

Security Funding for Transportation Organizations

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Introduction

This white paper is designed to share high-level information about the various funding opportunities available for transportation organizations such as airports, port authorities, and transit agencies. This resource is meant as an introduction to security projects for transportation organizations. The Genetec Grants Support Team (GGST) can help organizations find and apply for grant funding, more of which will be explained at the end of this white paper.

The Basics of Grant Seeking

At a fundamental level, grants are awards targeted at helping a specific area or addressing a certain priority. There are three types of grants (federal, state, and foundation), but transportation organizations will typically be eligible for federal and state grants only. Luckily, security will usually be a priority at the federal and state levels, so there are plenty of opportunities, depending on location, applicant type, and objectives.

Grants.gov is where organizations can find the most current federal opportunities, while states typically have their own platform where applicants are able to view and apply for grants. Organizations are encouraged to subscribe to newsletters where grant-makers readily share information about upcoming deadlines for various programs. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or Request for Proposals (RFP) is included within the grant announcement. These are essential for the prospective applicant to read and understand as a guide on how to apply. It is nearly impossible to successfully apply for a grant without doing so.

Grant applications consist of project narratives where the applicant explains the need for funding. These can be anywhere from a page (foundations) to fifty pages (some federal opportunities). Typically, a budget is required in addition to the required documentation, dependent on what is mentioned in the NOFO or RFP. Once the application has been submitted, it is normal for a little wait as the federal or state agency makes their decisions, but this information is usually explained in the NOFO or RFP. It is common to see when a project is expected to begin.



Federal Agencies

There are twenty-six federal grant-making agencies. Within each grant-making agency, there are various departments and sub-agencies that also award grants, but it is nice to know where a grant program originates. Grants that fund any safety components of a transportation organization are found within two federal agencies: the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

DHS

This agency, which was established in 2002, focuses on protecting the country from all types of threats, specifically ensuring safety and resiliency against terrorism and other hazards. There are two types of grants offered by DHS: competitive and pass-through grants. Competitive grants come right from DHS, while pass-through grants come from each state.

DOT

This agency, which was established in 1967, focuses on the safety and efficiency of the various transportation systems within the United States. DOT itself offers grants; however, within the department, there are several organizations, such as the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Maritime Administration, and the Federal Railroad Administration, which will fund transportation organizations' safety projects.



Funding for Airports

Many airport funds are directly allocated to airports. These funds will help to improve terminals, various infrastructure, and whatever else is needed at the airport. There are some competitive opportunities, in the areas of research or traffic control towers. The two main agencies where airport funding is available are the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

Examples of Grants:

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Purpose: From the Federal Aviation Administration, the Airport Improvement Program provides grants for improvements related to enhancing airport safety, capacity, security, and environmental concerns.

Funding Amount: Up to $1.5 billion is typically available, with awards ranging from $25,000 to $50 million. Funding is distributed on a formula basis to eligible airports annually, with a cost share of 25 percent required for medium and large primary hub airports, and a 5- to 10-percent cost share for small, primary, reliever, and general aviation airports.

Eligible Applicants: Any airport that is included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems is eligible to apply. There are 9 regional airport divisions and district offices, which can be found here. Any questions regarding eligibility can be directed to the appropriate contact.

Application Deadline: Applications are typically accepted at the state level, so the deadline will vary.

