of service) by Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists in King County
- 90% of project participants will demonstrate improved travel skills and proficiency in navigating their commute, work environments, or using transit services, as measured by Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist assessments
- 100% of participants in the project will be Lighthouse employees who are legally blind or legally blind and Deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened

During the Lighthouse's most recently completed fiscal year (October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025), Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists delivered specialized training services to 121 individuals across 2,255 training sessions (including both King County and non-King County service delivery).

The Enhancing Mobility through Travel Training for Individuals Who Are Blind or DeafBlind Project will allow us to continue delivering vital Orientation and Mobility services in King County that support independence, transit access, and employment for people with disabilities in our communities.

How will your organization measure whether the project is successful?
Describe the steps you will take to improve performance if your project does not meet the identified performance targets.

Project Success Measurement*:

Lighthouse Orientation and Mobility program staff has robust experience measuring data to evaluate the success of projects and gather community insights to improve and evolve practices. Utilizing Apricot software, Lighthouse staff monitors number of participants served, delivery of service hours, and instances of services provided. The Lighthouse recently implemented a new system within our software for tracking whether program participants achieve their stated mobility goal (e.g., completing their daily commute, utilizing a public transit service, navigating their work environment without issues, etc.). Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists will record whether program participants successfully complete their training target. This tracking enhancement will allow us to more accurately measure the success of the program's delivery of service, and to provide additional training and follow-up supports, as needed, to participants to ensure that they achieve independence in their individualized navigation of their King County workplace, neighborhoods, and communities.

Relevant Lighthouse staff including the Orientation and Mobility Supervisor, Employee and Community Services Department Manager, Controller, Senior Director of Philanthropy, and Grants Manager, will hold quarterly meetings to monitor progress toward the stated outputs.

If performance targets are not met after Year One (July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028), the Lighthouse will reconvene to identify barriers to success, develop solutions, and implement improved practices to work toward our stated goals. The Grants Manager and the Senior Director of Philanthropy will keep the Washington State Department of Transportation and Puget Sound Regional Council apprised of programmatic changes and barriers and will collaborate to ensure we are on track to achieve our goals.

Milestones

Readiness to Proceed

Will your project be ready to proceed at the start of the biennium?: Yes

Milestones

Activities	Date (mm/yy)
Project Start	07/27
Project Complete	06/29

Supplemental Information

Supplemental Information

Supplemental Information:

Lighthouse Orientation and Mobility Specialists also support area transit providers in advancing accessibility for people who are blind or DeafBlind in the community. Lighthouse staff provide Blindness Awareness and accessibility training services to support agencies like King County Metro and Sound Transit in serving blind and DeafBlind transit users. Staff have also supported with the City of Seattle's pedestrian accessibility initiatives, such as Seattle Department of Transportation's implementation of the ADA Transition Plan and AlertSystem for travelers with disabilities. Staff also worked with Seattle-Tacoma International Airport's to provide feedback regarding accessibility plans for blind and DeafBlind air travelers.

Please note that the Lighthouse has included two letters of support from our partners at King County Metro and the Seattle Department of Transportation. These letters were uploaded separately, as they could not be merged into one file due to one of the documents being a certified PDF, a status which prohibits combining them with other PDFs.

Vulnerable Populations in Overburdened Communities & Tribes

Vulnerable Populations in Overburdened Communities

Identify the type of direct and meaningful benefits your project provides to vulnerable populations using the descriptions above, if applicable. Explain how your project delivers these benefits and the impact it will have on the populations served.

Vulnerable Populations in Overburdened Communities*:

The mission of The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. is to empower people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities through sustainable employment and transformative services for independence and career advancement.

Through proposed project in this application, the Lighthouse will continue delivering mobility management - specialized Orientation and Mobility training services to people who are blind and DeafBlind in King County, ensuring people with visual and hearing disabilities have access to the skills, resources, and information to sustain employment and lead independent lives. The project will serve 100% individuals who are legally blind or legally blind and deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened. Services are based out of South Seattle, where the Lighthouse's headquarters are located, and delivered in the immediate surrounding community through various real-world training experiences with King County-based transit providers, services, and routes.

Lighthouse Orientation and Mobility staff are also actively involved in accessibility community meetings to advance transit accessibility for travelers who are blind or DeafBlind, including the City of Seattle's Pedestrian Access Advisory Committee, Sound Transit's Citizens Accessibility Advisory Committee, and King County's Future of Paratransit Mobility Board. Through these activities, staff provide feedback on transit access, advocate for accessibility, and learn more about the broader transit landscape and its impact on the blind and DeafBlind communities.

