



2019 Rail Transit Safety Education Grants Frequently Asked Questions

When are applications due?

Applications are due April 22, 2019.

When will grant awards be announced?

[Operation Lifesaver, Inc. \(OLI\)](#) intends to announce awards by May 31, 2019.

Who is eligible to apply?

Transit agencies, governmental entities that provide transit service, and state Operation Lifesaver programs may apply.

What types of activities are eligible?

Applicants are encouraged to be creative in developing projects that will meet their local needs for rail safety education. Past grants have funded vehicle ads, station/platform ads, billboards, brochures, classroom materials, educational videos, radio/tv ads, social media campaigns, and materials for distribution at community events. Grantees are encouraged to make use of OLI's existing safety campaign, "[See Tracks? Think Train!](#)" and passenger rail safety education slide presentations. Creation of new slide presentations is eligible only if the grantee can demonstrate a compelling need for unique slides. Examples of past grant projects are available in Operation Lifesaver's report, [Best Practices for Rail Transit Safety Education](#).

Is a planned rail system eligible even though it is not yet operating?

Since public education can be valuable before new rail lines open, grants can fund projects for both currently operating rail systems and those that are reasonably expected to begin operations within 36 months of the application deadline (April 22, 2019).

Is bus safety education an eligible activity?

No, the grants can fund only rail safety education activities. Buses may be used as a part of the campaign (e.g., bus wraps or signs), but the campaign must relate to rail safety.

How should I calculate the non-federal match?

Please review the "Match Formula and Budget Tips" [document](#) for help calculating the non-federal match. In developing the project budget, note that all materials produced as part of the project must be reviewed and approved by OLI, even if they are entirely funded with matching funds. Projects that are part of a larger campaign should list only the budget associated with activities to be conducted as part of the OLI grant (including both OLI funds and at least 25 percent matching funds), not the budget for the entire campaign.

What role will Operation Lifesaver play in the process?

Projects must be coordinated with the relevant [state Operation Lifesaver program](#). Applicants must submit a letter of support from their state coordinator with the application. Materials



produced as part of the project will be co-branded with the state program. The national Operation Lifesaver Inc. organization will administer the grants and coordinate review of materials by its Materials Review Committee, a group of rail safety subject matter experts serving as advisors to OLI. OLI will also post all materials created as part of the project on its website.

Do all materials have to be reviewed by OLI and how long will that take?

All materials created as part of the grant project (whether funded with grant funds or local match) must be reviewed by OLI's Materials Review Committee, a group of rail safety subject matter experts serving as advisors to OLI. OLI recommends that grantees allow up to eight weeks in their project schedules for review and approval of materials once they are submitted to OLI.

When will grant payments be made?

Once grants are announced, OLI will work with successful applicants to execute a memorandum of understanding outlining the terms of the grant. A payment totaling 75 percent of the grant amount will be issued once the MOU has been executed. The final payment (25 percent of the grant amount) will be made upon submission of the final report on the project, including all receipts/invoices, due one month after grant activities have concluded (and no later than January 31, 2020). Materials created with grant funds may continue to be used after the grant has concluded.