



**Homeland
Security**

ODP Information Bulletin
No. 160 April 11, 2005

TO: All State Administrative Agency Heads
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact

FROM: Matt A. Mayer
Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: FY 2005 Transit Security Grant Program Release

The Department of Homeland Security, Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) is pleased to announce its Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP). This regionally focused grant program will make \$135 million available to eligible transit agencies through designated State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) for the protection of critical infrastructure and emergency preparedness activities.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Transit Security Grant Program represents funds provided through the FY 2005 DHS Appropriations Act and will be managed through the newly created Transportation Infrastructure Security Division (TISD) within the Preparedness Programs Division (PPD) of SLGCP. The program's mission is to create a sustainable effort for the protection of regional transit systems from terrorism, especially explosives and non-conventional threats that would cause major loss of life and severe disruption.

SAA ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Grant Application and Administration

The Governor of each state and territory has designated an SAA to apply for and administer PPD funds. Accordingly, the relevant SAA is the only agent eligible to apply for the

funds identified in the TSGP application kit.

Regional Transit Working Group Coordination and Management

All transit agencies that are eligible to receive TSGP funding are required to participate in a Regional Transit Security Working Group (RTSWG). The purpose of the RTSWG is to develop a Regional Transit Security Strategy (RTSS) and coordinate region-wide transit security enhancements. The applicable SAA(s) will coordinate and manage the formation of the working group and the development of the RTSS.

Submission of the Security and Emergency Preparedness Plan and Strategy

Program implementation for the TSGP is driven by the RTSS and each eligible transit agency's risk-based Security and Emergency Preparedness Plan (SEPP). The SAA will facilitate the submission of the RTSS and the SEPP to TISD as part of the grant application/post award process.

Regional Coordination

Funds for the TSGP are allocated on a regional basis, thus distribution must be based on the RTSS, SEPPs, and consensus among the eligible transit agencies and SAA. Where a region includes more than one state, all of the applicable SAAs must approve the funding allocation.

Assistance in Competitive Grant Process

SAAs are responsible for working with identified ferry systems to submit projects for funding consideration as part of the competitive portion of the TSGP application.

TSGP VIDEO TELECONFERENCES

TISD will host a series of regional Video Teleconferences (VTCs) to provide a program overview and orientation to the Transit Security Grant Program. An official invitation and details for connecting to the meetings will be distributed to SAAs in a separate communication. The schedule is as follows:

Western: Thursday; April 14, 2005; 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Eastern: Friday; April 15, 2005; 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Central: Friday; April 15, 2005; 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical Assistance (TA) is available to assist with the establishment of the RTSWG and the development of the RTSS. TA is also available to support the conduct of transit system risk assessments. All TA is available on a first come, first serve basis and subject to the availability of funding. TA request forms are available in the SLGCP TA Catalog at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/ODP_TA_Catalog.pdf.

These forms should be submitted by the SAA to the appropriate PPD state preparedness officer for coordination.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For your convenience, a Fact Sheet containing additional information about the TSGP has been attached. For specific information concerning eligibility and grant guidelines, please refer to the TSGP application kit at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>

Questions related to this grant program may be directed to tsgp@dhs.gov or to the SLGCP Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at 1-800-368-6498.

Frequently asked questions regarding the TSGP will be addressed in bi-weekly conference calls every other Wednesday from 1:30-2:30pm EST, beginning April 20th.
Call number: (800) 860-2442
Participant Code: 4713

Attachment: TSGP Fact Sheet