

Make Traveling Family Friendly Again Grant Partnership Request

2025



UEI: NKY4A1CUBF87

Official Funding Notice

12-8-2025



WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy today launched his “Make Travel Family Friendly Again” campaign ahead of a busy holiday travel season. The goal of the campaign is to address a common refrain from the public – it can be challenging to travel as a family. From needing more dedicated spaces for young children and exercise equipment, to finding places for mothers to nurse their children, to staying fit on the go, or struggling to find more healthy food options, the Trump Administration is committed to making every stage of the travel journey more seamless.

To improve families’ experiences in airport terminals, Secretary Duffy announced \$1 billion in funding to incentivize more family-friendly resources in airport terminals. This can include:

- Creating more children’s play areas or exercise areas
- Adding mothers’ rooms or nursing pods
- Reconfiguring security checkpoints to create family screening lanes
- **Building sensory rooms for children with special needs**
- Other creative terminal projects that focus on enhancing the family travel journey



Winnie Moore, 10, explores the new sensory room at Salt Lake City International Airport with his mom. Photo: Courtesy of Ashley Detrick/Salt Lake City Corp.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION *Federal Aviation Administration*

FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity: Airport Terminal Program(ATP)

Date Posted: December 8, 2025

Date Closed: January 15, 2026 Opportunity ID: FAA-ARP-IIJA-G-26-001 Docket # FAA-FAA-2025-1056

Grant Program: <https://www.faa.gov/iija>

KultureCity: Pioneering Sensory Accessibility in Air Travel

OVERVIEW

KultureCity is the world's leading nonprofit dedicated to sensory accessibility and acceptance for individuals with invisible disabilities and sensory needs, such as autism, PTSD, dementia, and traumatic brain injuries. Founded in 2014 in Birmingham, Alabama, by Dr. Julian Maha and Dr. Michele Kong—both neurodivergent physicians and parents of neurodivergent children—KultureCity follows the mission "Making the Nevers Possible" to foster global awareness, acceptance, and inclusion. Over 11 years, the organization has certified over 6,000 venues across five continents, including airports, arenas, zoos, hospitals, and events, empowering millions in the neurodivergent community.

PROVEN IMPACT

Trained more than 997,000 individuals, built 754 sensory rooms, gifted 589 sensory mobile stations, saved 80 lives through first responder training, and achieved 1.9M app downloads. Our initiatives address common challenges like loud noises, overwhelming crowds, and sensory overload by providing tools and spaces that make environments more manageable and inclusive.

ENHANCING AIR TRAVEL FOR FAMILIES

Aligning with the US DOT's "Make Travel Family Friendly Again" campaign and the \$1 billion Airport Terminal Program (ATP) funding opportunity (FAA-ARP-IJA-G-26-001), KultureCity partners with airports to create sensory rooms and inclusive programs. These cost-effective solutions, designed with medical professionals, include quieter environments equipped with bean bags, visual light panels, activity panels, air walls, and ADA seating. Airports also receive staff training to recognize and assist passengers with sensory needs, plus sensory bags containing noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools, verbal cue cards, and weighted lap pads—available to anyone feeling overwhelmed.

This initiative directly supports the grant's focus on building sensory rooms for children with special needs, reconfiguring checkpoints for family lanes, and enhancing terminal experiences to make air travel seamless for families. By reducing overstimulation and promoting accessibility, KultureCity helps ensure positive journeys for all passengers, turning potential stressors into manageable experiences.

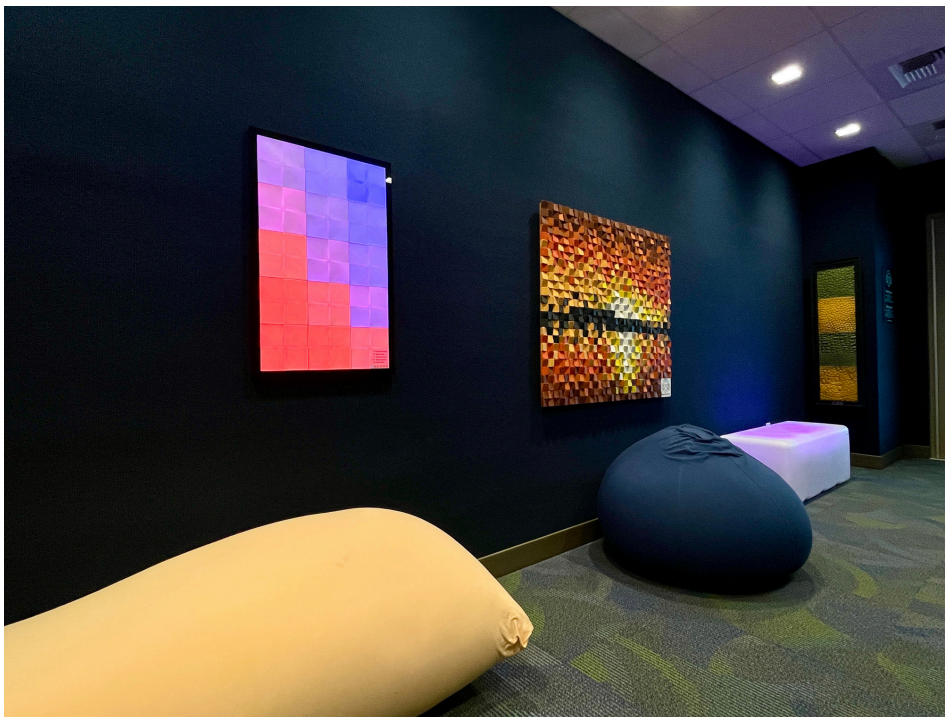
SUCCESSFUL AIRPORT PARTNERSHIPS

KultureCity has partnered with airports like SLC International, JFK, and LaGuardia to provide accessible spaces. For instance, at Salt Lake City International Airport, the first of three sensory rooms opened on Concourse A-east in March 2025, featuring specialized elements for a calming environment.

As noted by SLCDA Executive Director Bill Wyatt, these rooms make the airport "welcoming and inviting to all passengers."

CONTACT FOR PARTNERSHIP

For grant information and quotes, contact Bryan Stone, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy Programs: bryan@kulturecity.org | 757-701-2903. Let's make travel family-friendly again—together.



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