

**THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2017**

Pursuant to Section 5104 of the
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
Public Law 114-94
October 2017

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 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 of a suspension or revocation of 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 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) 2017.

Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Assistance

In FY 2017, the FAST Act provided FMCSA with \$31,200,000 for CDLPI grants. After deducting 1.5 percent for an administrative takedown, \$30,732,000 was available for grant awards.

A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was published on April 28, 2017, and applications were due on June 23, 2017. FMCSA announced that it would prioritize projects that will 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 sections 31311 and 31313, to improve the implementation of its commercial driver's license program. Compliance with CDL regulations includes addressing existing or repeat open findings shown in the Automated Compliance Review System and proposing strategies for mitigating those findings.

In addition, priority was again given to applications that also assist States in achieving or sustaining compliance with the requirements of related rulemakings, such as the CDL Testing and Commercial Learner's Permit Standards Final Rule, and the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Rule. Open findings and proposed strategies should be described in the CDL Program

FMCSA received 55 CDLPI grant applications requesting a total of \$47,426,289. FMCSA awarded 43 grants totaling \$30,732,000.

As a result, applications were evaluated by a cross-disciplinary team that included FMCSA grant management specialists, technical review panelists, and program officers. The technical/programmatically 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 were not prioritized by the Agency; another four applications were eliminated because they were from ineligible applicants.

Table 1 reflects the FY 2017 CDLPI awards

Organization	Amount
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency	\$ 754,061
Arkansas State Police	\$ 389,423
Colorado Department of Revenue	\$ 1,047,121
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles	\$ 1,101,001
Georgia Department of Driver Services	\$ 756,848
Illinois Secretary of State	\$ 925,118
Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles	\$ 494,400
Indiana Supreme Court	\$ 435,412
Executive Office of the Commonwealth of Kentucky	\$ 417,000
Executive Office of the Commonwealth of Kentucky	\$ 198,727
Supreme Court of Louisiana	\$ 680,060
Louisiana Department of Public Safety	\$ 1,343,000
Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Division	\$ 108,456
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration	\$ 247,280
Mississippi Department of Public Safety	\$ 588,748
North Carolina Department of Transportation	\$ 144,450
Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles	\$ 237,879
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission	\$ 1,134,503
New Mexico Taxation and Revenue	\$ 578,882
New Mexico Taxation and Revenue	\$ 1,876,511
New York State Department of Motor Vehicles	\$ 1,585,763
State of Ohio	\$ 1,621,634
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Driver and Vehicle Services	\$ 1,134,993
Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles	\$ 800,800
South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles	\$ 131,626
South Dakota Department of Public Safety	\$ 913,446

State of Tennessee	\$ 254,598
Utah Department of Public Safety	\$ 145,782
Wisconsin Department of Transportation	\$ 186,550
Wisconsin Department of Transportation	\$ 122,218
West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles	\$ 143,528
Wyoming Department of Transportation	\$ 500,000
TOTAL	\$20,999,818

Six cooperative agreements were awarded to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) for a total of \$5,423,757. The majority of this funding, \$3,600,000, is to support the web-based Commercial Skill Test Information Management System. This system assists States in tracking and overseeing the integrity of the CDL skills test, exchanges information about tests given out of State, and combats CDL fraud. Other funds were provided to AAMVA to deliver 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 provide improved access to the CDLIS for law enforcement, and to develop new CDLIS reports on out of state convictions, changes of States, and frequent inquiries.

Cooperative agreements were also issued to North Dakota State University, the National Center for State Courts, the National Judicial College, Marshall University Research Cooperation, and the National District Attorneys Association. These awards totaled \$4,308,425 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 develop a mobile CDL skills test system.

Conclusion

The FY 2017 demand for the CDLPI financial assistance significantly exceeded requests. However, the funding was efficiently and effectively distributed 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.