



**TSA Grant Programs
Newsletter Copy
July, 2008**

DHS Requests Your Participation at the After Action Conference

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will hold an **After Action Conference (AAC) September 8-10, 2008 in Orlando, Florida**. The purpose of the conference is to solicit your feedback on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) Tier I and Tier II, Freight Rail Security Grant Program (FRSGP) and the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP). There is no fee to attend the conference, but attendees must provide for their own transportation and lodging. Transportation and lodging expenses are allowable uses of grant Management and Administration (M&A) funds.

The AAC will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel- Airport, 5555 Hazeltine National Drive in Orlando, Florida. The hotel is located approximately one mile from the Orlando International Airport. **For all programs, we expect to begin at 8:00 am and finish by 5:00 pm.**

FRSGP

The AAC for FRSGP will be held on **Monday, September 8, 2008**. Potential discussion topics include: Funding Priorities; Eligibility and Match Requirements; Evaluation Criteria; Grant Guidance/IJ Template; Security Partner Outreach/Communications; Timelines/Processes; Administration/Reporting; and How to Write an IJ.

If you would like to discuss another topic or feel that any of the topics listed above would not be useful, please let us know by sending an email to TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov. If you plan on attending, **RSVP via e-mail to TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov by August 22, 2008.** Include your name, contact information, and company name.

IBSGP

The AAC for IBSGP will be held on **Monday, September 8, 2008**. Potential discussion topics include: Funding Priorities; Feedback on Changes to IBSGP; Scoring Methodology/Evaluation Criteria; Grant Guidance/IJ Template; Security Partner Outreach/Communications; Timelines/Processes; Post Award Grant Implementation; Environmental and Historic Preservation Review; and How to Write an IJ.

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TSGP Tier I

The AAC for TSGP Tier I will be held on **Tuesday, September 9, 2008**. Discussion topics include: Funding Priorities; Feedback on Changes to the TSGP; Scoring Methodology; Grant Guidance/IJ Template; Security Partner Outreach/Communications; Unclassified Intelligence Briefing; Timelines/Processes; Best Practice Exchange; How to Write an IJ; Post Award Grant Implementation; Environmental and Historic Preservation Review; and Closing/Debrief Sessions.

In order to gauge interest and coordinate the breakout session schedule, please e-mail your **top five choices in rank order by July 31, 2008 to TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov.** Please also let us know if you would like to discuss another topic or feel that any of the topics listed above would not be useful.

If you plan on attending, **RSVP via e-mail to TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov by July 31, 2008.** Include your name, contact information, agency name, and your breakout session preferences. We will let you know of the final schedule and the breakout session topics you are scheduled to participate in by August 22, 2008.

TSGP Tier II

The AAC for TSGP Tier II will be held on **Wednesday, September 10, 2008**. Discussion topics include: Funding Priorities; Feedback on Changes to the TSGP; Scoring Methodology/Evaluation Criteria; Grant Guidance/IJ Template; Security Partner Outreach/Communications; Unclassified Intelligence Briefing; Timelines/Processes; Best Practice Exchange; How to Write an IJ; Post Award Grant Implementation; Environmental and Historic Preservation Review; and Closing/Debrief Sessions.

In order to gauge interest and coordinate the breakout session schedule, please e-mail your **top five choices in rank order by July 31, 2008 to TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov.**

Please also let us know if you would like to discuss another topic or feel that any of the topics listed above would not be useful.

If you plan on attending, **RSVP via e-mail to TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov by July 31, 2008**. Include your name, contact information, agency name, and your breakout session preferences. We will let you know of the final schedule and the breakout session topics you are scheduled to participate in by August 22, 2008.

Details on the After Action Conference are available on the Grants website at www.tsa.gov/grants

TSGP Re-Compete Update

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the availability of \$6 million of unallocated Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) funds for eligible Tier II transit agencies on June 6, 2008.

Tier II transit systems were invited to submit new or revised applications by the June 23, 2008 deadline. Three types of applications could be submitted: a revised application of a partially funded or unfunded project from the original TSGP Tier II funding cycle; a new application from an agency that applied in the initial process; and a new application from an agency that did not apply in the initial process.

DHS received just over 30 applications for funding. The National Review Panel met and scored applications the week of June 30, 2008. The funding priorities for the re-competes were the same as the initial process. The priorities are grouped based on their effectiveness in reducing risk. The categories are:

1. Training, Operational Deterrence, Drills, Exercises and Public Awareness Activities
2. Multi-User High-Density Key Infrastructure Protection
3. Single-User High-Density Key infrastructure Protection
4. Key operating Asset Protection

Each project received a project effectiveness score (4 – 1) based on the priority group within which the project falls as determined by the National Review Panel (NRP). Projects that did not align to a project effectiveness group were not considered for funding. This score was combined with a risk grouping score and a quality score (as determined by the NRP) to determine the application's overall score. The scoring process is explained in greater detail in the FY08 TSGP Grant Guidance and Application Kit.

Once the final slate is approved by senior DHS leadership, the awards will be announced. General information regarding the FY 2008 TSGP may be found at www.tsa.gov/grants or www.fema.gov/grants.

