



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

OFFICE OF ANALYSIS, RESEARCH, AND TECHNOLOGY

Safety Data Improvement Program (SaDIP) Grant Funding 2010 September 9, 2009

Webinar Transcript

Presenters

- Betsy Benkowski, Project Manager, FMCSA Office of Analysis, Research, and Technology (ART)

Speakers (optional)

- Kirse Kelly, Web Conference Title, FMCSA ART

Description:

Betsy Benkowski, Team Leader of the FMCSA State Data Quality Team will present information regarding the availability of Safety Data Improvement Program (SaDIP) grant funding for FY 2010, and how to apply. This webinar is open to FMCSA headquarters and field staff as well as our State partners (including SAFETYNET users, CVARS and SaDIP recipients, and professionals involved with crash and inspection data collection, and Data Q's) and potential future State partners.

**PRESENTATION—SAFETY DATA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SADIP)
GRANT FUNDING 2010**

**PRESENTATION TITLE SLIDE: SAFETY DATA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SADIP)
GRANT FUNDING 2010**

Kirse Kelly (Web Conference Host, FMCSA ART):

Thanks to all of you who are participating in our webinar today about the Safety Data Improvement Program Grant Funding for 2010. This webinar is part of a series put on by the FMCSA Office of Analysis, Research, and Technology. As Kristy mentioned, time permitting, all questions will be answered. You can submit questions in the **Q&A** box, here on the left side of your screen throughout the presentation. At the end of the call, you will be able to both submit questions online and ask questions over the phone line.

Please note that you will be able to download a copy of the presentation at the end of the webinar. If you have to leave early, you can return to this Web site, or go to the FMCSA ART Web site at a later time and the slides will be available.

Members of the trade or local media who are participating today are asked to contact the FMCSA Office of Communications at (202) 366-9999 at the conclusion of the webinar if you have any questions.

Finally, for anyone who might have a smaller screen and this virtual meeting room is on the upper-left side of your screen, you may want to try full screen, which can be accessed by clicking on **Meeting** at the very top-left side of your screen, choosing **Manage My Settings** in the list, and clicking on **Full Screen**.

Now, let me go ahead and turn you over to Betsy Benkowski of the Analysis Division, who is the Team Leader of the FMCSA State Data Quality Team. Betsy?

Betsy Benkowski (Program Manager, FMCSA ART):

Thank you, Kirse. I would like to welcome everyone and thank you all for joining us today. We are broadcasting this webinar to provide information about applying to FMCSA's Safety Data Improvement, or SaDIP Grant Program. These grant funds are available to help States improve traffic safety records systems with an emphasis on improving large truck and bus data reported to FMCSA.

As you know, FMCSA is responsible to regulate the safety of interstate truck and bus travel in the US. It is our safety goal to reduce the commercial motor vehicle crash fatalities on the nation's highways to .16 truck fatalities per 100 million total miles of travel by 2011. FMCSA relies on timely, accurate, complete, and accessible data to measure its programs as we strive to meet those safety goals.

The purpose of our grant program is to support States in the development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve the collection and reporting of the large truck and bus data in the States.

We've got about 10 slides in our presentation today. As Kirse mentioned, if you have any questions, you can type them in the box on the left while I'm speaking, and I'll try to answer them as we go along. If I don't get to them, there will be time at the end of the presentation. I will address them and any others at that time.

SLIDE 2: BACKGROUND

Just by way of a little background with regard to our SaDIP Grant Program, it was Section 4128 of the SAFTEA-LU legislation that established the Safety Data Improvement Grant Program on an 80/20 shared funding basis between the Federal and State governments. Eighty percent of the project funds are provided by FMCSA and 20 percent are provided by the state.

SaDIP is a discretionary grant program. There are no earmarks—so that means all States can apply. If a State can't find the financial resources or the 20 percent, we don't want you to be discouraged and not apply. States can contribute an "in-kind" match. An "in-kind" match can be any managerial oversight required by the project that may not all ready be included in the cost of the project, or any administrative or other direct costs that are not already included in the project costs.