If these populations were engaged by you or your representatives in developing or maintaining the project, describe the outreach efforts and results. Include details such as methods used to engage the community, feedback received, and how the input influenced the project's design or implementation.

Inclusive outreach in planning:

Orientation and Mobility staff conduct one-on-one pre- and post-training session meetings with employees receiving services. These conversations inform training services and allow staff to improve practices to ensure that services meet the needs of the community we serve.

In 2022, The Lighthouse conducted a staff engagement survey regarding available programs, including the Orientation and Mobility services, with the following results (n=64 Lighthouse employee survey respondents):

- 89% of respondents reported that their satisfaction with services was "good" or "excellent"
- 63% of respondents reported that services improved their job skills
- 49% of respondents reported increased confidence
- 36% of respondents reported a perception of increased safety

In the coming biennium, staff also intend to conduct a Collision Survey through one-on-one interviews to identify trends relating to pedestrian collisions at the Lighthouse headquarters in South Seattle and the surrounding areas.

Tribal Support

Is this project directly operated by a tribe?* No

Is your project serving and is it supported by a tribal nation in Washington?: No

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice Assessment (EJA)

You must conduct an Environmental Justice Assessment (EJA) if you apply for \$15 million or more in grant funds.

Are you requesting \$15 million or more in WSDOT funds for your proposed project?* No

Attachments

Attachments

Named Attachment	Required	Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
Required for all projects						
Population density map	✓	Population density map reflecting the area surrounding the Lighthouse's Seattle headquarters (2501 South Plum Street Seattle, WA 98144) and nearby King County communities	Population Density Map.pdf	pdf	103 KB	09/09/2026 01:28 PM
Service area map	✓	Service area map highlighting King County, where the Lighthouse orientation and mobility training is delivered as relates to this application.	Service Area Map.pdf	pdf	178 KB	09/09/2026 01:29 PM
Required for new nonprofit applicants only						
501(c) IRS Letter of Determination		IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter	501c3 IRS Letter.pdf	pdf	311 KB	09/09/2026 09:49 AM
WA Utilities & Transportation Commission (UTC) Certification (required for new nonprofit applicants that are direct service providers)						
Conditionally required						
Indirect costs documentation - de minimis rate self-certification; negotiated indirect cost rate letter from cognizant agency; or a cost allocation plan		De minimis Rate Self-Certification Letter from The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.	De minimis Rate Self-Certification Letter.pdf	pdf	531 KB	09/09/2026 12:36 PM
In-kind match valuation proposal (required for operating & mobility management projects that are proposing to use in-kind as matching funds)						
Procurement policy (required for new applicants or existing grantees without a current policy on file with WSDOT if this project includes the procurement of services or capital assets)						
Correspondence from a tribe in support of your project (if project is serving and supported by tribe(s). Not required if the applicant is a tribe.)						
Optional attachments						
Letters committing matching funds		Letter committing matching funds from The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.	Letter Committing Matching Funds.pdf	pdf	532 KB	09/09/2026 12:51 PM
Letter of concurrence (for projects that operate in multiple planning regions)						
Letters of support (combine into one file attachment)		Letter of support to The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. from King County Metro.	Letter of Support - King County Metro.pdf	pdf	168 KB	09/09/2026 09:51 AM
Supplemental information		Letter of Support to The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. from Seattle Department of Transportation	Letter of Support- Seattle Department of Transportation.pdf	pdf	128 KB	09/09/2026 09:52 AM
Optional construction attachments						
NEPA/SEPA assessment, if available						
Supplemental construction project information (building or site designs, site plans, location exhibits, etc.), if available						

Certification

Certification

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the information in this application is true and accurate and that this organization has the necessary fiscal, data collection, and managerial capabilities to implement and manage the project associated with this application:

Certification*:	Yes
Application Authority*:	Adam Scanlon First Name Last Name
Title*:	Grants Manager
Date*:	09/09/2026



The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

September 8, 2026

Re: The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.'s Indirect Cost Rate for the 2027-2029 Consolidated Grants Program Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. submits this self-certification letter in support of utilizing a 15 percent (15%) de minimis rate on the total direct program costs outlined in its 2027-2029 Consolidated Grants Application. The Organization does not currently have a negotiated indirect cost rate and has elected the de minimis option.

Thank you, and please contact us if we can provide additional information or answer questions.

Patrick O'Hara
President and CEO

Kathryn Wiegel
Senior Director of Philanthropy



The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

September 8, 2026

Re: Match Commitment for The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.'s 2027-2029 Consolidated Grants Program Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. submits this letter committing to match 40 percent (40%) of approved funds received from the Washington State Department of Transportation Consolidated Grants Program during the 2027-2029 biennium.

