Grant Technical Assistance Webinar 2: High Priority Discretionary Grant Program Overview

The following questions were submitted to FMCSA by attendees during session 2 of the Discretionary Grant Program Technical Assistance Webinar Series on December 6, 2023.

Topic 1: NOFO Structure

1. Can we access a list of FY23HP grant recipients and their projects?

Yes. A list of FY 2023 HP-CMV grant recipients will be posted on FMCSA's A&I website in the near future. Here is the direct link for our A&I High-Priority grants page: https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/Grants/HighPriority.aspx.

2. Does a submitter need to explain the origins/"why" of the KPI's?

No. While listing performance indicators that pertain to your project(s) is a requirement, an explanation as to indicator origins is not. If however, either the proposed project necessitates the use of novel indicators, or if the applicant otherwise feels utilized indicators and their respective narrative section(s) would benefit from such an explanation, the interests of specificity would likely be better served by including this information. As always, read the NOFO carefully. The level of granular detail provided should correspond with respective NOFO requirements.

3. At what level of detail do we need to provide the milestones in the proposal?

With as much specificity as possible. Infusing more specificity into your application will not hurt, especially when those details are relevant to a more comprehensive understanding of your proposal. To the contrary, however, your application will very likely suffer if it is overly vague or otherwise lacks an appropriate level of detail required for reviewers to have a thorough understanding as to how it satisfies NOFO requirements. As always, read the NOFO carefully, and make sure that the level of specificity included in your application aligns with outlined requirements.

Topic 2: High-Priority Commercial Motor Vehicle (HP-CMV) Program

1. What is the best place (HP-CMV, or HP-ITD, etc.) for Institutions of Higher Learning to increase accessibility for students entering CDL programs and general program expenses?

The CMVOST grant program does support CDL students attending programs that meet the criteria; that will be reviewed during next week's webinar. In the CDLPI program, an Institute of Higher Learning is an eligible entity. It's dependent on whether or not the project plan that is presented meets the project priorities and eligibility criteria.

2. Can you reapply to the same grant with the same program?

It is possible for a grant applicant to apply to the same grant program for which they have applied during a prior fiscal year's funding cycle. If a previous application was denied, be sure to address application deficiencies, and pay particular attention to any additional/new NOFO requirements, as these often change across funding cycles. If a previous application received funding, the extent to which any subsequent application will be eligible for further funding will depend on performance overlap with the original. If the new project is an expansion of an original project that has already met its performance objectives, funding may be available. As a reminder, make sure to familiarize yourself with the corresponding NOFO, and include as much specificity as possible, especially when explaining similarities and differences regarding objectives and scope.

3. What grants are there for countering and reporting harassment issues?

While FMCSA does not have any specific funding priorities regarding harassment, the focus area of human trafficking under the HP-CMV Program may potentially be a fit. So long as the overall goal of your proposed project is tied to CMV safety, we encourage you to thoroughly read through the NOFO to see if aligns with human trafficking priority requirements.