



Fiscal Year 2008 Freight Rail Security Grant Program

Transportation Security Administration



What is a grant?

Grants are awarded to States, units of local government, or private organizations at the discretion of the awarding agency or on the basis of a formula.* Grants under the Freight Rail Security Grant Program (FRSGP) will be made at the discretion of the Department of Homeland Security to eligible freight railroad carriers.

What entities are eligible to apply for the FRSGP?

In order to be eligible, freight railroad carrier applicants must meet the following criteria: transport a Rail Security-Sensitive Material (SSM) as defined for the purpose of this grant program, operate in or through at least one high population-density area as defined in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 FRSGP grant guidance, and certify development and adherence to a vulnerability assessment and security plan that conforms to 49 CFR Part 172.

What determines whether an applicant is in Class I, II, or III?

As designated by the Surface Transportation Board, a Class I railroad carrier is defined as a railroad with annual operating revenues for 2005 over \$319.2 million; a Class II railroad carrier is defined as a railroad with annual operating revenues between \$25.5 million and \$319.2 million; and a Class III railroad carrier is defined as a railroad with annual operating revenues of less than \$25.5 million.

What is a Rail Security-Sensitive Material (SSM)?

For the purpose of this grant program, a Rail SSM is defined as: more than 2,268 kg in a single carload of a Division 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 explosive; a tank car containing a material poisonous by inhalation, as defined in 49 CFR 171.8, including anhydrous ammonia but excluding residue quantities of these materials; and a highway route-controlled quantity of a Class 7 (radioactive) material, as defined in 49 CFR 173.403.

What is the purpose of the FRSGP?

The purpose of the FY 2008 FRSGP is to raise the security baseline in freight rail by funding vulnerability assessments and security plans as well as providing training to frontline personnel. In FY 2008, \$15 million is available for those purposes.

What are the FRSGP funding priorities?

Class I carriers may request funds to support training for frontline employees provided that they have completed an acceptable vulnerability assessment and security plan. **Class II and Class III carriers** may request funds to conduct a vulnerability assessment and develop a

* Definitions for key terms come from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Financial Management Guide. For more information, please see http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/Financial_Management_Guide.pdf

security plan. Class II and III carriers may also request funds to support employee training for frontline employees provided they have completed an acceptable vulnerability assessment and security plan.

What is an obligation?

Obligations are a legal liability to pay, under a grant, sub-grant, and/or contract, determinable sums for services or goods incurred during the period of performance (POP). This includes, but is not limited to, amounts of orders placed, contracts and grants awarded, services received and similar transactions that require payment by the recipient.*

What is the period of performance (POP)?

The period of performance (POP) is defined as the period of time when Federal funding is available for obligation by the recipient; the start and end dates of the POP are included in the award document. The recipient may charge allowable costs resulting from obligations incurred during the POP and any pre-award costs authorized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preparedness Directorate Office of Grant Operations.* For the FY 2008 FRSGP, the period of performance is 36 months from the date of award.

What is the Grant Adjustment Notification (GAN)?

After completing the internal review process, project applications approved for funding receive formal approval through the issuance of a GAN. This document includes: the name and address of the recipient, start and end dates of the award (POP), date of award, vendor/recipient number, amount of Federal funds, award/agreement number, method of payment, and terms and conditions (as appropriate) that the recipient/sub-recipient must meet if the recipient accepts the award.*

How does DHS score the applications?

Training Evaluation Criteria:

- 1. Compliance.** Projects will be evaluated by completeness of Investment Justifications and certification documents.
- 2. Feasibility.** Projects will be evaluated on the feasibility of the plan for completing the training requested within the period of performance.

Security Plans and Vulnerability Assessment Evaluation Criteria:

- 1. Compliance.** Projects will be evaluated by completeness of Investment Justifications and certification documents.
- 2. Cost Appropriateness.** Projects will be evaluated and prioritized based on the cost appropriateness of the request to conduct the assessment and develop the plan, which will be determined by the carrier's characteristics such as assets, location, infrastructure, and size.
- 3. Timelines.** Projects will be evaluated and prioritized on the ability of the applicant to complete the proposed project within the proposed timeframes.

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