



# Fiscal Year 2009 Transit Security Grant Program

Transportation Security Administration

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## What is the purpose of the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)?

The Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) is one of six grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 infrastructure protection activities. These grant programs are part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by the Administration to help strengthen the nation's critical infrastructure against risks associated with potential terrorist attacks. The program provides funds to owners and operators of transit systems (which include intracity bus, commuter bus, certain ferry systems, and all forms of passenger rail) to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism.

## What are the funding priorities for the FY 2009 TSGP?

The FY 2009 TSGP will continue to focus on prevent and protect operational activities, such as training, drills and exercises, public awareness campaigns, security planning, and visible, unpredictable deterrence. FY 2009 TSGP funding priorities also include protection of high-density stations (both multi-user and single-user), key operating asset protection, and other mitigation activities including interoperable communications, evacuation plans, and protection of low-density stations.

## How much money will be available under TSGP, and how does that compare to Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 funding?

DHS will provide \$388.6 million to the owners and operators of public transit systems under the TSGP in FY 2009; this is equivalent to the amount of funding provided under the program in FY 2008. Also included in the \$388.6 million for FY 2009 is security funding to the National Passenger Rail Corporation (Amtrak) (\$25 million) and freight railroad industry (\$15 million). In FY 2009, TSGP Tier I systems are targeted to receive \$312 million in the form of cooperative agreements; Tier II systems will compete for the remaining \$36.6 million.

## Who may apply for funding under the TSGP?

Eligible applicants include owners and operators of transit systems (which include intracity bus, commuter bus, and all forms of passenger rail) and certain Tier I ferry systems. The State Administrative Agency (SAA) is no longer an eligible applicant per the *Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009* (2009 DHS Appropriations Act) (Public Law (P.L.) 110-329), which mandates that TSGP awards will be made directly to transit agencies in FY 2009. Tier I will continue to be comprised of the transit agencies in the eight highest-risk urban areas; Tier II will consist of all other eligible transit agencies as outlined in the guidance.

## How does DHS determine the list of eligible applicants?

DHS uses a comprehensive, empirically-grounded risk analysis model. This risk methodology is consistent across modes and is linked to the risk methodology used to determine eligibility for the core DHS State and local grant programs. Basic eligibility for TSGP in FY 2009 is derived from the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) urban areas list and the National Transit Database based on unlinked passenger trips. A list of eligible applicants is available in the FY 2009 guidance.

## **Are eligible agencies required to provide a cost share?**

Pursuant to the Public Law 110-329, participants of the FY 2009 TSGP will not be required to provide a cost share for funding they receive. However, agencies that choose to include a cost share in their application will receive enhanced consideration during the scoring process.

## **How does DHS score the Tier II grant applications?**

A National Review Panel (NRP), comprised of subject matter experts from the federal government, will score each project based on the evaluation criteria laid out in the guidance. Investment Justifications (IJ) will be evaluated based on the following criteria with the listed range of values:

- The agency's risk group score (6-1)
- The project's effectiveness group score (5-1)
- The project's potential for risk mitigation (0-8)
  - cost effectiveness (0-3)
  - feasibility (0-3)
  - timelines (0-1)
  - sustainability (0-1)
- The project's regional collaboration component (as applicable) (0-1.5)
- The agency's offering of cost share (as applicable) (0-0.5)

The NRP may make funding recommendations other than the request if ineligible expenses are listed as part of the budget. Final scores and funding recommendations are ranked and projects are funded in rank order until the funding allocation is exhausted.

## **Who will be responsible for scoring the grant applications?**

DHS will draw upon the expertise of surface transportation experts from the federal government to review and score the projects, and pass their recommendations to the Executive Committee, consisting of senior federal security representatives. This Executive Committee determines the final grant awards based on the scores, comments, and funding recommendations. The National Review Panel and the Executive Committee will include representatives from TSA, FEMA and FTA.

## **What are the roles and responsibilities of TSA and FEMA?**

Within DHS, TSA by law has the lead for managing the Department's security oversight and security programs for the transit industry. TSA provides transit system subject matter expertise within DHS and determines the primary security architecture for the TSGP program. Its subject matter experts have the lead in crafting all selection criteria associated with the application review process. The FEMA has the lead for designing and operating the administrative mechanisms needed to manage the Department's core grant programs, including this grant program. In short, FEMA is responsible for ensuring compliance with all relevant Federal grant management requirements and delivering the appropriate grant management tools, financial controls, audits and program management discipline needed to support the TSGP.

## **When are grant applications due, and how do I apply?**

Applications must be submitted through [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) and are due no later than 11:59 pm EST January 13, 2009. No exceptions can be made.

## **Where can I go if I have additional questions?**

Additional information on the program is available on our website at: [www.tsa.gov/grants](http://www.tsa.gov/grants). Questions may also be submitted to TSA through [TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov) with a carbon copy to FEMA at [ASKcsid@dhs.gov](mailto:ASKcsid@dhs.gov).