

**THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2018**

Pursuant to Section 5104 of the
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
Public Law 114-94
October 2018

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act

Section 5104 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires the Secretary of Transportation to administer a financial assistance program for Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI). This authority has been delegated 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) program. Grants or cooperative agreements may be issued 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.

The CDLPI grants may also be awarded 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; or to address other 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) 2018.

Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Assistance

In FY 2018, the FAST Act provided FMCSA with \$31,800,000 for CDLPI grants. After deducting 1.5 percent for administrative support of the grant, \$31,323,000 was available for grant awards.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was published on March 16, 2018, and applications were due on May 15, 2018. FMCSA announced that it would prioritize projects that would enable States to achieve and/or sustain full compliance or, in the case of a State that is making a good faith effort toward substantial compliance with the requirements in 49 United States Code sections 31311 and 31313, to improve the implementation of its CDL program. Compliance with CDL regulations includes addressing existing or repeat open findings in the FMCSA's State Compliance Records Enterprise and proposing strategies for mitigating those findings.

In addition, priority was given 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 64 CDLPI grant applications before the deadline. Of those, 20 applications were ineligible based on the grant program’s eligibility requirements or were duplicate applications. In total, 44 CDLPI eligible applications, requesting approximately \$48 million in funding, were evaluated. FMCSA awarded 36 grants totaling \$31,323,000.

The applications were evaluated by a cross-disciplinary team that included FMCSA grant management specialists, technical review panelists, and program officers. The technical/programmatic merits of each proposal were considered and a cost analysis was conducted. FMCSA also considered the risk posed by each applicant, the applicant’s past performance with FMCSA (if applicable), and the diversity of technical approaches or methods. Eight applicants did not receive funding because the proposals did not meet the priorities of the Agency.

Table 1 – FY 2018 CDLPI Grant Awards

Organization	Award Amount
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency	\$2,311,971
American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators	\$5,603,442
Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Motor Vehicles	\$147,792
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles	\$1,709,623
Delaware Department of Transportation	\$657,392
Executive Office of the Commonwealth of Kentucky	\$894,140
Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles	\$915,907
Georgia Department of Driver Services	\$312,576
Idaho Transportation Department	\$173,470
Illinois Secretary of State	\$1,420,639
Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles	\$1,024,100
Indiana Supreme Court	\$483,086
Louisiana - Department of Public Safety	\$1,056,703
Mississippi Department of Public Safety	\$456,245
Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator	\$311,718
Motor Vehicles, Nebraska Department of	\$70,454
Motor Vehicles, South Carolina Department of	\$563,717
National Center for State Courts	\$1,287,620
National District Attorney Association	\$1,019,912
NC Department of Transportation Div. of Motor Vehicles	\$482,357
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission	\$803,241
New York State Department of Motor Vehicles	\$3,966,153

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Safety Administration	\$1,286,288
State of Ohio	\$36,081
State of Tennessee	\$700,435
Supreme Court of Louisiana	\$732,900
The National Judicial College	\$1,070,175
West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles	\$336,640
Wisconsin Department of Transportation	\$1,488,223
Total	\$31,323,000

Individual State Driver Licensing Agencies received the majority of FY 2018 CDLPI grant funds, to improve highway safety and to increase State compliance with national CDL regulatory standards.

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) was awarded approximately \$5,600,000 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. Other funds were provided to AAMVA to deliver skills test examiner training, conduct an annual meeting with the State Driver Licensing Agencies, 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.

The National Center for State Courts, the National Judicial College, and the National District Attorneys Association were also awarded grant funding. These awards totaled approximately \$3,400,000 and will be used to establish a technical assistance center, to improve the timeliness and accuracy of conviction reporting, to train judges and other court professionals on commercial motor vehicle and CDL violations, and to educate American Indians and Alaska Natives on CDL rules and regulations.

Conclusion

The FY 2018 demand for the CDLPI financial assistance significantly exceeded requests. However, the funding was efficiently and effectively allocated, based on a merit-based review of applications, to make improvements in the CDL testing, issuance, and adjudications processes. The programs and projects supported by the CDLPI grant program continue to improve highway safety.