

**US Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

FOR ASSISTANCE AWARDS

Effective Date: March 6, 2015

(for awards after December 26, 2014)

DEFINITIONS

AO	Agreement Officer
AS	Agreement Specialist
AOR	Agreement Officer's Representative
Agreement	Grant Agreement or Cooperative Agreement
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulation
FHWA	The Federal Highway Administration
OMB	Office of Management and Budget

1. GOVERNING REGULATIONS

Performance under this Agreement will be governed by and in compliance with the following regulations:

2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards."

Cost Principles For-profit Organizations (as applicable): 48 CFR 31 (Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR)) Subpart 31.2

2. SECTION 508 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

While the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, do not apply to assistance agreements, the FHWA is subject to the Act's requirements that all documents posted on an FHWA or FHWA-hosted website comply with the accessibility standards of the Act. Accordingly, final deliverable reports prepared under this Agreement and submitted in electronic format must be submitted in a format whereby FHWA can easily meet the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

NOTE: Quarterly Progress Reports and financial reports are not considered final deliverables and therefore the following requirements do not apply.

Accessibility Requirements: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

All electronic documents prepared under this Agreement must meet the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The act requires that all electronic products prepared for the Federal Government be accessible to persons with disabilities, including those with vision, hearing, cognitive, and mobility impairments. View Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (<http://www.access-board.gov/508/508standards.htm>) - PART 1194 and the Federal IT Accessibility Initiative Home Page (<http://section508.gov>) for detailed information.

The following paragraphs summarize the requirements for preparing FHWA reports in conformance with Section 508 for eventual posting by FHWA to an FHWA-sponsored website.

a. *Electronic documents with images*

Provide a text equivalent for every non-text element (including photographs, charts and equations) in all publications prepared in electronic format. Use descriptions such as "alt" and "longdesc" for all non-text images or place them in element content. For all documents prepared, vendors must prepare one standard HTML format as described in this statement of work AND one text format that includes descriptions for all non-text images. "Text equivalent" means text sufficient to reasonably describe the image. Images that are merely decorative require only a very brief "text equivalent" description. However, images that convey information that is important to the content of the report require text sufficient to reasonably describe that image and its purpose within the context of the report.

b. *Electronic documents with complex charts or data tables*

When preparing tables that are heavily designed, prepare adequate alternate information so that assistive technologies can read them out. Identify row and column headers for data tables. Provide the information in a non-linear form. Markups will be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row and column headers.

c. *Electronic documents with forms*

When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form will allow people using assistive technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.

Draft documents developed under this Agreement will be delivered as electronic files compatible with Microsoft Word 2000, or verified to be error free when read using Microsoft Word 2000 and Adobe PDF formats. Any other electronic format will receive prior approval from the AOR. With prior approval of the AOR, artwork or graphics not embedded in the electronic (MS Word) document may be submitted in camera ready format. Deliverables must follow the Turner Fairbanks Highway Research Center (TFHRC) **Communications Reference Guide** (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/general/03074/index.cfm>) unless otherwise indicate in this scope of work.

The final deliverables under this Agreement must comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Access Board Standards available online at: <http://www.section508.gov/>. Unless otherwise indicated, the Recipient represents by signature on this Agreement that all deliverables will comply with the Access Board Standards. Final documents will be delivered in Microsoft Word 2000, PDF, and HTML formats. These documents will be prepared in electronic GPO-required format and will meet the Section 508 requirements to allow them to be posted and viewed on the Internet. Files should be organized so that they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet. The html versions will include a text equivalent description (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content) for every non-text (e.g., graph, table, photo, diagram, etc.) element in the document. The best location for information on regulations for 36 CFR 1194, which implements Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, is at <http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/index.htm>.

