

**THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2020**

Pursuant to Section 5104 of the
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
Public Law 114-94, 129 Stat. 1312 (Dec. 4, 2015)
August 2020

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act

Section 5104 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, codified at 49 U.S.C. 31313, requires the Secretary of Transportation to administer a financial assistance program for Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI). The Secretary delegated this authority to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). As a result, each fiscal year, FMCSA awards grants to States and other entities capable of executing national projects that aid States in their compliance efforts and that will improve the national Commercial Driver's License (CDL) programs. FMCSA may award grants or enter into cooperative agreements to cover expenses for computer hardware and software, publications, testing, personnel, training, and quality control. In addition, Section 5104 specifically allows these grants to the States to provide CDL program coordinators and to implement or maintain a system to notify the employer of a commercial motor vehicle operator that a suspension or revocation has been posted to the operator's CDL.

FMCSA may also award CDLPI grants for research, development and testing, demonstration projects, public education, and other special activities and projects relating to commercial driver licensing and motor vehicle safety that benefit all jurisdictions of the United States. The CDLPI program exists to address national safety concerns; address emerging issues relating to CDL improvements; support innovative ideas and solutions to CDL program issues; and to address other priority issues, as determined by the Secretary.

Section 5104 further requires an annual report on the activities carried out under this section. This report is for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Assistance

Section 5101 of the FAST Act, codified at 49 U.S.C. 31104(a)(4), authorized FMCSA to award \$33,200,000 in CDLPI grants for FY 2020. After deducting 1.5 percent for administrative support of the grant, \$32,702,000 was available for grant awards.

FMCSA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on January 7, 2020, on grants.gov, and applications were due on February 21, 2020. FMCSA announced that it would prioritize projects that would enable States to achieve and/or sustain full compliance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 31311. FMCSA also prioritized projects to support State compliance with FMCSA's CDL regulations in 49 CFR parts 383 and 384, including addressing existing findings in FMCSA's State Compliance Records Enterprise system and proposing strategies for mitigating those findings.

In addition, FMCSA gave priority to applications that also assist States in achieving or sustaining compliance with the requirements of related Federal rulemakings, such as the CDL Testing and Commercial Learner’s Permit Standards Final Rule, and the Medical Examiner’s Certification Integration Rule.

FMCSA received 62 CDLPI grant applications before the deadline. Of those, nine applications were ineligible based on the grant program’s eligibility requirements or were duplicate applications. In total, 53 CDLPI eligible applications, requesting approximately \$47.5 million in funding, were evaluated. FMCSA awarded 49 grants to 35 grantees totaling \$32,702,000.

A cross-disciplinary team that included FMCSA grant management specialists, technical review panelists, and program officers evaluated the applications. The team considered the technical and programmatic merits of each proposal and conducted a cost analysis. FMCSA also considered the risk, as required by 2 CFR 200.205, posed by each applicant; the applicant’s past performance with FMCSA (if applicable); and the diversity of technical approaches or methods. The Agency did not award funding to four applications because the proposals did not meet the priorities of the Agency.

Table 1 – FY 2020 CDLPI Grant Awards

Grantee	Award Amount
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency	\$370,271
State of Alaska	\$888,065
American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators	\$4,957,036
California Department of Motor Vehicles	\$60,350
Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance	\$155,614
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles	\$1,008,000
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch	\$174,692
Delaware Department of Transportation	\$88,415
Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles	\$610,964
Georgia Department of Driver Services	\$882,299
Idaho Transportation Department	\$93,500
Indiana Supreme Court - Office of Court Technology	\$805,529
Executive Office of the Commonwealth of Kentucky	\$145,000
Louisiana Department of Public Safety, Office of Motor Vehicles	\$780,769

Supreme Court of Louisiana	\$839,460
Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration	\$728,870
State of Michigan	\$1,025,666
Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Driver and Vehicle Services	\$1,282,169
Mississippi Department of Public Safety	\$512,915
Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator	\$387,281
National District Attorneys Association	\$850,195
The National Judicial College	\$936,173
New York State Department of Motor Vehicles	\$4,524,588
North Carolina Department Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles	\$52,594
OBXtek Inc.	\$1,660,110
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Safety Administration	\$2,882,255
Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles	\$1,267,210
South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles	\$90,000
State of Tennessee	\$437,692
Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas	\$919,011
University of Cincinnati	\$1,479,468
Vermont Agency of Transportation - Department of Motor Vehicles	\$22,954
Washington State Department of Licensing	\$644,884
West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles	\$765,573
Wisconsin Department of Transportation- Bureau of Driver Services	\$372,428
Total Amount of Grants Awarded	\$32,702,000

FMCSA awarded individual State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) the majority of the FY 2020 CDLPI grants to improve highway safety and to increase State compliance with national CDL regulatory standards.

FMCSA awarded the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) approximately \$5 million in grant funding. Most of this funding will support the web-based Commercial Skills Test Information Management System. This system assists States in tracking and overseeing the integrity of the CDL skills (e.g., driving) test, exchanges information about skills tests administered outside of the driver's home State, and combats CDL fraud by analyzing

the pass and fail rates of examiners. FMCSA provided other funds to AAMVA to deliver skills test examiner training, conduct an annual meeting with the SDLAs to reduce the number of data problems in the Commercial Driver License Information System (CDLIS), to facilitate roadside access to the CDLIS by law enforcement personnel, and to develop new CDLIS reports.

FMCSA also awarded grant funds to the National Judicial College, the National District Attorneys Association, and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. These awards totaled approximately \$2 million and will be used to continue to provide training and technical assistance to judges, prosecutors, other court professionals, and law enforcement personnel on CDL rules and regulations to ensure disqualifications are executed and to minimize actions such as masking convictions.

Conclusion

The FY 2020 demand for the CDLPI financial assistance significantly exceeded requests. FMCSA allocated the funding efficiently and effectively, based upon a merit review of the applications, to help States make process improvements in CDL testing, issuance, and disqualification, and improvements in adjudicating traffic offenses by CDL holders. The programs and projects supported by the CDLPI grant program continue to improve highway safety.