Applicants may submit only one application. Many awards are made to multi-agency project teams. We in the State Safety Data Quality Program encourage States and local agencies to collaborate to achieve their safety goals. Eligible applicants include State agencies of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The grantees should be involved with highway safety activities and should demonstrate a capacity to work with other highway traffic safety stakeholders.

SLIDE 3: SADIP GRANT PROGRAM

Congress appropriated \$11 million to the SaDIP Program between 2006 and 2009. You can see that this slide gives us a nice distribution of States that have received the funds. You can see that in 2006, we awarded \$2 million to 10 states, and \$3 million in years '07, '08 and '09. We anticipate another \$3 million grant award pool for 2010. Our ceiling for the grants will be \$500,000 dollars. The floor for grant awards is \$25,000 dollars, and we expect about 10 awards this fiscal year. FMCSA recognizes the impact and the contribution States provide to the success of its programs. States have rules in regulating commercial vehicle transportation that makes them uniquely able to implement key programs that are related to State data quality.

SLIDE 4: CURRENT SADIP GRANT PROJECTS

A few of the examples of recent SaDIP grant funded projects that have been initiated by the States are included here. These types of projects have included hiring staff to manage data quality improvement programs; revising outdated crash support forms; hiring staff to code and enter crash data. Funds have been used to train law enforcement officers in collecting crash data. We have used funds to develop software to transfer data from the States' repositories to SAFETYNET, or from other wireless devices. We have purchased equipment to support data quality activities, and we have purchased software for field data collection and data transfer.

SLIDE 5: [NO TITLE; <http://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/DataQuality/dataquality.asp>]

This is a screen shot of our current State Safety Data Quality Map, or our SSDQ Map. For 2010, and in prior years, we will be looking for projects that will address the data quality measures included in the State's Safety Data Quality Map. If those of you listening here now have not visited our FMCSA A&I Web site's Data Quality Module, I want to encourage you to do so. In 2007 we raised the bar on data quality and posted two new measures. The States responded favorably and really worked hard to improve those performance areas. You can see that this map is looking really, really very good. We have a number of green States here. We anticipate adding several new measures on inspection data in early 2010. By adding new measures, States can see where additional improvements can be made.

SLIDE 6: GRANTS.GOV WEBSITE

Now, let's go back to the grants. In order to apply for a SaDIP grant, you must go to the *grants.gov* Web site. In that Web site you can find grant opportunities; you can register with *grants.gov*; you can apply for grants; and you can track the status of submitted applications. You will want to search for the SaDIP Grant Opportunity under the Code of Federal Domestic Assistance, or the CFDA number. Our number is 20.234. This year's grant applications are due on October 2, 2009. If after the grant applications are evaluated and there are funds available, we will continue to accept SaDIP grant applications until December 31, 2009. Our first round of grant awards should occur early in the first quarter of fiscal (year) 2010. That will be between October, November, and December.

SLIDE 7: [NO TITLE; www.grants.gov]

I want to encourage you to visit *grants.gov* to register as soon as possible. If you have not previously registered, it will require about three-five business days to complete the registration process. You must follow all steps in the registration process to avoid any delays.

SLIDE 8: SADIP APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Speaking about the SaDIP application requirements, we need the following information: we need a completed application check list; we need a letter of approval from the FMCSA State Division

Administrator indicating this particular project is of value, and worthy to the Agency and the State. We need a lead agency, and key staff contact information; we need the project objective and an implementation plan. We need (to be) provided a project timeline or schedule, the budget information and summary, and all the required forms—all the forms that are listed here on this screen.

SLIDE 9: SADIP PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

For the SaDIP proposal requirements, we would like to have again, identified a lead agency for the project; the project objective and implementation plan; the project timeline or schedule; and include a clear statement of the organization's awareness and willingness to address any new or existing State Safety Data Quality measures that appear on our map. We will need the budget for the project. We need a clear plan for quarterly progress reports, and the proposals, keep in mind, should be valid until the date of award. This section for the proposal will be mostly narrative, describing what you are going to do and how long it's going to take.

