

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Federal Agency Name: U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT)
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
Grants Management Office (GMO); MC-BG 1200
New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building Washington, DC 20590

Funding Opportunity Title: Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training Program

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Assistance Listing Number: 20.235

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SECTION A – PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1 Overview and Authorizing Statutes and Regulations

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announces its Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training (CMVOST) grant program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications from organizations that provide commercial motor vehicle (CMV) operator training, including accredited public or private colleges, universities, vocational-technical schools, post-secondary educational institutions, truck driver training schools, associations, and State and local governments, including Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments. FMCSA will also accept applications from non-accredited institutions that are approved by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) as eligible training providers to accept Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants and approved by the State Approving Agencies (SAAs) and the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) to accept VA benefits.

The FY 2024 CMVOST grant program is authorized under 49 U.S.C. § 31103, as modified by Section 23001(b) of Public Law 117-58 (2021), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). FMCSA anticipates awarding approximately \$3,500,000, as authorized by BIL. Final funding amounts are subject to the availability of funding appropriated by Congress.

2 CMVOST Goals and Objectives

Relevant Assistance Listing is 20.235

FMCSA’s mission is to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. FMCSA’s program of awarding grants for operator safety training furthers that mission.

The CMVOST grant program supports the Secretary’s strategic goals. Its purpose is to train individuals in the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles. This program will prioritize training for current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including National Guard and Reservists.

FMCSA provides financial assistance under the CMVOST grant program to organizations that provide CMV operator training.

CMVOST financial assistance awards are aligned with the following U.S. Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) strategic goals and the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS)

- **Safety:** Make our transportation system safer for all people. Advance a future without transportation-related serious injuries and fatalities.
- **Economic Strength & Modernization:** Grow an inclusive and sustainable economy. Invest in our transportation system to provide American workers and businesses reliable and efficient access to resources, markets, and good-paying jobs.
- **Equity:** Reduce inequities across our transportation systems and communities they affect. Support and engage people and communities to promote safe, affordable, accessible, and multimodal access to opportunities and services while reducing transportation-related disparities, adverse community impact health effects.

- **Climate & Sustainability:** Tackle the climate crisis by ensuring that transportation plays a central role in the solution. Substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transportation-related pollution and build more resilient and sustainable transportation systems to benefit and protect communities.
- **Transformation:** Design for the future. Invest in purpose-driven research and innovation to meet the challenge of the present and modernize a transportation system of the future that serves everyone today and, in the decades, to come.

The NRSS is a comprehensive plan to work with stakeholders across the country to significantly reduce injuries and deaths on America's roadways using a safe system approach. This approach lowers risks by building in multiple layers of protection: safer roads, safer people, safer vehicles, safer speeds, and better post-crash care. The NRSS may be found at:
<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-02/USDOT-National-Roadway-Safety-Strategy.pdf>.

Applicants, where appropriate, should demonstrate how proposed projects address the objectives of climate change/sustainability outlined in Executive Order 14008 and support/advance equity in transportation, particularly in underserved communities, as outlined in Executive Order 13985.

This NOFO provides important information about the FY 2024 CMVOST program activities/projects and guidance related to preparing and submitting a grant application.

CMVOST grant funds are awarded through a competitive grant process. No assurance of funding is implied, nor should it be inferred.

Training providers should be aware that individuals applying for their CDL for the first time; an upgrade of a CDL; or a hazardous materials, passenger, or school bus endorsement for the first time are subject to FMCSA's minimum entry-level driver training (ELDT) requirements. These individuals must complete a prescribed entry-level driver training program by an entity listed on FMCSA's Training Provider Registry. **Applicants must meet the requirements for ELDT and be listed on FMCSA's Training Provider Registry when they submit an application.** For more information on these requirements, please visit FMCSA's website at: <https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

3 FY 2024 CMVOST National Priorities

The Department seeks to fund projects that advance Departmental priorities of safety, equity, climate and sustainability, and workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation as described in the [USDOT Strategic Plan](#), [Research, Development and Technology Strategic Plan](#), and in executive orders. All applications must support the public purpose listed below. FMCSA may not award grant funding to individuals for personal gain, such as individual requests for obtaining specialized training required for CDL licensing, or to any private business for direct financial gain or profit. FMCSA will prioritize grant funds for tuition expenses and other reimbursable educational expenses for students who meet the definition of "Qualified Students." Special consideration will also be given to "students of underserved communities" and refugees as defined below.

All applications must support the purpose of the CMVOST grant program, which is to:

- i. Train individuals in the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles, and**
- ii. Assist current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including National Guard and Reservists, as well as certain family members, to obtain a CDL.**

“Qualified Students” include the children and spouses of service members. All such family member students are eligible for training, with or without the service member. Service members will receive priority for funding.

“Students of underserved communities” are those that are defined in Federal Executive Order 13985 and include people of color, tribal communities, and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

“Refugees” are those individuals that have abandoned their country as a result of major wars, persecution, torture, or genocide under Executive Order 14013.

