

**THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021**

Pursuant to Section 5104 of the
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
Public Law 114-94, 129 Stat. 1312 (December 4, 2015)
October 2021

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act

Section 5104 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, codified at 49 U.S.C. 31313, requires the Secretary of Transportation to administer a financial assistance program for Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI). The Secretary delegated this authority to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). As a result, each fiscal year, FMCSA awards grants to States and other entities capable of executing national projects that aid States in their compliance efforts and that will improve the national Commercial Driver's License (CDL) programs. FMCSA may award grants or enter into cooperative agreements to cover expenses for computer hardware and software, publications, testing, personnel, training, and quality control. In addition, section 5104 specifically allows these grants to the States to provide CDL program coordinators and to implement or maintain a system to notify the employer of a commercial motor vehicle operator that a suspension or revocation has been posted to the operator's CDL.

FMCSA may also award CDLPI grants for research, development and testing, demonstration projects, public education, and other special activities and projects relating to commercial driver licensing and motor vehicle safety that benefit all jurisdictions of the United States. The CDLPI program exists to address national safety concerns; address emerging issues relating to CDL improvements; support innovative ideas and solutions to CDL program issues; and to address other priority issues, as determined by the Secretary.

Section 5104 further requires an annual report on the activities carried out under this section. This report is for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Assistance

Section 5101 of the FAST Act, as extended by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extension Act (2020), and codified at 49 U.S.C. 31104(a)(4) authorized FMCSA to award \$33,200,000 in CDLPI grants for FY 2021. After deducting 1.5 percent for administrative support of the grant, \$32,702,000 was available for grant awards.

FMCSA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on January 28, 2021, on grants.gov, and applications were due on March 15, 2021. The Agency announced that it would prioritize projects that would enable States to achieve and/or sustain full compliance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 31311. FMCSA also prioritized projects to support State compliance with the CDL regulations in 49 CFR parts 383 and 384, including addressing existing findings in

FMCSA’s State Compliance Records Enterprise system and proposing strategies for mitigating those findings.

In addition, FMCSA gave priority to applications that also assist States in achieving or sustaining compliance with the requirements of related Federal rulemakings, such as the Entry-Level Driver Training, CDL Testing and Commercial Learner’s Permit Standards Final Rule, and the Medical Examiner’s Certification Integration Rule.

FMCSA received 52 CDLPI grant applications before the deadline. Of those, 11 applications were ineligible based on the grant program’s eligibility requirements or were duplicate applications. In total, 41 CDLPI eligible applications requesting approximately \$39.9 million in funding were evaluated.

A cross-disciplinary team that included FMCSA grant management specialists, technical review panelists, and program officers evaluated the applications. The team considered the technical and programmatic merits of each proposal and conducted a cost analysis. FMCSA also considered the risk, as required by Title 2 CFR 200.205, posed by each applicant; the applicant’s past performance with the Agency (if applicable); and the diversity of technical approaches or methods. The Agency did not award funding to six applicants because their proposals did not meet the priorities of the Agency. The Agency awarded 35 grants to 27 grantees totaling \$28,981,802. The remaining grant funding was not awarded because the projects did not fall within the scope of the CDLPI grant program or the NOFO priorities.

Table 1 – FY 2021 CDLPI Grant Awards

Grantee	Award Amount
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency	\$610,983
American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators	\$5,713,503
Colorado Department of Revenue – Division of Motor Vehicle	\$1,377,925
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicle	\$1,506,152
Delaware Department of Transportation	\$317,302
Idaho Transportation Department	\$220,231
Indiana Supreme Court – Office of Court Technology	\$1,359,813
Iowa Department of Transportation	\$94,945
Executive Office of the Commonwealth of Kentucky	\$968,100
Louisiana Department of Public Safety, Office of Motor Vehicles	\$1,465,680

Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration	\$102,126
Massachusetts Department of Transportation	\$170,200
Mississippi Department of Public Safety	\$733,443
National Center for State Courts	\$1,030,459
National District Attorneys Association	\$807,314
The National Judicial College	\$1,468,736
New Hampshire Department of Safety: Division of Motor Vehicles	\$153,010
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission	\$1,402,079
New Mexico Taxation & Revenue Dept. Motor Vehicle Division	\$899,515
New York State Department of Motor Vehicles	\$4,077,426
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Safety Administration	\$463,044
Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles	\$1,784,361
South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles	\$192,860
State of Tennessee	\$268,591
Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Motor Vehicles	\$609,598
West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles	\$445,932
Wisconsin Department of Transportation – Bureau of Driver Services	\$738,474
Total	\$28,981,802

State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) received the majority of the FY 2021 CDLPI grants to improve highway safety and to increase compliance with national CDL regulatory standards.

FMCSA awarded the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) approximately \$5.7 million in grant funding. Most of this funding will support the web-based Commercial Skills Test Information Management System. This system assists States in tracking and overseeing the integrity of the CDL skills (e.g., driving) tests, exchanges information about skills tests administered outside of the drivers' home States, combats CDL fraud by analyzing the pass and fail rates of examiners, and will validate that the driver applicant completed the required entry-level driver training requirements. In addition, FMCSA awarded funding to AAMVA to develop new Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) reports, while continuing the distribution of established timeliness and data quality reports; provide technical assistance to SDLAs for improving and/or sustaining compliance; enhance CDLIS for

exclusive electronic exchange of commercial driver history information (convictions and withdrawals); facilitate law enforcement roadside access to CDLIS; determine the feasibility of moving CDL examiner training to AAMVA's learning management system; and to provide training to increase expertise on CDLIS transactions.

FMCSA also awarded grant funds to the National Judicial College, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Center for State Courts. These awards totaled approximately \$3.2 million and will be used to continue to provide training and technical assistance to judges, prosecutors, other court professionals, and law enforcement personnel on CDL regulations to ensure disqualifications are executed properly and to minimize actions such as masking convictions.

Conclusion

FMCSA allocated the funding efficiently and effectively, based upon a merit review of the applications, to help States make process improvements in CDL testing, issuance and disqualification, and improvements in adjudicating traffic offenses by CDL holders. The programs and projects supported by the CDLPI grant program continue to improve highway safety.