Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

Discretionary Grant Program Technical Assistance Webinar Series

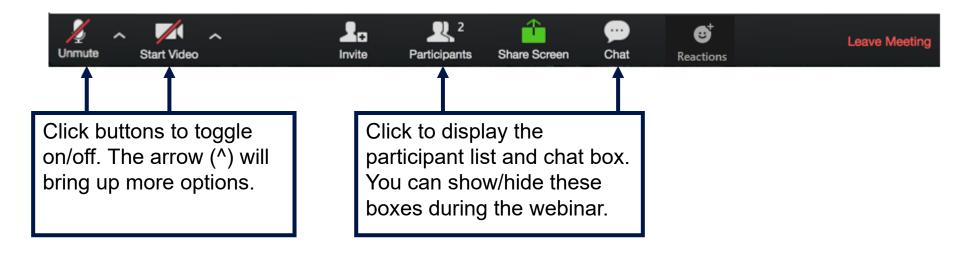
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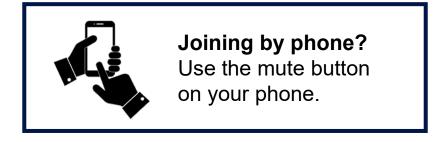
High Priority Discretionary Grant Program Overview

Using Zoom

Your Zoom Participant Menu:

- May differ slightly, or offer more options, depending on your Zoom account
- May be hidden, hover over the bottom or top of your screen to display





Introduction

- Presenters:
 - Brendan Shaughnessy:
 - FMCSA Transportation Specialist, State Programs Division
 - Leroy Taylor:
 - FMCSA ITD Program Manager
- Agenda:
 - What is a NOFO?
 - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Structure
 - Common Application Issues
 - Resources:
 - Including an overview of technical assistance webinars

So, What is a NOFO?

- A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is a formal announcement of funding assistance opportunity.
 - Goal of providing resources to advance agency objective(s).
- High-Priority Funding Opportunities:
 - High-Priority Commercial Motor Vehicle (HP-CMV) Program
 - Innovative Technology Deployment (ITD) Program
 - Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Training and Support (CMV-ETS)
 Program
 - NOTE: Pay attention to which program you are applying for.

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Structure

- Section A Program Description
- Section B Federal Award Information
- Section C Eligibility Information
- Section D Application and Submission Information
- Section E Application Review Information
- Section F Federal Award Administration Information
- Section G Federal Awarding Agency Contacts
- Section H Other Information

Section A: Goals & Objectives

- National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS):
 - https://www.transportation.gov/NRSS
- Safety:
 - Make our transportation system safer for all people.
- Economic Strength & Modernization:
 - Grow an inclusive and sustainable economy.
- Equity:
 - Reduce inequities across our transportation systems and the communities they affect.
- Climate Change & Sustainability:
 - Tackle the climate crisis by ensuring that transportation plays a central role in the solution.
- Transformation:
 - Design for the future.

Section A: Award Performance Goals

Goals:

• Applicants outline expected performance goals related to the priority or priorities for which they are applying.

Performance Indicators:

- A particular value or characteristic used to measure an output or outcome.
- <u>Types</u>:
 - General:
 - Listed in the various NOFOs, and directly correspond to the priorities that fall under their programs.
 - Example:
 - CMV Safety Improvement
 - Specific:
 - National priority-specific?
 - State performance goals?
 - Project-specific?

- High Priority-Commercial Motor Vehicle (HP-CMV) Program:
 - National Priority Descriptions:
 - Enforcement and Compliance with Safety Regulations:
 - HP-CMV funds are available for projects that target unsafe driving of CMVs and non-CMVs in areas identified as high-risk crash corridors, promote the safe and secure movement of hazardous materials, and improve safety of transportation of goods and passengers in foreign commerce.
 - Prioritized Activities Include:

Traffic Enforcement (TE) in High-Crash Areas • CMV Safety in work zones	Human Trafficking
CMV Safety on Rural Roads	Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (DACH) Violations
Passenger Safety Initiatives • Immobilization of passenger-carrying	Drug Interdiction Assistance Program (DIAP) Training
CMVsMigrant worker transportation in rural areas	Increased State Investigations

- High Priority-Commercial Motor Vehicle (HP-CMV) Program:
 - National Priority Descriptions:
 - Enforcement and Compliance with Safety Regulations:
 - Eligibility:
 - State government agencies including District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands;
 - Local governments (including county, city, township, and special district);
 - Federally recognized Native American tribal governments;
 - Institutions of higher education; and
 - Non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service.
 - NOTE: For-profit organizations and individuals are NOT eligible.