All applicants must provide:

- a. The number of qualified students/students of underserved communities/refugees expected to be recruited;
- b. The number of qualified students/students of underserved communities/refugees expected to complete the training/course curriculum;
- c. The number of qualified students/students of underserved communities/refugees expected to obtain a CDL;
- d. The number of qualified students/students of underserved communities/refugees expected to be placed in CDL driver positions;
- e. The duration and curriculum of the training for the students;
- f. Job placement and retention services/resources for the students following graduation;
- g. An overview on how monitoring and evaluating protocols will be used to measure success and performance outcomes;
- h. Proof that the institution is either accredited or certified to accept WIOA grants; and
- i. Proof that the institution is listed on the Training Provider Registry.

Applicants must provide the following information, if applicable:

- a. Proximity to a military installation or other nearby opportunities to reach veterans and/or members of underserved communities/refugees;
- b. Confirmation that the applicant has an on-campus Recruitment Office,
- c. Veterans Affairs Office, and Job Placement Office;
- d. A copy of the published all-inclusive tuition and other costs a student would be required to pay to obtain a CDL, broken down by type (e.g., student activity fees, range fees, Medical Certificate, DMV fees and miscellaneous expenses);
- e. Whether published tuition cost includes any of the following: DOT physicals, required DOT drug testing fees, driver licensing fees, etc.; and

- f. If and how the applicant will address the challenges faced by students of underserved communities and refugees.

Beginning February 7, 2022, an entry-level driver is only permitted to take the relevant CDL skills or knowledge test after completing the training required by the Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations, from a provider listed on the Training Provider Registry. All applicants must meet the requirements for ELDT and be registered and listed in the Training Provider Registry prior to submitting an application.

SECTION B – FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1 Funding and Number of Awards

FMCSA anticipates making approximately 15 awards as a result of applications in response to this NOFO. FMCSA reserves the right to allocate additional funds for awards based on the number and quality of applications.

Note: FMCSA will limit Federal funding to a total amount of \$200,000 per award. All funding amounts are subject to the availability of funds under the FY 2024 Appropriations Act.

2 Type of Awards

The planned award type is a grant.

3 Period of Performance

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 31104(f)(5) as modified by Section 23001(b) of Public Law 117-58 (2021), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CMVOST grant awards have a period of performance that is the fiscal year of award plus two additional fiscal years. The period of performance begins upon the award date.

4 Degree of Federal Involvement

Substantial involvement is not expected between FMCSA and the recipient when carrying out the activity outlined in the agreement. FMCSA provides financial assistance, technical assistance, and oversight. Recipients provide the effort and expertise necessary to carry out the approved activities to improve CMV safety. Recipients are responsible for achieving the work described in their grant award, complying with the grant requirements in the grant award and the Terms and Conditions, as well as the local administration of the grant, and monitoring and oversight of any sub-recipients or sub-contractors.

SECTION C – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1 Eligible Applicants

1.1 Eligible Entities

CMVOST awards are available to the following entities, who meet the additional eligibility criteria in 1.2 and 1.3 below:

- a. State Government
- b. County Government
- c. City or Township Government
- d. Independent School District
- e. Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education
- f. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized)
- g. Nonprofit with 501C3IRS status (other than small business)
- h. Small business
- i. Hispanic Serving Institution
- j. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- k. Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCUUs)
- l. Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

1.2 Educational Institutions and Training Providers

All applicants must meet one of the two criteria listed below:

- a. Educational institutions accredited by an accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education will be considered for funding
- b. Non-accredited institutions that are approved by the DOL as eligible training providers and who accept WIOA grants; and approved by the SAAs, and the VA to accept VA benefits will also be considered for funding.

1.3 Entry-Level Driver Training Requirements

All applicants must meet the requirements for ELDT and be listed on the Training Provider Registry. Additionally, applicants must submit documentation to support that the entity meets the eligibility requirements (see Appendix C).

2 Cost-Sharing and Matching Requirements

FMCSA will not require a matching share for fiscal year 2024 awards.

3 Other

The below are specific items that must be completed for your application package to move forward to the Merit Review process. (See Eligibility Criteria outlined in Section E. 1a.) If one of these items are not fulfilled the application will not be considered eligible.

A complete application includes:

- The application was submitted by the deadline.
- The application was submitted by an eligible applicant, as described in Section C. 1.
- The application has a completed Federal Assistance (SF-424) form.
- The application has a completed Budget information for Non-Construction form (SF-424A).
- The application has a completed Assurances for Non-Construction form (SF-424B).
- The application has a completed grant.gov Certification Regarding Lobbying form.
- The application has a completed Lobbying activities (SF-LLL) form, if applicable.
- The application includes a complete Budget Narrative.
- The application includes a complete Project Narrative.
- The application's projects support the purpose of the CMVOST grant program and statutes.