

**THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2019**

Pursuant to Section 5104 of the
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
Public Law 114-94
October 2019

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act

Section 5104 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires the Secretary of Transportation to administer a financial assistance program for Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI). This authority has been delegated 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) program. Grants or cooperative agreements may be issued 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.

The CDLPI grants may also be awarded 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) 2019.

Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Assistance

In FY 2019, the FAST Act provided FMCSA with \$32,500,000 for CDLPI grants. After deducting 1.5 percent for administrative support of the grant, \$32,012,500 was available for grant awards.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was published on February 28, 2019, and applications were due on April 16, 2019. FMCSA announced that it would prioritize projects that would enable States to achieve and/or sustain full compliance or, in the case of a State that is making a good faith effort toward substantial compliance with the requirements in 49 United States Code sections 31311 and 31313, to improve the implementation of its CDL program. Compliance with CDL regulations includes addressing existing or repeat open findings in the FMCSA's State Compliance Records Enterprise and proposing strategies for mitigating those findings.

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

FMCSA received 53 CDLPI grant applications before the deadline. Of those, five applications were ineligible based on the grant program’s eligibility requirements or were duplicate applications. In total, 48 CDLPI eligible applications, requesting approximately \$44 million in funding, were evaluated. FMCSA awarded 45 grants totaling \$32,012,500.

The applications were evaluated by a cross-disciplinary team that included FMCSA grant management specialists, technical review panelists, and program officers. The technical/programmatic merits of each proposal were considered and a cost analysis was conducted. FMCSA also considered the risk posed by each applicant, the applicant’s past performance with FMCSA (if applicable), and the diversity of technical approaches or methods. Three applications did not receive funding because the proposals did not meet the priorities of the Agency.

Table 1 – FY 2019 CDLPI Grant Awards

Organization	Award Amount
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency	\$249,233
American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators	\$5,460,873
Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts	\$1,535,335
Colorado Department of Revenue	\$254,332
Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance	\$66,020
Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Motor Vehicles*	\$1,755,953
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles	\$1,558,895
District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles	\$329,500
Delaware Department of Transportation	\$187,494
Executive Office of the Commonwealth of Kentucky	\$1,804,493
Georgia Department of Driver Services	\$1,048,435
Idaho Transportation Department	\$225,371
Illinois Secretary of State	\$348,000
Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles	\$792,338
Iowa Department of Transportation	\$385,124
Louisiana Department of Public Safety, Office of Motor Vehicles	\$1,647,148

Massachusetts Department of Transportation RMV Division	\$308,825
Maryland DOT Motor Vehicle Administration	\$164,104
Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Driver and Vehicle Services	\$717,736
Montana Department of Justice - Motor Vehicle Division	\$112,253
Motor Vehicles, Nebraska Department of	\$58,412
Motor Vehicles, South Carolina Department of	\$1,047,976
Mississippi Department of Public Safety	\$217,863
National District Attorneys Association	\$921,148
North Carolina Department of Transportation, Div. of Motor Vehicles	\$156,263
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission	\$764,137
New York State Department of Motor Vehicles	\$5,103,815
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch	\$92,803
State of Michigan	\$829,044
State of Tennessee	\$978,317
Supreme Court of Louisiana	\$700,380
The National Judicial College	\$1,393,313
West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles	\$206,096
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation - Bureau of Driver Services	\$141,471
Wyoming Department of Transportation	\$450,000
TOTAL	\$32,012,500

**Declined funding.*

Individual State driver licensing agencies (SDLAs) received the majority of FY 2019 CDLPI grant funds, to improve highway safety and to increase State compliance with national CDL regulatory standards.

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) was awarded approximately \$5.5 million in grant funding. Most of this funding will support the web-based Commercial Skills Test Information Management System (CSTIMS). This system assists States in tracking and overseeing the integrity of the CDL skills (e.g., driving) test, exchanges information about skills tests administered outside of the driver's home State, and combats CDL fraud by analyzing the pass and fail rates of examiners. Other funds were provided to AAMVA to deliver skills test examiner training, conduct an annual meeting with the SDLAs, to reduce the number of data problems in the Commercial Driver License Information System (CDLIS), to facilitate roadside access to the CDLIS by law enforcement personnel, and to develop new CDLIS reports.

The National Judicial College (NJC), the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) were also awarded grant funding. These awards totaled approximately \$2.4 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 rules and regulations to ensure disqualifications are executed and to minimize actions such as masking and diversion programs.

Conclusion

The FY 2019 demand for the CDLPI financial assistance significantly exceeded requests. However, the funding was efficiently and effectively allocated, based upon a merit review process on the applications, to make improvements in the CDL testing, issuance, and adjudications processes. The programs and projects supported by the CDLPI grant program continue to improve highway safety.