

# Fiscal Year 2008 Transit Security Grant Program

Department of Homeland Security



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will provide \$348.6 million to the owners and operators of transit systems under the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. Transit systems include passenger rail, intracity bus, and ferry systems. The TSGP also provides security funding to the National Passenger Rail Corporation (Amtrak) (\$25 million) and freight railroad carriers (\$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 2008 TSGP Highlights

Important changes and highlights in the FY 2008 TSGP include the following:

- **Increase in Funding** – TSGP funding for public transit systems that provide intracity bus, rail and ferry services increased from \$255 million in FY 2007 (base and supplemental) to \$348.6 million in FY 2008.
- **Security Plans Required** – In accordance with Public Law 110-53, "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007," mass transit and passenger rail agencies must have a security plan in order to be eligible for a security grant award. As a matter of policy, this plan must be current and/or updated within the last three years. Grant funding can only be used to address items in the plan. In addition, the applicant's principal security provider (such as the public police department or the system's own police force) must concur with the security plan. The FY08 TSGP Guidance and Application Kit includes a form for certifying: 1) development of the security plan, and 2) the security provider's indication of concurrence with the plan.
- **Match requirement** – The maximum Federal cost share for equipment and management and administration is 75 percent. The maximum Federal cost share for Operational Packages (OPacks) is 2/3 of the total project cost. For example, if the total OPack cost is \$1 million, the maximum amount that will be funded through this grant is \$667,000; the agency is responsible for providing the additional \$333,000 as their cost share. There is no cost share requirement for public awareness, training, exercises and planning.
- **Investment Justifications and Detailed Budgets Required** – Applicants are required to develop an Investment Justification and detailed budget that address each initiative proposed for funding. Investment Justifications must demonstrate how each proposed project addresses gaps and deficiencies in current programs and capabilities, as identified in the security plan. (A fast track training option with an abbreviated Investment Justification is also available.) Each Investment Justification must reflect concurrence by the transit agency's principal security provider.
- **Scoring Methodology Refined** – Proposed projects will be scored based on three criteria:
  - The agency's risk
  - The project effectiveness
  - The quality of the project
- **Law Enforcement Agencies Eligible as Subrecipients** – Law enforcement agencies are not eligible for direct grant funding in FY 2008. However, agencies that serve as the principal

transit security provider for Tier I transit agencies are eligible to receive funding as subrecipients of the transit agencies.

- **Regional Transit Security Working Groups (RTSWG) Required in Tier I** – Beginning in FY 2008, DHS/TSA will co-chair RTSWGs in Tier I regions along with any other chairs or co-chairs established by the region. In addition, RTSWG membership must include law enforcement agencies that act as primary transit security providers (and are eligible as subrecipients) and ferry systems. RTSWGs are also required to identify security investments – prioritized by regional risk – that the region needs to make in order to mitigate risk in the region.

## Priority Projects for FY 2008

DHS has identified priority projects based on their effectiveness in reducing risk. As in the FY 2007 TSGP Supplemental, preference in FY 2008 will be given to certain activities 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. Allowable cost categories generally include: planning, operational activities, equipment acquisitions, training (courses and backfill/overtime costs), exercise development and execution, and management and administration.

## Important Application Dates

- **February 1, 2008** – DHS releases the grant guidance. Transit systems (with the exception of Amtrak and Freight Rail) work with their State Administrative Agency (SAA) to apply for funds.
- **March 17, 2008** – Grant applications are due through the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) portal 45 days after the guidance is issued. Tier II applicants must submit their completed Investment Justifications and detailed budgets. Tier I applicants need only submit an SF-424 at this time.
- **May 16, 2008** – DHS announces the grant awards within 60 days of the application submission deadline. The SAA in each State is responsible for obligating TSGP funds to the transit agencies within 45 days after receipt of funds.

## 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 February 4, 2008 at 1:00 PM EST. Please join us at 1-800-475-0462 (Participant Code “TSGP”). Additional conference calls will be held every week on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM EST starting February 6 at 1-888-323-4702 (Participant Code “Wednesday”).
- **TSA Grants Website** – [www.tsa.gov/grants](http://www.tsa.gov/grants)
- **Federal Government Grants Website** – [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- **DHS Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID)** – 1-800-368-6498 or email [ASKCsid@dhs.gov](mailto:ASKCsid@dhs.gov).