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

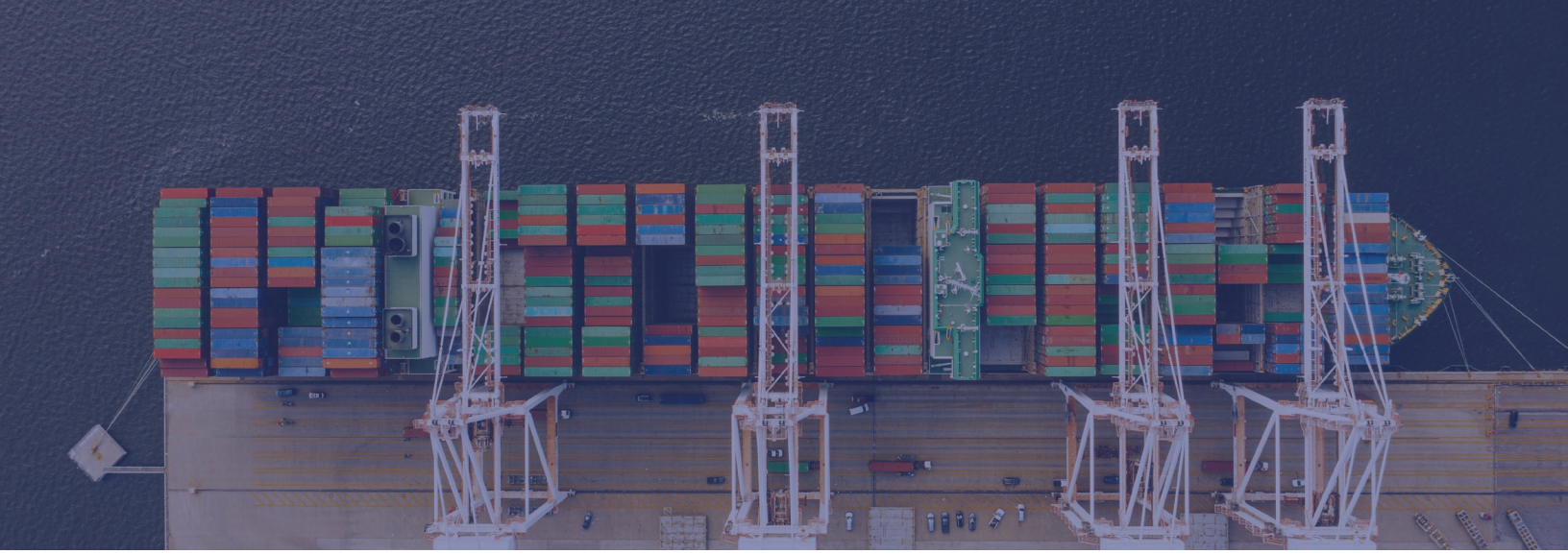
Purpose: From the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Department of Homeland Security, the State Homeland Security Program provides grants to states to then subaward to government entities for all types of eligibility. In the most recent fiscal year, the priorities include:

1. enhancing the protection of soft targets and crowded places,
2. supporting Homeland Security Task Forces and fusion centers,
3. enhancing and integrating cybersecurity resiliency,
4. enhancing election security,
5. and Border Crisis Response and Enforcement Support.

Funding Amount: Up to $373.5 million is expected to be available in 2025. States receive direct allocations and then sub-award to those eligible applicants within their jurisdictions. There is no cost share required.

Eligible Applicants: Airports that have sworn officers are eligible to apply.

Application Deadline: This will vary depending on the state.



Funding for Ports

Port authorities, or cities located near ports, are eligible for several grants, mostly focused on improving resiliency, strengthening reliability, and increasing safety. The Department of Homeland Security, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, and Federal Highway Administration are where most ports will be able to find relevant grant funding.

Examples of Grants:

PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Purpose: From the Maritime Administration, the Port Infrastructure Development Program will fund projects that improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. Some of the focus areas include advanced technology-supported safety and design efficiency improvements; bringing facilities to a state of good repair through improved resiliency; and promoting the exports of manufacturing and agriculture.

Funding Amount: In 2025, up to $450 million was available for approximately 40 awards. There was a 20-percent cost share required.

Eligible Applicants: State, county, tribal, special district, city, or township governments.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2025. A similar deadline is expected in 2026.

PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

Purpose: From the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Department of Homeland Security, the Port Security Grant Program is meant to strengthen port-wide risk management and protection of critical surface transportation infrastructure from acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies. The two activities of the most concern are enhancing cybersecurity and enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places.

Funding Amount: Up to $90,000,000 is expected to be available in 2025, with a 25-percent cost share required for the public sector and non-governmental, nonprofit applicants, and a 50-percent cost share required for for-profit applicants.

Eligible Applicants: Any organization subject to an Area Maritime Transportation Security Plan, which includes port authorities, facility operators, and state and local government agencies.

