

**FY 2011 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)
Emailed Questions and Answers (Q&A)**

The below questions and answers were emailed to TSAGrants.

Q: I understand that the review of projects on the Top Transit Asset List (TTAL) is competitive, but is it also a competitive process to submit an asset for consideration?

A: The review process to determine whether assets should be on the TTAL is not competitive in the sense that assets submitted for consideration will be evaluated against one another. Rather, each submission will be reviewed individually to determine the appropriateness for inclusion on the TTAL given the type and criticality of the assets already on the TTAL.

Q: Where should I send a request for an asset to be considered for the TTAL?

A: You can either send your request in advance of the application deadline, including supporting information/documentation, to TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov. Or, you can submit all of the information as part of your application.

Q: What is the difference between the June 27 and July 5 application deadlines?

A: The June 27 deadline is to submit your agency's SF-424 form in grants.gov. The SF-424 information will be transferred to the ND Grants system. The full application, including the investment justification (IJ) and budget is due in ND Grants no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on July 5, 2011.

Q: Is there any way to raise the operational cap? Is there a limit on what the percentage could be?

A: The Secretary of DHS does have the authority to waive the operational cap, if justified. Once we receive and review all of the applications, we will see how many operational projects are recommended for funding, and present the information to the Secretary so she can determine whether to waive the cap. There is no specified limit on a waiver amount; rather it would be informed by the projects recommended for funding.

Q: Is there a character limit in the Investment Justification template?

A: No, the IJ template is an MS Word document and the sections do not have a pre-set character limit. However, we encourage you to be concise – using a bulleted format for example – when writing your applications.

Q: My agency is getting close to the three-year update window for our Security Plan. What updates are required to meet this eligibility requirement for TSGP?

A: There are not specific requirements for Security Plan updates; but we would expect that you include any information related to risk assessments conducted since the last update, that all of the system and operating environment information is still current, and the security protocols in the plan are current.

Additionally, if your agency has had a BASE review within the last three years, the BASE can also be used to meet this eligibility requirement.

Q: How will the National Review Panels (NRP) evaluate the Investment Justifications (IJs)?

A: The NRP will be made up of federal government subject matter experts. They will review and score the IJs based on the criteria laid out in the grant guidance. All projects will be evaluated based on Risk Score Group, Alignment to Funding Priority Areas, Risk Mitigation Score and Regional collaboration (where appropriate).

The Risk Mitigation Score is an average of several components. All projects will be evaluated on Cost Effectiveness, Ability to Reduce Catastrophic Events, Timelines, and Sustainability without Additional Federal Funds. Funding Priority A projects will also be evaluated on their BASE Review Alignment. Priority C and D projects will also be evaluated for their Effectiveness in Remediating Top Transit List Assets.

The NRP may make funding recommendations other than the requested amount if ineligible expenses are listed as part of the budget. Final scores and funding recommendations are ranked and projects are funded in rank order until the funding allocation is exhausted.