SLIDE 10: SADIP DETAILS TO REMEMBER

A few details to remember: once again, the proposed plan should remain valid through the date of award. One should contact the Agency's Grant Administrator, or your Chief Financial Officer, or Business Office to obtain the required "DUNS" number required on the form 424. Keep in mind, all applications must include an approval letter from the FMCSA State Division Administrator to be deemed eligible for review and award.

SLIDE 11: SADIP FY 2010 GRANT SEASON TIMELINE

Our timeline looks like this" applications are due on Friday, October 2, 2009. If funds are available—if all funds aren't awarded at that time—we will keep the application season open until December 31. However, we do expect to award grants in November from our first tier or our priority awards.

Also, I just want to make a comment, or a disclaimer, that grants will be awarded, based, or contingent upon Congressional approval of a FMCSA budget fiscal year 2010. We are moving forward in hopes that we will be given another \$3 million appropriation to award to the States.

SLIDE 12: CONTACT INFORMATION

This slide has my contact information. If anyone has any questions regarding the SaDIP program or SaDIP grants you can contact me at this e-mail address. If you have any questions with regard to *grants.gov*, the support address is listed; there is support@grants.gov, as well as the 800 phone number.

[13:20]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Betsy Benkowski: At this time I want to turn the webinar management over to Kirse.

Kirse Kelly: Thanks Betsy. We are now open for questions. If you would like to ask a question, as mentioned before, you can submit those questions in the space at the bottom of the **Q&A box** on the left side of your screen, or to ask questions over the phone, you just push *1 and state your name to the recorded message. When your line is opened, Kristy, who is our phone operator, will announce you by name, so please state your name clearly for proper pronunciation. Questions will be answered in the order that they are received.

As mentioned at the beginning of the call, please note, you will be given the opportunity to download a copy of the presentation at the end of this webinar. If you have to leave early, you can return to this Web site at later time—the slides will be available—or you can return to our FMCSA Web site, and pick them up there.

Earle Kubat: *I notice my State is a red State. Are we still eligible for grant consideration?*

Betsy Benkowski: Well, actually being a red State is a good thing in the world of data quality. What we're trying to do is encourage States who are not all green to apply for assistance so that we can work with the State to improve the quality of the data reported to FMCSA.

Barbara

Webb-Edwards: *Can local State agencies apply for SaDIP funds directly through grants.gov?*

Betsy Benkowski: We would like the local agencies to work with the State agencies in applying. However, if the Division Administrator determines that the local agency's efforts would help improve the data reported to the State which in turn is reported to FMCSA, then I would encourage the local agencies to apply.

Mary Jensen: *Can an application be for more than a one-year project?*

Betsy Benkowski: Actually, we encourage States to apply for multi year projects. We recognize sometimes it is not a quick fix where one year will satisfy all the criteria to correct a systemic problem in a system. The only problem with applying for multi-years is if the funding is greater than \$500,000, we can't guarantee that funds will be available in the out-years. However, if you apply, if a state applies for a grant, the funding can be spread out over multi-years. These SaDIP funds are considered no-year money and are available until spent.

Kirse Kelly: Kristy, are there any questions on the phone line?

Kristy (Operator): At this time I show no audio questions.

Terri Hartley: *Can we purchase bar code readers for license and registrations to increase our accuracy? Presently, our bar code readers are not compatible with ASPEN.*

Betsy Benkowski: You know the funding was not necessarily designated to purchase state-wide bar-code readers. However, if there is a demonstration project where states could determine that a different quality or different type of bar-code reader would help improve the accuracy or the quality of the data, we would certainly entertain how that could improve the reporting to the State Safety Data Quality Map.

Ethel Keen: *Please repeat the timeline for submissions and when funds are available.*

Betsy Benkowski: This year our priority award grants are due to *grants.gov* on October 2, 2009. We should make awards in the first quarter—that would mean possibly the end of October, but November and December (more realistically)—of fiscal year 2010. If funds are still available after we made that first round of awards, we will accept applications until December 31, 2009, and make awards shortly thereafter.

Amy: *Is the data collected only for State-owned roads or are you looking for data on locally owned as well?*

Betsy Benkowski: We are looking for all data that is collected by the State. It would be State, local, and Federally maintained roads.

