



Amtrak Annual Grant Program Fact Sheet

AUTHORIZED FUNDING (* FULLY AUTHORIZED LEVELS)
FY22-FY26 Funding: \$19.22 Billion *

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) supports the nation’s rail network through a variety of competitive and directed grant programs designed to improve safety and the mobility of people and goods. The Amtrak Annual Grant is a directed grant program that is unique in scope and purpose—Amtrak is the only eligible recipient, and funds are broadly eligible for use on Amtrak’s capital, operating, and debt expenses.

When Congress created Amtrak in 1971, it provided funds to Amtrak through a number of funding mechanisms. In 2003, Congress created the directed grant program as it exists today, including FRA involvement and oversight. From 2003 to 2016 , the Amtrak Annual Grant operated as a reimbursable grant program.¹ It currently operates as an advance payment grant with the payment schedule set in statute.

From FY17 to FY19, Amtrak Annual Grant appropriations totaled about \$1.79B per year. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) significantly increased Amtrak Annual Grant funding (see Section 22101). The IIJA also provides supplemental funding for the Northeast Corridor and National Network. Those amounts and requirements are addressed in the Amtrak IIJA Supplemental Appropriations Fact Sheet.

¹ From FY 2010 through FY 2016, Amtrak’s appropriations included a \$200 million working capital advance.

Amtrak Annual Grant Program

Purpose of Grant Program

To provide Amtrak with its annual direct Congressional appropriations under Section 22101 of IIJA and to ensure accountability in Amtrak’s use of those funds (49 USC 24319). Amtrak’s funds are administered via two grants: one for Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor Account and one for Amtrak’s National Network Account.

Eligible Applicants

- **Applicant:** Directed Grant to Amtrak.
- **Application Process:** Amtrak submits an annual grant request to FRA for appropriated federal funds (49 USC 24319). As the government entity responsible for administering grant funds, FRA has substantial involvement in the programmatic management and oversight of Amtrak; FRA assesses Amtrak Annual Grant requests for factors such as eligibility, consistency, timing, reasonableness, readiness, and risk. The selection and prioritization of projects, however, is subject to Amtrak’s business judgment. An annual grant agreement between Amtrak and FRA specifies the operations, services, and other activities to be funded by the grant, as well as grant administration requirements. Grant conditions can change each fiscal year due to appropriations requirements, the needs of Amtrak, and the needs of FRA’s maturing oversight program.

Eligible Projects

- Amtrak uses federal grant funds for a wide range of projects and costs, including, but not limited to:
 - o Capital improvement projects and annual maintenance activities
 - o Debt service payments
 - o Operating expenses on the National Network.