To fulfill this commitment, The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. will leverage support from various philanthropic revenue streams, including contracts with area transit agencies, funding from longstanding corporate, foundation, and individual donors who provide restricted support to the Orientation and Mobility services, allocated unrestricted support received from individual donors through the Organization's Annual Fund and Major Donors program, and through the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind Foundation's endowment.

Additional funds will be allocated, as needed, from the Organization's operating budget to fulfill the stated match commitment.

Thank you, and please contact us if we can provide additional information or answer questions.

Patrick O'Hara
President and CEO

Kathryn Wiegel
Senior Director of Philanthropy



Moving forward together

General Manager's Office

201 S. Jackson Street
KSC-TR-0415
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

September 8, 2026

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.
2501 S Plum Street
Seattle, WA 98144

To Whom It May Concern:

King County Metro is pleased to express strong support for The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.'s application to the Washington State Department of Transportation's Consolidated Grants Program. The Lighthouse's Orientation and Mobility Program provides essential travel training services that directly benefit transit riders throughout King County.

King County Metro has maintained a decades long partnership with the Lighthouse for the Blind. Through our contracted collaboration via Lighthouse's Orientation and Mobility Program, Metro regularly refers individuals who are blind or DeafBlind for specialized travel training as they learn to navigate public transit, including buses, light rail, and monorail services. Lighthouse has also been a vital contributor to Metro's enterprise-wide ADA review as well as an in-depth review of its paratransit service, Access Paratransit. Lighthouse hosted multiple focus groups with blind and DeafBlind riders, guiding Metro staff in creating accessible spaces to receive feedback. Through both Lighthouse staff and the communities they serve, Lighthouse has provided valuable expertise that has informed improvements throughout Metro. Service and accessibility for riders who are blind and DeafBlind has increased both within and outside of King County as a result.

The Lighthouse's certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists provide high quality, specialized and culturally responsive instruction that supports individuals in learning transit schedules, understanding route options, and completing paratransit applications, among other services. In addition, the program offers accessibility training to King County Metro employees, strengthening our staff's ability to support riders with visual impairments and ensuring safe, equitable, and informed service delivery.

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. is one of the few organizations in King County with credentialed Orientation and Mobility Specialists capable of providing comprehensive, individualized travel training to people who are blind or DeafBlind. Their services significantly complement and enhance King County Metro's existing travel training resources and play a vital role in supporting independent, confident mobility for our riders.

We appreciate our partnership with The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. and remain committed to our shared mission of delivering accessible, high-quality public transportation and improving regional mobility and quality of life throughout King County.

Feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Maha Jahshan
Director of Partnerships & Engagement
King County Metro
MJahshan@kingcounty.gov

Signed by:

2BD6E72DE47D41D...

9/8/2026



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.
2501 S Plum Street
Seattle, WA 98144

September 8, 2026

Hello, my name is Tom Hewitt and am the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator and Program Manager for the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). I am happy to endorse The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.'s Orientation and Mobility Program for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Consolidated Grants Program.

The Lighthouse's Orientation and Mobility Specialists have been key collaborators in Seattle's efforts to lead, support, advise, and manage the many aspects of creating and fostering an accessible public right-of-way (ROW).

Lighthouse Orientation and Mobility Specialists have continually been available and supportive of various Seattle Department of Transportation initiatives, including the SDOT ADA Transition Plan Update, input in our city-wide AlertSeattle system, 2026 World Cup accessibility planning, and Tactile Walking Surface Indicator (TWSI) pilot projects. Your continued engagement has helped bring forward critical insights and community feedback that highlight the accessibility needs of pedestrians with visual disabilities in Seattle.

Your Orientation and Mobility team also routinely joins Seattle's Pedestrian Access Advisory Committee (PAAC) meetings, sharing key insights that inform city-wide accessibility advancements and help make Seattle even more inclusive for our Blind and DeafBlind community members.

I am grateful for The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.'s collaborative work to help make Seattle accessible for all.