Questions regarding the FY 2008 TSGP should be e-mailed to askcisid@dhs.gov and carbon copied to tsagrants@tsa.dhs.gov.

TSA to Launch New Grants Website

TSA will unveil a completely re-designed website in the coming weeks at www.tsa.gov/grants. This site is intended to be more user-friendly and better organized than the current site. In addition, several new features will be evident: a closed community blogging forum that will enable the discussion of issues relevant to the transportation security grants programs; process diagrams that put the vast amounts of grants information into context; interactive menus that allow for streamlined navigation and logically organized content; and a news and events area that houses the newsletter, featured projects, and other important news.

A platform for the Grants Blog has been selected and we are currently in the testing phase. We are pushing the deployment of this blog forward aggressively so we can start a virtual conversation with you as quickly as possible. For those of you unfamiliar with blogs, we encourage you check out the blog that TSA has developed to discuss issues pertaining to aviation security with the public at www.tsa.gov/blog. While the Aviation Security Blog is open to everyone, the Grants Blog will be specific to grants and the conversation will be limited to people who have a stake in transportation security and the grants process.

The grants blog is intended to enable our security partners to engage in meaningful and continuous dialogue about issues such as the role of the RTSWG, the match requirement, funding priorities, and many other "hot topics". Doyle Raines, the General Manager of Transportation Sector Network Integration (TSNI) and the individual in charge of overseeing the program management of the grants at TSA, intends to personally "blog" weekly in order to encourage discussion on various topics. He will be personally reading and responding to your comments on behalf of TSA in order to continue the discussion in a meaningful way. We plan on trying out this communication tool for a few months to see how our security partners respond to it. We encourage you to fully utilize the blog, as it will give all of us an opportunity to better understand each others' interests and positions in optimizing grant funding to strengthen our nation's transportation security.

Another enhancement you will notice is the addition of "process maps" for each of the programs for every fiscal year. This will put the roles and responsibilities of all participants (transit agencies, SAAs, FEMA, TSA, etc.) and vast amounts of grants documentation into the context of the process. We hope this will serve as a useful tool to all entities in finding the information they need at the stage of the grants lifecycle they happen to be in.

We are also "jazzing up" the site by making it generally more interactive and streamlined, so the look and feel of the site will change dramatically. We are always interested in your feedback, including your opinions on the new website. In order to ensure the site is as user-friendly as possible we will need your feedback on how we can continue to make it

better. Please feel free to send us feedback at TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov. We'll let you know when the new site is officially launched and we sincerely hope you enjoy it and find it useful!

Feature Article: The HMS Company Eager to Administer Trucking Security Program

As part of each newsletter, we will be highlighting a different project from one of our grantees. If you would like to see one of your grant project accomplishments highlighted in an upcoming newsletter, please email us at TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov

The Trucking Security Program (TSP) is one of five grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP). The TSP is one tool among a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by Federal agencies to help strengthen the nation's critical infrastructure against risks associated with potential terrorist attacks. The funds provided by the TSP assist all professionals and operating entities throughout the entire highway sector in obtaining the skills and abilities required to support the National Preparedness Guidelines and associated National Priorities. Pursuant to Congressional direction in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, the FY 2008 TSP was awarded as a competitive grant to HSM Company. For more information about the FY08 competitive TSP process, please visit http://www.tsa.gov/join/grants/fy08_trucking_awards.shtm.



The operators of trucks, motor carriers and other ground transporters are critical eyes and ears on our nation's roadways. DHS provides \$15,544,000 under the FY08 TSP to enhance our Nation's highway security. The TSP funds a range of highway security initiatives under a single grant award, including participant identification and recruitment, planning, training, communications, and information analysis and distribution. HMS Company will soon begin providing these priority functions for our nation's highway professionals.

The HMS Company and a team of subcontractors will provide those charged with transporting goods and services the tools to spot unusual behavior and to report suspicious activity to the proper authorities. HMS will administer an anti-terrorism and

security awareness program for these highway professionals in support of the National Preparedness Guidelines.

The **training and awareness program** will develop and launch web-based training modules for different communities and different threats as they emerge. Additionally, HMS will create and manage a **call center** and a **Highway Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC)**, where truckers, toll operators, bus drivers, port workers and other motor carriers can facilitate situational awareness by sharing information in a collaborative way with state, local and federal law enforcement agencies and other first responders.

"Our goal is to serve as a conduit and resource for the entire highway community – from the entities that comprise it to the agencies that support it," says Charles Hall, president and founder of HMS Company. "The glue that binds our TSP training and highway ISAC initiatives is our participant outreach and recruitment efforts. Team HMS members, which include Total Security US, OOIDA [Owner Operator Independent Driver Association] and the International Brotherhood of the Teamsters, are ever mindful of that mission as we set out to support this worthwhile program. If there is one thing the tragedy of September 11, 2001 taught us, it is this: if we don't have the knowledge, we cannot organize effectively; we cannot analyze and share information that is collected; we cannot prevent subsequent tragedies from happening. The DHS Trucking Security Program has proven to be not just important, but critically necessary. This program is already saving lives and we're proud to support it."

For more information on all of the DHS transportation security grant programs, please visit: www.tsa.gov/grants.