- High Priority-Commercial Motor Vehicle (HP-CMV) Program:
 - National Priority Descriptions:
 - Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM):
 - A partnership with State International Registration Plan (IRP) offices and Law Enforcement that improves highway safety by identifying and immobilizing commercial motor carriers that are prohibited from operating due to a Federal Out-of-Service (OOS) Order.
 - https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/PRISM
 - Eligibility:
 - State government agencies including District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
 - NOTE: For-profit organizations and individuals are NOT eligible.

- High Priority-Commercial Motor Vehicle (HP-CMV) Program:
 - National Priority Descriptions:
 - State Safety Data Quality (SSDQ):
 - The FMCSA's safety programs use State-reported data on crashes and inspections to prioritize
 resources for the greatest impact on large truck and bus safety. The FMCSA SSDQ program focuses on
 ensuring the availability of high-quality data from our State partners.
 - https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/DataQuality
 - Eligibility:
 - State government agencies including District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands;
 - Local governments (including county, city, township, and special district);
 - Federally recognized Native American tribal governments;
 - Institutions of higher education; and
 - Non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service.
 - NOTE: For-profit organizations and individuals are NOT eligible.

High Priority-Commercial Motor Vehicle (HP-CMV) Program:

- Additional National Priorities:
 - Technologies to Improve CMV Safety Through Enforcement:
 - Funds are available for the demonstration, acquisition, and implementation of technologies to improve CMV safety enforcement.
 - NOTE: Technological projects in support of commercial motor vehicle information systems and networks must submit those projects under the HP-ITD announcement.
 - Lead MCSAP State Agencies' Compatibility:
 - Funding available for projects seeking to achieve or maintain compatibility with the FMCSRs in order to demonstrate continued MCSAP eligibility.
 - Public Awareness and Education:
 - Focus areas may include but are not limited to: human trafficking detection and prevention, passenger transportation safety, hazardous materials transportation safety, work zone safety, and share-the-road-safely initiatives.
 - Skill Performance Evaluation:
 - Funds are available for States to attend FMCSA-approved training on the Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE)
 program.
 - Funds are also available for SPE activities conducted under FMCSA's SPE Driver Waiver Program.

- Additional High-Priority Grant Programs:
 - Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Training and Support (CMV-ETS):
 - High Priority Safety Enforcement Training provides funding to nonprofit entities with the expertise to train non-federal personnel who engage in CMV safety enforcement activities.
 - https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/Grants/HighPriority.aspx
 - Distinction between CMV-ETS and HP-CMV:
 - Training for non-certification purposes under HP-CMV (e.g., public education, public outreach, and human trafficking prevention)
 - CMV-ETS is geared toward certification courses for enforcement personnel who conduct CMV inspections.
 - Eligibility:
 - Non-profit organizations which have:
 - expertise in conducting a training program for non-Federal employees; and
 - the ability to reach and involve in a training program a target population of commercial motor vehicle safety enforcement and compliance employees.
 - NOTE: For-profit organizations and individuals are NOT eligible.

- Additional High-Priority Grant Programs:
 - Innovative Technology Deployment (HP-ITD):
 - HP-ITD provides funding for the deployment and development of new and innovative advanced technology solutions that support commercial motor vehicle information systems and networks, for planning activities, and for the operation and maintenance costs associated with innovative technology.
 - https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/Grants/ITD.aspx
 - Eligibility:
 - States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
 - The FMCSA may award HP-ITD funds to eligible applicants that have an approved program plan as outlined in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.
 - NOTE: For-profit organizations and individuals are NOT eligible.

Section B: Federal Award Information

Funding and Number of Awards

- Congress authorizes and appropriates funding
- An estimate of number of awards to be made each year
- NOFO will indicate if program has a maximum per award

Type of Award

- Cooperative Agreement
- Grant

Period of Performance

• Based upon U.S. Code, the number of years will be provided for each specific grant program.

Section B: Federal Award Information

- Standard Title VI/Non-Discrimination Program Assurance and Plan Title VI Assessments
 - This is a requirement which commits the grant applicant to complying with Title VI and related nondiscrimination authorities.
 - The Assurance and Plan Title VI Assessment must be received and approved by the FMCSA Title VI Program Manager
 - If an applicant does not include the approved documents in the application, the application can be determined to be ineligible.
 - Process could take up to six months.
 - Recorded webinar available at https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/grantswebinars

Section C: Eligibility Information

- Eligible Applicants
 - Specific to the individual grant program.
- Cost-Sharing and Matching Requirements
 - FMCSA did not require a matching share for fiscal year 2023 awards.

