
FUNDS TO SUPPORT LEPC AND OSAB ACTIVITIES

HMEP GRANTS

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant program is intended to provide financial and technical assistance as well as national direction and guidance to enhance State, Territorial, Tribal, and local hazardous materials emergency planning and training.

The HMEP Grant Program distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials to emergency responders for HAZMAT training and to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) for HAZMAT planning. HMEP funds may be used for training and planning, as it relates to hazardous materials, but not for purchasing equipment.

BACKGROUND

The HMEP grant program evolved from a proposal developed by DOT, FEMA, EPA, DOL / OSHA, and DOE. It was presented to Congress during the legislative process to reauthorize the HMTA of 1974. Federal Hazardous Material Transportation Law (FHMTL) creates an appropriate role for the Federal government to provide financial, technical assistance, national direction, and guidance to enhance State and local hazardous materials emergency planning and training.

The HMEP grant program is carefully crafted to build upon existing programs and relationships. It increases the emphasis on transportation in ongoing efforts. The HMEP grant program was designed to support the framework and working relationships established within the National Response System and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986.

PLANNING GRANT

FHMTL authorizes \$5 million in annual planning grants to States, Territories and Native American tribes -- with a required 75% pass-through of funds to LEPCs.

These planning grants are to be used for: 1) developing, improving, and implementing emergency plans under Title III including plan reviews and exercises/drills; 2) conducting commodity flow studies; 3) determining the need for regional hazardous material response.

TRAINING GRANT

FHMTL authorizes \$7.8 million in annual training grants to States, Territories and Native American Tribes -- with 75% of the funding used to provide training to local responders, including volunteers.

Training grants are to be used for training public sector employees to respond safely and efficiently to accidents and incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials. A broad spectrum of planning and training projects qualify under the HMEP grants.

For more information, contact the HMEP Grants Manager in the Office of State Fire Marshal, Emergency Planning and Response Section.

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT

Using curriculum guidelines prepared by a National consensus author team process, States will qualify courses they use for hazardous materials training. The list of courses mandated by Congress will consist of State qualified courses. In this way, a national list of courses will be generated in full partnership with the States. Assistance is being given to States in using the qualification mechanism contained in the curriculum guidelines.

COORDINATION

The Training and Curriculum subcommittee of the National Response Team's Preparedness Committee, co-chaired by DOT and FEMA USFA, provides coordination for the HMEP grant program at the Federal level. Assistance is supplied to grantees by DOT staff insuring accomplishment of objectives and proper expenditure of funds.

OTHER FEDERAL FUNDING

There is currently a multitude of federal grant opportunities available from the Office of Homeland Security, FEMA and EPA, that LEPCs can apply for through the Office of State Fire Marshal. These grants can be a resource when an LEPC project is "all-hazards" related.

FOUNDATION GRANTS

There are approximately 16,000 + private foundations in the US today. When choosing a foundation to submit a proposal for support, research must be done to ensure the need matches with the foundations funding interests and area of support. Once the foundation has been identified, additional research must be done in order to meet the specific submission requirements of the foundation.

BUSINESS GIVING PROGRAMS

Business giving programs are different from corporate foundations. Corporate foundations are legally a separate entity from the business. Business giving programs are part of the business and are therefore administered by the business itself. Business giving programs provide all types of assistance to worthy causes. Assistance may include funds; use of equipment, facilities and vehicles; donation of products; donation of surplus or new equipment; free technical assistance, etc. Generally, 80% of the support provided by business giving programs is "in-kind" support.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS (SEPs)

Once EPA has commenced an action against a facility for non-compliance with Section 312, or emergency release notification (CERCLA Section 103/EPCRA Section 312), there is an alternative to simply imposing fines on the non-complying facility. Current federal enforcement policy authorizes consideration for mitigating the fines imposed if the offending facility agrees to perform a supplemental environmental project (SEP).

Enforcement actions provide an opportunity for the facility to become actively involved in the local planning and response process and to assist the LEPCs in their activities. These agreements are an appropriate way to enforce EPCRA, since the SEPs can be arranged to aid in its implementation. Through SEPs, facilities have provided emergency or computer equipment to the LEPC and fire departments, and provided training to local emergency or planning personnel.