Application Deadline: August 15, 2025. The deadline for 2026 is expected in Spring or Summer 2026.



Funding for Transit Agencies

Ensuring the safety of passengers and the security of infrastructure are two major priorities relating to funding for transit agencies. The Federal agencies most likely to provide grant funding to transit agencies include the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Examples of Grants:

SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL

Purpose: The Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) is focused on improving roadway safety by reducing or eliminating fatalities and serious injuries through two grants: planning and demonstration grants and implementation grants. Cameras are eligible as part of new technology pilot programs under either category.

Funding Amount: $982 million was available in 2025 funding, with a 20-percent cost share required. Awards were expected to range from $100,000 to $25 million.

Eligible Applicants: Metropolitan planning organizations, counties, cities, towns, transit agencies, and tribal governments are eligible to apply.

Application Deadline: June 26, 2025. A similar deadline is expected in 2026.

TRANSIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

Purpose: From the Department of Homeland Security, the Transit Security Grant Program has two specific goals: enhance the cybersecurity of public transportation systems and enhance the physical security of public transportation systems. In addition to those priorities that will fund various technology upgrades, this program will fund planning and training, as well as exercises for transit agency personnel.

Funding Amount: Up to $83.7 million is expected in 2025 with 30 awards. There is no cost sharing/matching required. Project periods are expected to be either 36 or 48 months.

Eligible Applicants: Only public transportation agencies that serve Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) jurisdictions.

Application Deadline: August 15, 2025. The deadline for 2026 is expected in Spring or Summer 2026.



Funding from States

Federal grants are usually the first place to look for funding because of the sheer volume of opportunities that exist. However, states often offer their own opportunities that may be even more ideal, especially depending on the size of your organization. Smaller airports, port authorities, or transit agencies may benefit from viewing opportunities at the state or regional level. Like the federal government, states have their own DOTs, but that is not the only place where grants can be found at the state level. For instance, Pennsylvania offers a program called the Multimodal Transportation Fund, which comes from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development. Across the country, states will offer grants focused on workforce development, increasing community development, and implementing safety measures. Security is always at the forefront, which means plenty of these opportunities will allow for any type of security purchase.

Example State Opportunities

Program Name	State	Agency	Link
Multimodal Transportation Fund	Pennsylvania	PA Department of Community & Economic Development	https://dced.pa.gov/programs/multimodal-transportation-fund/
Maritime Infrastructure Program	Texas	TX Department of Transportation	https://www.txdot.gov/business/grants-and-funding/maritime-infrastructure-program.html
Regional Mobility Grant Program	Washington	Washington State Department of Transportation	https://wsdot.wa.gov/business-wsdot/grants/public-transportation-grants/grant-programs-and-awards/regional-mobility



Services Available Through the Genetec Grants Support Team

The Genetec™ Grants Support Team (GGST) offers a range of complimentary services for public sector agencies, educational institutions, public utilities, transit agencies, and healthcare organizations to help navigate the grant funding process. Depending on your team's needs, the GGST can provide everything from consultation to full proposal development. We focus on grants that support technology initiatives and improve security and operations. Our goal is to be an extension of your internal team and help you connect with additional funding opportunities through grants.

Genetec helps organizations navigate the grant seeking process through a partnership with Grants Office LLC, a national grants development services firm with a 25-year track record of helping public sector agencies find and secure funding for technology projects.

Project Consultation

The GGST works with agencies and organizations to help define their projects and frame them in the context of what funders are supporting. Grants tend to fund projects that address identified needs and include measurable objectives. The GGST can help agencies define these and communicate the results.

Funder Research

With a few specifics on an agency's project concept, the GGST will develop customized reports on funding opportunities that are the best fit. The reports will identify the most relevant funders based on the project type, organization type, and the geographic location where the project will be deployed.

Grants Development Support

The GGST provides a range of grant proposal support services. Whatever capacity and resources organizations can dedicate to developing grant proposals, the GGST will partner with them through the process of submitting competitive applications.

More than 5,000 grant programs are opened each year in the US, providing more than $500B in awards. Don't miss out on this available funding and grant seeking support. To get engaged, reach out to the Genetec Grants Support Team at grants@genetec.com.

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