Marty Pollock: *Is the funding an 80/20 match for the funding of personnel and equipment/software?*

Betsy Benkowski: Yes it is an 80/20 match for the entire grant.

Kevin Carter: *If a State currently has a SaDIP grant, can the State apply for a second grant?*

Betsy Benkowski: Yes. States can apply for second, third, and fourth SaDIP grants as long as their projects continue to improve the quality of the data reported to FMCSA.

Kirse Kelly: Kristy, are there any questions over the phone right now?

Kristy (Operator): Yes, we do have a couple of audio questions. Our first is from Kevin Carter. Your line is now open.

Kevin Carter: Actually, mine was answered on the screen.

Kristy (Operator): Our next question comes from Sherry Lightner, your line is now open.

Sherry Lightner: *Hi. We already had a SaDIP grant in 2007. I believe Kevin just asked what I was going to ask, but—we ran out of that money. It was \$116,000. Now for 2010, we were going to apply again. However, we're using some MCSAP money right now to pay for this verifier in another department. Are we going to still be eligible to get that SaDIP grant?*

Betsy Benkowski: Sherry, yes you are eligible for a SaDIP grant again. However, I don't think we would double fund a project that is being paid for by someone else, or by another grant. I think what you have to have is a related project, or something that would work hand-in-hand with the MCSAP funded project.

Sherry Lightner: I think they are only using that because we ran out of money, so if we applied for the other SaDIP grant, they wouldn't use the MCSAP grant.

Betsy Benkowski: That would be perfectly fine.

Sherry Lightner: And you did say, October 2nd, right?

Betsy Benkowski: Correct.

Sherry Lightner: We only go to December 31st if you have available money. For some reason I could not get the slides, that is why I called in, but I can go to the FMCSA Web site and download this right? It will be on there?

Betsy Benkowski: Yes. On the ART Web site, yes.

Kirse Kelly: It should be, if not this afternoon, by tomorrow morning.

Sherry Lightner: Thank you.

Kristy (Operator): I show no further questions.

Henry Goldberg: *Are grant monies limited only to non-profit organizations, or can for-profit companies apply if they have a solution for consideration?*

Betsy Benkowski: The grants are limited to State agencies and local agencies.

Kirse Kelly: We are not showing anymore questions on the screen at this time. Kristy, are there any others on the phone?

Kristy (Operator): There are no audio questions.

[21:50]

Kirse Kelly: We can still answer your questions, if you have any last questions, but this can conclude our webinar and you can download a PDF version of the presentation at this time. Simply highlight the document in the **Download Presentations** pod and click **Save to My Computer**.

We also ask that you complete the evaluation that we will put up right here on the screen. We welcome your comments about this webinar, as well as your suggestions for future webinars. Please note that your comments can be seen by all other participants in the meeting room. If you would like to remain anonymous, click on **Everyone** and choose **FMCSA Host** instead.

As a reminder, members of the trade or local media are asked to contact the FMCSA Office of Communications if you have any questions. That phone number is (202) 366-9999. Once again, FMCSA Office of Communications at (202) 366-9999.

On October 15th [**incorrect date; correct date is October 14**] we will host a webinar on the 2010 CVISN Deployment Grant Program and registration for that should be opened within the next week. If you are interested, check back at our Web site early next week for that early registration. We will also be sending out announcements of this and other webinars. If you are not yet on our e-mail list, please contact our web conference coordinator at Kirse.Kelly@dot.gov and request your name be added to that list. That e-mail will be put up in just a few minutes.

This concludes this webinar.

Betsy Benkowski: I would like to thank everyone for participating in our webinar today. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at Betsy.Benkowski@dot.gov. I would be happy to answer any questions that you have about the SaDIP grants and the SaDIP Grant Program. I want to thank Kirse for coordinating and managing our webinar today. Kirse, you did a great job keeping us all together. Thank you.

Kirse Kelly: No problem. Also, we would like to thank you all for participating, as well as, thank Kristy, our phone operator.

Kristy (Operator): You are very welcome. Have a great day. Thank you for participating in today's conference. The conference has now concluded. You may disconnect at this time.

[25:07]