Section D: Application & Submission Information

- Content and Form of Application Submissions
 - Formatting
 - Fonts
 - Page number limitations

- Narrative Section Requirements
 - Project Narrative Descriptions Performance-Based
 - Budget Narrative Description

- Project Narrative Sections
 - Introduction
 - Problem Statement
 - Performance Objective
 - Performance Activity
 - Performance Measurement Plan
 - Monitoring and Timeline/Milestone
 Plan

- Assistance with writing a successful performance-based project narrative refer to High-Priority Best Practices
 - https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/downloadFile.axd/HP_Best_Practices_20190628.pdf

Section E: Application Review Information

- Eligibility Criteria
 - Intake Process
- Merit Evaluation Criteria
 - Technical Merit
 - Panel of Subject Matter Experts reviews each applications
 - Budget/Cost Analysis Criteria
 - Allowable, Necessary, Reasonable, Allocable, and supports project plan details
 - Program-Specific Criteria
 - Priority addressed and likely to achieve successful completion of project
 - Past Performance Criteria
 - Past awards achievements of Objectives/Activities within budget and timelines
 - Other Review Information
 - E.O. 13985 and ROUTES, Economic Vitality, use of alternative Fuels, etc.

Section E: Application Review Information

Ratings

The FMCSA prioritizes applications using the ratings shown below based on the applicability of the merit criteria and other preferences to the application.

Highly Responsive

Fully addressed all aspects of NOFO with minimum or no weaknesses

Responsive

 Most aspects of NOFO are addressed with some significant weaknesses which are addressed with a recommendation of reduced award, or post award term and condition

Not Responsive

 Does not address all aspects of NOFO sufficiently to indicate a strong likelihood of successfully administer the project plan

Section F – Federal Award Notices

- FMCSA may contact applicants with additional questions or for clarification of the application's components.
- Applicants chosen for funding are formally notified electronically by FMCSA's grant management system, GrantSolutions (<u>www.grantsolutions.gov</u>).
- Acceptance of the award constitutes the recipient's agreement to comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, executive orders, OMB circulars, and terms and conditions of the award.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email.
- The FMCSA will send a letter to notify those who were not funded with suggestions for how applications can be improved for the next grant cycle.
- The FMCSA does not have an appeal process for unsuccessful applications for discretionary grant funds.

Section F – Administrative & National Policy Requirements

- All awards will be administered pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost
 Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards found in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted by
 DOT at 2 CFR part 1201 and FMCSA statutes and regulations.
- Additional provisions that apply to this NOFO and/or awards made under this NOFO, including but not limited to those related to SAM, can be found in the Grants.gov application package under the "Related Documents" tab.

Section F – Reporting

Quarterly Reporting responsibilities include:

- Program performance reports using the Performance Progress Report (SF-PPR)
- Financial status using the Federal Financial Report (SF-425, also known as the FFR)
- Request for Reimbursement (SF-270)

Recipients must submit

- SF-425 and SF-PPR reports electronically through GrantSolutions
- SF-270 reimbursement requests electronically through Delphi/iSupplier

Section G – Federal Agency Contacts

- FMCSA's Grants Management Office:
 - Serves as the primary point of contact for all NOFO-related queries.

Section H: Other Information

- Federal Funding Opportunities and Application Package
 - www.Grants.gov
 - CFDA/SAM.gov Assistance Numbers:
 - High-Priority (CMV & ITD): 20.237
 - CMV-ETS: 20.243
- Grant Management Training
 - https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/Grants/GrantManagement.aspx
 - Modules: Grant Application Grant Implementation Grant Close-out
- High Priority Resource Guide
 - https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/downloadFile.axd?file=Grants_Management_HP_Resource_Guide_20190628.pdf
 - Policy guidance, websites, forms, and training

Section H: Other Information

- High Priority Best Practices
 - https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/downloadFile.axd/HP_Best_Practices_20190628.pdf
 - Offers suggestions for writing a competitive and successful grant application
- Motor Carrier Grant Comprehensive Policy
 - https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/docs/mission/grants/73001/motor-carrier-grant-comprehensive-policy-v31
 - Provides program policy, guidance, technical assistance and eligibility Information
- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
 - Appendix A: Application Package Requirements Checklist
 - Appendix B: Budget Narrative Guidance

Common Application Issues

- Problem Statement:
 - Does the application include details on performance data used to identify the problem?
 - Does the application include a sufficient trend analysis?
- Performance Activity Plan:
 - Does the application provide a description of the activities the applicant will conduct to help mitigate the problem and achieve objective's outcome?
- Performance Measurement Plan:
 - What is the baseline data that will measure progress toward achieving performance objectives?
- Budget Narrative:
 - Is the level of detail provided sufficient to justify requested funding?



