



Fiscal Year 2008 Freight Rail Security Grant Program

Department of Homeland Security



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will provide \$15 million to freight railroad carriers under the Freight Rail Security Grant Program (FRSGP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. The FRSGP was created under Public Law 110-53, "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007."

DHS will fund security initiatives for freight rail carriers that transport Rail Security-Sensitive Materials (SSM) through designated high population-density areas. For the purposes of the FRSGP and this grant cycle, Rail SSM includes certain explosives, materials poisonous by inhalation, and Class 7 radioactive materials. The FRSGP guidance provides specific definitions of Rail SSM and high population-density areas, specific to this grant program.

Freight Rail Priorities for FY 2008

DHS will fund certain types of projects, depending on the class of the freight railroad carrier:

- **Class I carriers** may request funds to support security awareness and emergency response 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 security plan. The carriers may also request funds to support security awareness and emergency response training for frontline employees provided they have completed an acceptable vulnerability assessment and security plan.

Freight Rail Class
Class I – Annual operating revenues more than \$319.2 million
Class II – Annual operating revenues between \$25.5 million and \$319.2 million
Class III – Annual operating revenues less than \$25.5 million
(Classifications designated by the Surface Transportation Board)

As part of the application process, carriers are required to prepare an Investment Justification that addresses each initiative being proposed for funding.

Eligibility

Freight railroad carriers that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for FRSGP funding:

- Transport Rail SSM as defined for this cycle of this grant program.
- Operate in or through at least one designated high population-density area.
- Certify they have and adhere to a security plan that conforms to 49 CFR Part 172.

Cost Share Requirement

The maximum Federal share of any project supported through FRSGP is 75% for public sector grantees and 50% for private sector grantees. Therefore, public sector grantees are required to provide non-Federal funding (cash or in-kind) of at least 25% of approved project costs for the FY 2008 FRSGP and private sector grantees are required to provide non-Federal funding

(cash or in-kind) of at least 50% of approved project costs. For example, for public sector grantees, if the total project cost is \$100,000, the maximum the DHS grant award is \$75,000 with the grantee required to provide the remaining 25%, or \$25,000, of the project cost. For private sector grantees, if the total project cost is \$100,000, the maximum DHS grant award is \$50,000.

How to Apply for Grant Funding

Freight rail carriers interested in applying for FRS GP 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

- **February 1, 2008** – DHS releases the grant guidance.
- **March 17, 2008** – Grant applications are due through the www.grants.gov portal 45 days after the guidance is issued.
- **May 16, 2008** – DHS announces grant awards within 60 days of the application submission deadline.

For More Information

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

- **FRSGP Conference Calls** – TSA will provide an overview of the FRS GP and answer questions in a conference call with potential applicants on February 4, 2008 at 4:00 PM EST. Please join us at 1-877-988-9660 (Participant Code 6827433). Additional conference calls will be held every week on Thursdays at 1:00 PM EST starting February 7 with the same dial-in number and participant code.
- **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.