

# Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) New Allocation Formula



On June 24, 2020, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published a Final Rule that established a new allocation formula for the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP).

The new formula comes after years of research and iteration of recommendations from a Working Group, mandated by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The Working Group sought to improve upon the previous formula through a collaborative decision-making process that kept safety at the forefront.

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**Effective Date:**  
July 24, 2020

Learn more about the MCSAP Grant:  
<https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/grants/MCSAP.aspx>

## What's Changing?

### Basic Factor Component

Three of the factors that determined the Basic Factor Component of MCSAP funding remain the same – population, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and special fuel consumption. The new formula replaces 1997 road miles with the most recent highway miles data and adds carrier registrations to the calculation.

### Border Enforcement

Up to 11% of MCSAP funds will now be allocated proportionally to border States based on estimated personnel needs. Funding for border enforcement activities was consolidated into MCSAP under the FAST Act, having previously been funded via a separate competitive grant.

### Year-to-Year Stability

One of the primary considerations when developing a new MCSAP formula was the need to promote stability in funding. Thus, new provisions were added to ensure no State's share (i.e., percentage) of MCSAP funding will decrease by more than 3% or increase by more than 5% each year.\* In particular, this will mitigate significant changes in funding in the first year that the formula is implemented and will allow for a smoother transition.

*\*Note, the cap on funding changes applies to share of funding, which refers to the allocated percentage of total MCSAP funds, determined by dividing a State's dollar allocation by all MCSAP funding (excluding funds allocated to the Territories).*

### Incentive Formula

The incentive formula that was a component of the previous MCSAP allocation formula was removed from the new formula due to the fact it did not promote stability in funding. Additionally, the FAST Act increased FMCSA's flexibility to enforce requirements for participation in MCSAP, which diminishes the need to use an incentive formula for this purpose. Despite the removal of the incentive formula, States must still meet data quality standards and all other program requirements or risk the withholding of MCSAP funding.

### Territories

Instead of allocating a fixed amount to each Territory, a maximum of 0.49% of total MCSAP funds will be allocated to the Territories as a whole. Funding is divided among Territories proportionally based on population.

*\*Note, Puerto Rico is not considered a Territory for MCSAP Grant allocation purposes and is allocated funding via the Basic Factor Component.*

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### When do changes take effect?

The Final Rule for the new MCSAP Allocation Formula was signed by the Secretary of Transportation and published in the Federal Register on June 24, 2020. The Final Rule is effective from July 24, 2020, with the new formula used to determine MCSAP allocations for FY2021 and beyond.



### Why is there a new MCSAP Formula and how was it developed?

Section 5106 of the FAST Act required that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation establish a Working Group to develop recommendations for a new MCSAP allocation formula\*. The Working Group included representatives from lead State CMV safety agencies, FMCSA, and an organization representing State CMV enforcement agencies. The formula was developed using a collaborative decision-making process to obtain the viewpoints of all members, and utilized research, analysis, and member expertise to make informed decisions.



*\*Learn more about the Formula Working Group:*  
<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/mission/grants/fast-act-mcsap-formula-working-group>

### Will my State's funding level be affected?

While State-to-State funding changes are anticipated, the new formula includes "caps" that mitigate significant year-to-year changes, including any changes expected in the first year of the new formula.



### Am I eligible for a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) adjustment?

For FY2021 and onward, some States may be eligible to request a reduction in their MOE requirement to reflect new MCSAP spending levels and matching requirements. More information on eligibility and how to request an adjustment will be provided once allocation amounts are released.



#### Learn more:

Read the answers to more common questions and discover all the tools you need to learn about, apply for, and manage your MCSAP grant at <https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/grants/MCSAP.aspx>