Resources: **FMCSA Grant Application Process**

https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/download File.axd/FMCSA-Grant-Application-Process-Infographic.pdf



The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) provides several financial assistance opportunities, through four discretionary grant programs, to support activities and projects that enhance motor carrier safety and/or advance innovative transportation technology.

isit Grants.gov

The site includes all the information you need to prepare, apply for, and track grants.

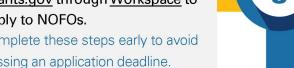
Begin locating the materials you'll need to complete your application forms.

Complete Registration Steps

Takes several weeks to complete. Approval times vary.

- 1. All applicants must register with SAM.gov.
- 2. All Applicants must register on Grants.gov through Workspace to apply to NOFOs.

Complete these steps early to avoid missing an application deadline.





View Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)

FMCSA posts all available grants on Grants.gov as NOFOs.

Subscribe to FMCSA grant announcements through Grants.gov.

Use the Search Grants function to view NOFOs.

To view grants available to Minority Institutions of Higher Education (MIHEs), select "Private Institutions of Higher Education" and/or "Public and State Institutions of Higher Education" under the "Eligibility" criteria.

Complete the Application

Due 45-60 days after the NOFO is published

The application, completed through your Workspace account, includes all instructions and requirements.

vait Award Decision

anounced by September 30

Resources: How to Apply

https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/download File.axd/FMCSA Grants Outreach Before You Apply.pdf ants to different types of organizations working on otor vehicle safety activities.

riewed FMCSA's grant opportunities (https://ai.fmcsa. ants/Default.aspx) and determined that your organization i candidate? There are several steps to take before applying. Immended that you begin this process at least six to eight before the grant application deadline.



Obtain a Unique Identifier

To receive federal grants, your organization must obtain a unique identifier. In April 2022, the government will transition from using the nine-character Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number as its unique identifier system to the 12-character alphanumeric Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) system.



If you'll be applying for a grant before April 4, 2022:

- Register on the Dun & Bradstreet website (https://fedgov.dnb.com/ webform/index.jsp) or call 1-866-705-5711.
- Your DUNS number will be processed and assigned in one to two businesses days after registration.

If you'll be applying for a grant after April 4, 2022, or if your organization has already been assigned a DUNS Number:

 Move on to Step 2; your UEI will be assigned when you register with the System for Award Management.

2 Register in the System for Award Management

The System for Award Management, or SAM, is a web-based, government-wide application that collects information related to awards and grants for all federal partners. Your organization must register with SAM for FMCSA to track your application.

- Register on the SAM website (https://sam.gov/content/home) and use your organization's Employer Identification Number (or EIN, a federal tax identification number).
- SAM requires annual registration renewal, even if your organization uses the same DUNS Number or UEI from year to year.
- A notarized letter appointing the authorized administrator for your account is needed before SAM registration can be activated or renewed.



 Registration in SAM.gov can take up to 15 business days.

For more tips on SAM.gov registration, including designating points of contact for your organization, view our training video (https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/downloadFile.axd/Phase2_v3.zip/story_html5.html) and select Registration Systems: Applying for a Grant from the left navigation bar.

3 Register in grants.gov

Grants.gov is the government portal where your organization can find and apply for federal grant opportunities. Registering with grants.gov is the only way to apply for an FMCSA grant.

 Register on the grants.gov website (https://www.grants.gov).



 Registration in grants.gov can take two to four weeks and requires validation with SAM. That means your SAM registration must be complete before registering with grants.gov.

For more tips on grants.gov registration, including designating points of contact for your organization, view our training video (https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/downlo.adFile.axd/Phase2 v3.zip/story html6.html) and select Registration Systems: Applying for a Grant from the left navigation bar.

re you've completed the pre-application process, you're ready to begin assembling your application parkage. For more

https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/downl

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Carrier Safety Administration

GRANT OPPORTUNIT

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is dedicated to improving the safety of commercial motor vehicles and reducing crashes, injuries,

Each year, FMCSA awards grants to support safety projects and initiatives associated with this mission. Many different types of organizations and government agencies are invited to apply.