Sincerely,

Tom Hewitt, AICP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Th M. Hewitt Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

ADA Coordinator and Program Manager
Seattle Department of Transportation
Phone: (206) 755-5865
Email: tom.hewitt@seattle.gov

Population

Population Density

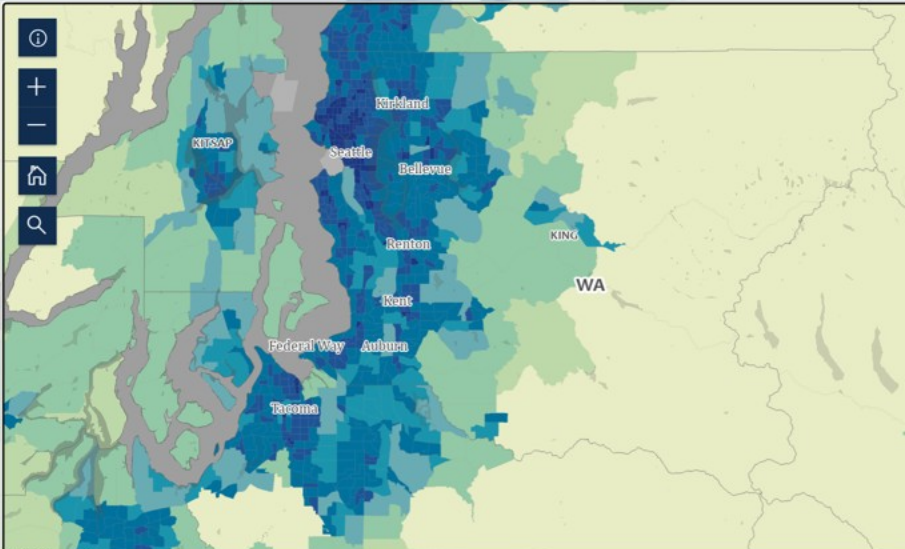
This map shows the population density—expressed as persons per square mile—from the 2020 Census at the state, county, and census tract levels.

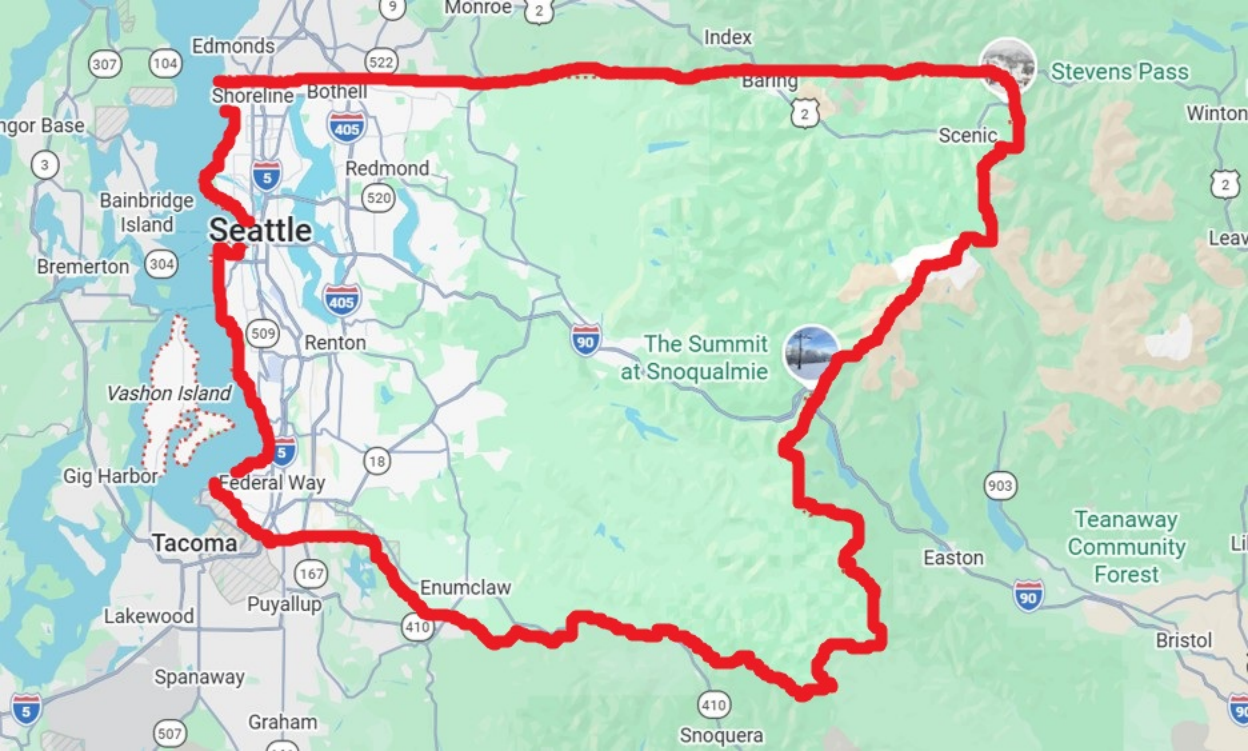
Population Change

Population Aged 18 and Over

Legend

Persons per square mile by census tract





Seattle

Tacoma

The Summit
at Snoqualmie

Stevens Pass

Teanaway
Community
Forest