

Fiscal Year 2009

Transit Security Grant Program

Department of Homeland Security



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will provide \$388.6 million to the owners and operators of transit systems under the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Transit systems include passenger rail, intracity and commuter bus networks, and ferry systems. Also included in the \$388.6 million for the TSGP is security funding to the National Passenger Rail Corporation (Amtrak) (\$25 million) and freight railroad industry (\$15 million). Separate guidance documents are available for each of these grant programs. The program provides funds to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism.

FY 2009 TSGP Highlights

Important changes and highlights in the FY 2009 TSGP include the following:

- **Eligibility** – In accordance with the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (2009 DHS Appropriations Act) (Public Law (P.L.) 110-329), awards will be made directly to transit agencies; the State Administrative Agency (SAA) is no longer the grantee. As such, transit agencies are responsible for submitting their own applications, including Investment Justifications and Detailed Budgets, through the *grants.gov* portal by the application submission deadline. Also, there are new responsibilities in the post-award reporting and drawdown instructions that now apply to each agency as a grantee. In addition, several transit agencies were added as eligible grantees for FY09 that have not been eligible in prior years. Please refer to the guidance for the full list of eligible transit agencies.
- **Security Assessment or Security Plans Required** – As required by the “Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007” (9/11 Act) (P.L. 110-53) and in order to be eligible for the FY 2009 TSGP, transit agencies must have either undergone a security assessment conducted by DHS, such as the Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement (BASE) program security assessment performed by TSA Transportation Security Inspectors-Surface, or developed and/or updated their security plan, within the last **three years**. Additionally, TSGP grant funds must be used to address items in the security assessment or the security plan.
- **Cost Share Requirement** – Pursuant to the 2009 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-329), that provides FY 2009 appropriations for DHS, there is no cost share requirement for Tier I and Tier II transit agencies in FY 2009. Furthermore, the Act retroactively removes the cost share requirement for FY 2008. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate will be issuing an Information Bulletin on this matter shortly with more information and options for affected grantees.
- **Investment Justifications and Detailed Budgets Required** – Applicants are required to develop an Investment Justification (IJ) and Detailed Budget that address each initiative proposed for funding. An IJ must demonstrate how each proposed project addresses gaps and deficiencies in current programs and capabilities, as identified in the security assessment or security plan. Each IJ must reflect concurrence by the transit agency’s principal security provider. Per security partner feedback, the IJ for FY09 has been streamlined from FY08.
- **Scoring Methodology Refined** – Proposed projects will be scored based on these criteria:

- The agency's risk score
 - The project's effectiveness score
 - The project's potential for risk mitigation
 - The project's regional collaboration component (as applicable)
 - The agency's offering of cost share (as applicable)
- **Law Enforcement Agencies Eligible and Encouraged as Subgrantees** – Law enforcement agencies are not eligible for direct grant funding in FY 2009. However, agencies that serve as the principal transit security provider for Tier I transit agencies are eligible to receive funding as subgrantees of the transit agencies.
 - **Regional Transit Security Working Groups (RTSWG) Required in Tier I** –In order to support the cooperative agreement process, each Tier I region must have a RTSWG. The following entities must be invited to actively participate in the group and have full membership rights in the RTSWG: eligible transit agencies and their security providers, eligible law enforcement agencies (as sub-grantees), the State Office of Homeland Security (OHS), and Amtrak (specifically in the National Capital Region, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles). For agencies that share assets with Amtrak, close coordination on the expenditure of funds for security enhancements at shared facilities must occur. The RTSWGs must include representation from the Urban Area Working Group(s), and freight railroad carriers if their operations intersect with that of the transit agencies.

The RTSWG must also extend an invitation to the State Administrative Agency (SAA) to serve as a co-chair on the RTSWG with any other current chairs/co-chairs established by the region, however the SAA is under no obligation to accept this position. It is the responsibility of the applicable co-chairs to serve as facilitators and coordinators for the RTSWG meetings and any other regional transit security grants activities as determined by each RTSWG.

Priority Projects for FY 2009

DHS has identified priority projects based on their effectiveness in reducing risk. In FY 2009, DHS will continue to prioritize the following activities (performed by either the transit agency or a principal transit security provider) including security training of frontline employees, operational deterrence initiatives, drills and exercises, and public awareness programs. Additional areas of emphasis include anti-terrorism security enhancement measures for underwater/underground infrastructure, high density elevated operations, multi-user high density stations and terminals, and protection of SCADA systems. In FY 2009, DHS has expanded these areas to also include interoperable communications, evacuation plans, and anti-terrorism security enhancement measures for low-density stations. The grant guidance includes a list of potential project types; the sample project types are not comprehensive and projects not listed may be eligible for funding if they fall into one of the project effectiveness group descriptions. Allowable cost categories generally include: planning, operational activities, equipment acquisitions, training (courses and backfill/overtime costs), exercise development and execution, and management and administration.

How to Apply for Grant Funding

Eligible transit agencies interested in applying for TSGP funding are encouraged to begin the application process as soon as possible. Applicants should be aware that the process involves a number of steps, can take several weeks to complete, and can be fairly time-consuming. The basic registration steps (described in detail at www.grants.gov) include:

- **Obtaining a user password at www.grants.gov** – This is a one-time process. It could take three to five business days for the password to be confirmed.

- **Creating a user profile with the Central Contractor Registration at www.ccr.gov** – It can take five to seven business days for the profile to be validated.
- **Registering with Operational Research Consultants** – The Federal government uses this credential provider to help safeguard electronic information.
- **Registering with www.grants.gov** – This includes identification of individuals who are authorized to submit grant applications, which could also take several days to confirm.

Applicants can download and begin filling out the grant application at any time, though the applications can be submitted only after the steps above are completed.

Important Application Dates

- **November 5, 2008** – DHS releases the grant guidance.
- **January 13, 2009** – Grant applications are due through the www.grants.gov portal 45 days after the guidance is issued. **Tier I and Tier II applicants must submit their completed IJs and Detailed Budgets by this date.**
- **April 10, 2009** – DHS announces the grant awards within 60 days of the application submission deadline.

For More Information

Below are sources of information to learn more about the TSGP and other surface transportation grant programs:

- **TSGP Conference Calls** – TSA will provide an overview of the TSGP and answer questions in a conference call with potential applicants on November 6, 2008 at 1 PM EST. Please join us at 1-877-988-9660 (Participant Code 6827433). Additional conference calls will be held every week on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM EST starting November 12, 2008 through January 14, 2009 at 1-888-323-4702 (Participant Code "Wednesday").
- **TSGP Workshops** – We will hold several workshops from November 7th-November 21st in Tampa, Chicago, Houston, San Diego, Portland and Washington DC to discuss in detail the FY09 TSGP.
- **TSA Grants Website** – www.tsa.gov/grants
- **Federal Government Grants Website** – www.grants.gov
- **DHS Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID)** – Call 1-800-368-6498 or e-mail ASKCsid@dhs.gov.