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ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

COMPETITIVE GRANT?*

GRANT PROGRAM

· State Driver Licensing Agencies

Yes; Grant funding is awarded

criteria that is outlined in the

Notice of Funding Opportunity.

at the agency's discretion and is

based solely on the merit review

- · Other State agencies working to implement the CDL program
- · Public, State, and private institutions of higher education
- Non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
- · For-profit organizations
- · Federally recognized Native American tribal organizations
- · Local governmental agencies

Commercial Driver's License **Program Implementation** (CDLPI)

CDLPI is focused on the execution and improvement of the national Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program, including ensuring compliance with federal regulations governing the CDL program and achieving the mission of "One Driver transition to CMV careers). - One License - One Record."

Yes; Grant funding is awarded at the agency's discretion and is based solely on the merit review criteria that is outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

- · Educational institutions with accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education
- that are approved by the U.S. Department of Labor as eligible training providers and that accept Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants
- · Non-accredited institutions must be recognized by State Administrative Agencies and the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) to accept VA benefits



GRANT PROGRAM

Commercial Motor Vehicle **Operator Safety Training** (CMVOST)

CMVOST's purpose is to increase the number of CDL holders who have received enhanced operator safety training (with a focus on assisting current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their spouses

COMPETITIVE GRANT?*

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- Non-accredited institutions



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GRANT PROGRAM:

High Priority - Safety Enforcement Training

and fatalities involving large trucks and buses on the nation's roads.

The below chart outlines FMCSA's grant programs and their eligible applicants

High Priority Safety Enforcement Training provides funding to nonprofit entities with the expertise to train non-federal personnel who engage in CMV safety enforcement activities.

COMPETITIVE GRANT?*

Yes; Grant funding is awarded at the agency's discretion and is based solely on the merit review criteria that is outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Non-profit entities



GRANT PROGRAM

High Priority - Innovative Technology Deployment (HP-ITD)

HP-ITD provides funding for the development, deployment, and maintenance of intelligent transportation system technology to support CMV operations.

COMPETITIVE GRANT?*

Yes; Grant funding is awarded at the agency's discretion and is based solely on the merit review criteria that is outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

· State government agencies, including territories and the District of Columbia

See reverse for additional grant opportunities -

r discretionary grants are a type of federal grant that is awarded at an agency's (in this case, FMCSA's) discretion herit review criteria that is outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), a document that describes the application logistics of each grant program; non-competitive, formula or mandatory grants are a type of federal ed to designated entities using an approved formula consisting of CMV statistics.

nformation on these grants, including details on how to apply and the types of grant projects covered, visit fmcsa.dot.gov/Grants. To view FMCSA grants that are currently accepting applications, visit grants.gov and sea

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Enforcement Programs

Registration **Statistics**

Grants

LOGIN

A&I Resources

https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/Grants/default.

aspx

ministration (FMCSA) partners with stakeholders to accomplish the I's roadways safe. The Agency maintains strong relationships with its

FMCSA

Search FMCSA Web

MCSAP Grant

Motor Carrier Safet Grant

HP Grant

High Priority Grant

CDLPI Grant

Commercial Driver Implementation Gr

CMVOST Grant

Commercial Motor Safety Training Gra

Resources: FY 2024 Technical Assistance Webinars

https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/grantswebin ars

How to Apply & Title VI Requirements

This webinar will provide an introduction to the FMCSA discretionary grant program application steps and highlights getting started on the Title VI Program Compliance Plan and Assurance requirements. The session will include an overview of the grant systems that an organization must be registered with to complete an application by the deadline. Additionally, it will provide an overview of the required application forms. This session is meant to help prepare potential grant applicants on how to apply for FMCSA discretionary grant funds.

Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 1 p.m. ET

Register Now

High Priority Program Overview

This webinar provides an overview of High Priority (HP) Grant Program goals and objectives, eligibility requirements, application review process, and resources available for submitting a successful application.

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 1 p.m. ET

Register Now

Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation and Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training Program Overview

This webinar provides an overview of Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI), and Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training (CMVOST) Grant Program goals and objectives, eligibility requirements, application review process, and resources available for submitting a successful application.

Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 1 p.m. ET

Register Now

THANK YOU