Grant Technical Assistance Webinar 1: How to Apply & Title VI Requirements

The following questions were submitted to FMCSA by attendees during session 1 of the Discretionary Grant Program Technical Assistance Webinar Series on November 29, 2023.

Topic 1: High Priority Grant

1. Do you know when the award announcements will come for the HP grants?

The Funding Conference will highlight changes. It is held approximately one-to-two weeks after the NOFO is posted on Grants.gov. The Funding Conference registration is also posted on Grants.gov and this is another reason to take advantage of the subscribe option on Grants.gov.

2. Can a State Agency, who is currently and will continue to be a Sub-Grantee with the lead MCSAP Agency (separate State Agency) apply for a High Priority Grant or other grant opportunities?

The recording of the High Priority Grant Program Technical Assistance webinar will be posted at this link, when available: https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/grantswebinars.

3. Is there a personnel limit when applying for the grant?

There are no limits as to the number of personnel an applicant may propose in their application package. Keeping in mind that the applicant's budget narrative should support the number of personnel needed to execute the proposed project.

4. Is feedback provided on the evaluation results of the Grant application?

This will be covered during in-depth during the technical assistance webinars and the NOFO Conference, but in general, each applicant does receive some type of notification about if the application is eligible via email. Letters are also issued for applications that are not recommended for funding.

Topic 2: NOFO

1. Are there any significant updates from NOFOs in 2023 compared to 2024?

The Funding Conference will highlight changes. It is held approximately one-to-two weeks after the NOFO is posted on Grants.gov. The Funding Conference registration is also posted on Grants.gov and this is another reason to take advantage of the subscribe option on Grants.gov.

2. Should item 8f of the SF-424 be the authorized representative? Or does it vary by NOFO?

The Authorized Representative is the person who has the authority to submit and accept federal financial assistance (grants and cooperative agreements) named in field 21 of the SF-424. The person who is named in section 8f of the SF-424 is the person who the grantor would contact for questions concerning the application content. The person's named could be the same person, dependent upon the entity's resources and delegated authorities.

It does not vary by NOFO, normally.

Topic 3: Helpful Resources

1. FMCSA Grant Application Process

The process for grants is summarized in five easy steps, complete with timelines and other important information. https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/downloadFile.axd/FMCSA-Grant-Application-Process-Infographic.pdf.

2. Grant Opportunities

An overview of the six different types of grant awards, including Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP); High Priority – Safety Enforcement Training; High Priority – Innovative Technology Deployment (HP-ITD); High Priority – Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety (HP-CMV); Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI); and Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training (CMVOST). https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/downloadFile.axd/FMCSA_Grants_Outreach_Grant_Opportunities.pdf.

3. Enhanced A&I FMCSA Grants Pages

This page has recently been updated. It contains training for tools under grant management, with modules that can be taken at any time. https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/Grants/default.aspx.

4. Recommended Upcoming Webinars

Please consider listening to the recording and reviewing the PowerPoint slides if was not attended live. The other two technical assistance webinars will be accessible at: https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/grantswebinars.

The other two webinars are:

 FMCSA Discretionary Grants High Priority Program Overview

Description: The webinar provides an overview of High Priority Grant Program goals and objectives, eligibility, requirements, application review process, and resources available for submitting a successful application.

FMCSA Discretionary Grants CDLPI & CMVOST Program Overview

Description: This webinar will provide 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 progress, and resources available for submitting a successful application.