

TSA Grants WebBoard/Blog Access Policy

Introduction

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Grants WebBoard/Blog will provide an electronic forum for the freight rail, intercity bus, trucking, and mass transit communities to discuss topics relating to Surface Transportation Security Grant Programs with the TSA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Surface Transportation Security Grant Programs include the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP), the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP), the Trucking Security Program (TSP), and the Freight Rail Security Grant Program (FRSGP). These grant programs are programmatically led by TSA and administered by FEMA.

The TSA Grants WebBoard/Blog will be hosted on a TSA WebBoard where users must be given permission by TSA, based on the criteria set forth below, to access a general discussion conference and, as appropriate, one or more transportation mode-specific conferences in which security grant topics will be discussed. This TSA Grants WebBoard/Blog has a specific focus—information concerning grants that is related to transportation security—in order to keep discussions centered on topics of immediate concern to these modal communities. Sensitive Security Information (SSI) will not be permitted in the general discussion conference and is currently not permitted in the mode-specific conferences (freight rail, intercity bus, and mass transit); however, SSI information may be permitted in some of these mode-specific conferences in the future.

It is important to note that anyone who satisfies the access criteria outlined below will be given access to the WebBoard/ Blog; in fact, we encourage persons meeting this criteria to request access to, and utilize, the TSA Grants WebBoard/ Blog. All requests for access must be submitted via a form provided on the TSA Grants Website at http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/engage/access.shtm.

General Discussion Conference

The TSA Grants WebBoard/Blog will have a general discussion conference, where topics that generally pertain to all grant programs will be discussed. All Trucking Security Program discussions will be held on the general forum; there is no modal-specific conference for

trucking. TSA will provide access to the general discussion conference of the WebBoard/ Blog to an individual, or an individual representing an organization or entity:

- Who has been, or may be, involved in the surface transportation security grants process or has an interest for understanding or contributing to the grants process; and,
- Who is willing to provide his or her first name, last name, company/agency, title, state, and email address in order to be added to the authorized user database.

Modal-Specific Conferences

There are also three modal-specific conferences, one each for intercity bus, mass transit and freight rail security grant programs. The access criteria for each of these modes are based on the grant eligibility for the specific program. The attachment has a list of websites that fully discuss the eligibility criteria for each of these modes. For the purpose of the TSA grants blog contractors are not considered “employees”. The users of the modal-specific conferences must satisfy the following criteria for access:

- Intercity Bus Security Grants Conference/ Blog:
 - An employee of a company that was or may be an eligible grantee or sub-grantee as outlined in any past or future Fiscal Year (FY) IBSGP Grant Guidance and Application Kits (access to this Conference may be expanded if eligibility expands as outlined by future grant programs) who has substantive responsibilities relating to the IBSGP as determined by the Chief Executive Officer or General Manager, Chief of Police and/or Security Director, Grants Program Administrator of the bus company or their designee; and
 - The entity provides the employee’s first name, last name, title, name of bus company, location of the company (state), and email address for review by TSA. Once reviewed, the data will be added to the authorized user database. All requests for access will be submitted via a form provided on the TSA Grants Website.
- Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) Grant Conference/ Blog (this blog includes Mass Transit and Passenger Rail):
 - An employee that was or may be in the future an eligible grantee or sub-grantee as outlined in any past or future Fiscal Year (FY) TSGP Grant Guidance and Application Kits (access to this Conference may be

- expanded if eligibility expands as outlined by future grant programs) who has substantive responsibilities relating to the TSGP as determined by the Chief Executive Officer or General Manager, Chief of Police and/or Security Director, Grants Program Administrator, or their designee; and
- The designation by the Chief Executive Officer or General Manager, Chief of Police and/or Security Director, Grants Program Administrator or designee must consist of the employee's first name, last name, title, name of mass transit or passenger rail agency, location of the agency (state), and email address for review. Once reviewed the data will be added to the authorized user database. All requests for access will be submitted via a form provided on the TSA Grants Website.
- Freight Rail Security Grants Conference/ Blog
 - An employee of a company that was or may be an eligible grantee or sub-grantee as outlined in any past or future Fiscal Year (FY) FRSGP Grant Guidance and Application Kits (access to this Conference may be expanded if eligibility expands as outlined by future grant programs) who has substantive responsibilities relating to the FRSGP as determined by the Chief Executive Officer or General Manager, Chief of Police and/or Security Director, Grants Program Administrator of the railroad carrier or their designee; and
 - The entity provides the employee's first name, last name, title, name of rail road carrier, base of operations of the carrier (state), and email address for review by TSA. Once reviewed the data will be added to the authorized user database. All requests for access will be submitted via a form provided on the TSA Grants Website.

Federal and State Partners

Federal and State partners will also have access to all conferences on the WebBoard. Federal partners are defined as any individuals that participate in the transportation security grants process and are employed by a federal entity. Thus federal users can include members of DHS, TSA, FEMA, OMB, Congress and other federal entities. State officials will be admitted if they have substantive responsibilities relating to any of the transportation security grant programs.

Current Invitees

Invitations to join the TSA Grants WebBoard/Blog have already been sent to several individuals representing entities or organizations that are eligible grantees or sub-grantees under one of the TSA grant programs. Invitations were sent to the following individuals in order to expedite the TSA Grants WebBoard/Blog registration process:

- Individuals representing Mass Transit and Passenger Rail entities, Intercity Bus Companies and Freight Rail Road Carriers that received invitations met the following criteria: The Chief Executive Officer or General Manager, Chief of Police and/or Security Director, and Grants Program Administrator (or individual that performs those functions under a different title) for Mass Transit and Passenger Rail entities, Intercity Bus Companies or Freight Rail Road Carriers that was an eligible grant recipient in any Fiscal Year (FY) as outlined in the FY 2006, FY 2007 and FY 2008 TSGP, IBSGP and FRS GP Grant Guidance and Application Kits.
- Individuals representing the Trucking Security Program that received invitations to the general conference met the following criteria: employees of eligible grant recipients that were identified as a point of contact on grant applications for any fiscal year.
- Federal employees with substantive responsibilities relating to any of the transportation security grant programs.
- Individuals representing a State Administrative Agency that was an eligible grant recipient in any Fiscal Year (FY) as outlined in the FY 2006, FY 2007 and FY 2008 TSGP Grant Guidance and Application Kits.

Denial of Access

If an individual is denied access to either the general, and/or the modal-specific, conferences, a written justification outlining why the individual failed to meet the access criteria will be sent to the individual.

Attachment

The following websites contain the links to the appropriate Grant Guidance and Application Kits for a particular program in a given year. A full discussion of the eligibility criteria can be found in those Kits.

- TSGP:
 - FY 2008:
http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/programs/tsgp_tieri/2008/guidance_application.shtm
 - FY 2007:
http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/programs/tsgp_tieri/2007/guidance_application.shtm
 - FY 2006:
http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/programs/tsgp_tieri/2006/guidance_application.shtm
- IBSGP:
 - FY 2008:
http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/programs/ibsgp/2008/guidance_application.shtm
 - FY 2007:
http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/programs/ibsgp/2007/guidance_application.shtm
 - FY 2006:
http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/programs/ibsgp/2006/guidance_application.shtm
- FRSGP:
 - FY 2008:
http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/programs/frsgp/2008/guidance_application.shtm