If the information center website existed before the effective date of this Agreement, information presented prior to the date of execution of this Agreement does not need to be modified to comply with Federal accessibility requirements. However, if a web page is modified or updated during this Agreement's period of performance, the modified or updated page must be presented in accessible format.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RECIPIENT

The Recipient will provide overall program management. Specifically, the Recipient will be responsible for the following, as a minimum:

- Meeting with the AOR as necessary.
- Participating in meetings via teleconference or web conference with the AOR.
- Performing the Statement of Work as described in Section I, Funding Opportunity Description.
- Coordinating and managing students, as necessary.
- Submitting all required reports

4. NON-DOMESTIC TRAVEL

All non-domestic travel must be approved in writing by the AO prior to incurring costs. Travel requirements under this Agreement will be met using the most economical form of transportation available. If economy class transportation is not available, the request for payment vouchers must be submitted with justification for use of higher class travel indicating dates, times, and flight numbers.

5. AMENDMENTS

This Agreement and any amendments executed by the AO constitute the entire agreement between the parties. Discussions and understandings concerning such scope and subject matter are superseded by this Agreement and any executed amendments. All changes to the terms and

conditions of this Agreement will be in writing, issued as an Amendment and signed by the AO pursuant to 2 CRF 200.308.

- a. *Unilateral.* A unilateral amendment is signed only by the AO. Unilateral amendments are used, for example, to make administrative changes; i.e. funding, accounting data changes, change in Government personnel.
- b. *Bilateral.* A bilateral amendment is a change that is signed by the Recipient and the AO. Bilateral amendments are used to reflect other agreements of the parties amending the terms of the Agreement.

6. AGREEMENT OFFICER'S REPRESENTATIVE (AOR)

The AO may designate an AOR to assist in monitoring the work under this Agreement. The AOR will oversee the technical administration of this Agreement and act as technical liaison with the performing organization. The AOR is not authorized to change the scope of work or specifications as stated in the Agreement, to make any commitments or otherwise obligate the FHWA or authorize any changes which affect the Agreement funding, delivery schedule, period of performance or other terms or conditions.

The AO is the only individual who can legally commit or obligate the FHWA for the expenditure of public funds. The technical administration of this Agreement will not be construed to authorize the revision of the terms and conditions of performance. The AO will authorize any such revision in writing.

7. PAYMENT

Payment details will be provided upon grant award.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT AND DISCLAIMER

An acknowledgment of FHWA support and a disclaimer must appear in any publication of any material, whether copyrighted or not, based on or developed under the Agreement, in the following terms:

“This material is based upon work supported by the Federal Highway Administration under Agreement No. **DTFH61 (fill in award number).**”

All materials must also contain the following:

"Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the Author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Federal Highway Administration."

9. SITE VISITS

The FHWA, through its authorized representatives, has the right, at all reasonable times, to make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems and to provide such technical assistance as may be required. During a site visit, the Recipient and/or sub-recipient/subcontractor will provide all reasonable facilities and assistance for the safety and convenience of the FHWA representative. All site visits and evaluations will be performed in such a manner as to not unduly delay work.

10. BUDGET REVISION/REALLOCATION OF AMOUNTS (FOR AWARDS OVER THE SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD)

The Recipient is required to report deviations from budget and program plans, and request prior approval for budget and program plan revisions in accordance with 2 CFR 200.308

The Recipient must obtain prior written approval from the AO to transfer amounts budgeted for direct cost categories when the cumulative value of such transfers will exceed 10% of the value of Federal share of this Agreement.

11. SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

The Recipient must be registered in the SAM in order to receive payments under this Agreement. Use of the SAM is to provide one location for Applicants and Recipients to change information about their organization and enter information on where government payments should be made. Information for registering in the SAM and online documents can be found at www.sam.gov.

12. PRINTING

The Joint Committee on Printing Regulations Number 26, Section 36 states that Recipients shall not become prime or substantial sources of printing for the use of departments and agencies.

In the performance of this agreement, the Recipient may duplicate less than 5,000 units of only one page or less than 25,000 units in the aggregate of multiple pages. Duplication of quantities in excess of the amounts stated requires prior written approval of the AO. The Recipient must submit such requests in writing or by email to the AO, to include specifics on the deliverable, requested printing quantity, and estimated costs for printing.

13. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

The Recipient will comply with Subpart B of 49 CFR Part 32, Government wide Requirements for a Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance). See 49 CFR Part 32 for details of the requirement.

14. DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION REQUIREMENTS

The non-Federal entity must comply with the provisions in 2 CFR Part 180 OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) and 2 CFR Part 1200 DOT Non-procurement Suspension and Debarment. These provisions restrict Federal awards, subaward and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal programs or activities.

15. TERMINATION AND SUSPENSION

This Agreement may be terminated or suspended in whole or in part, at any time prior to its expiration date in accordance with 2 CFR 200.339.

The Recipient may appeal or object to a termination or suspension for non-compliance by submitting an appeal in writing to the next level above the AO within 30 days after receipt of the written notification of termination or suspension of this agreement. The Recipient will document the dispute by notifying the Agency in writing of the relevant facts, identify the grounds for objecting or appealing the termination or suspension and specify the remedy sought. The Agency will follow the procedures in the Disputes section when responding to this appeal.

16. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY TO BAN TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING

a) Definitions. As used in this clause-

“Driving” - Means operating a motor vehicle on an active roadway with the motor running, including while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic light, stop sign, or otherwise. Does not include operating a motor vehicle with or without the motor running when one has pulled over to the side of, or off, an active roadway and has halted in a location where one can safely remain stationary.

“Text messaging” - means reading from or entering data into any handheld or other electronic device, including for the purpose of short message service texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, obtaining navigational information, or engaging in any other form of electronic data retrieval or electronic data communication. The term does not include glancing at or listening to a navigational device that is secured in a commercially designed holder affixed to the vehicle, provided that the destination and route are programmed into the device either before driving or while stopped in a location off the roadway where it is safe and legal to park.

b) This clause implements Executive Order 13513, Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving, dated October 1, 2009.

c) The Applicant should-

a. Adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving- (i) Company-owned or -rented vehicles or Government-owned vehicles; or (ii) Privately-owned vehicles when on official Government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the Government.

- b. Conduct initiatives in a manner commensurate with the size of the business, such as- (i) Establishment of new rules and programs or re-evaluation of existing programs to prohibit text messaging while driving; and (ii) Education, awareness, and other outreach to employees about the safety risks associated with texting while driving.
- c. Sub-agreements/sub-contracts. The Applicant shall insert the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (d), in all sub-agreement/subcontracts that exceed the micro-purchase threshold.

17. REPORTING EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND FIRST-TIER SUB-AWARDS (2 CFR Part 170, Appendix A)

I. Reporting Sub-awards and Executive Compensation.

a. *Reporting of first-tier sub-awards.*

1. *Applicability.* Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, you must report each action that obligates \$25,000 or more in Federal funds that does not include Recovery funds (as defined in section 1512(a)(2) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111–5) for a sub-award to an entity (see definitions in paragraph e. of this award term).

2. *Where and when to report.*

- i. You must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to <http://www.fsrs.gov>.
- ii. For sub-award information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made. (For example, if the obligation was made on November 7, 2010, the obligation must be reported by no later than December 31, 2010.)

3. *What to report.* You must report the information about each obligating action that the submission instructions posted at <http://www.fsrs.gov> specify.

b. *Reporting Total Compensation of Applicant Executives.*

1. *Applicability and what to report.* You must report total compensation for each of your five most highly compensated executives for the preceding completed fiscal year, if—

- i. the total Federal funding authorized to date under this award is \$25,000 or more;
- ii. in the preceding fiscal year, you received—
 - (A) 80 percent or more of your annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and sub-awards); and
 - (B) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and sub-awards); and
- iii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm>)

2. *Where and when to report.* You must report executive total compensation described in paragraph b.1. of this award term:

- i. As part of your registration profile at <http://www.sam.gov>.
- ii. By the end of the month following the month in which this award is made, and annually thereafter.

c. *Reporting of Total Compensation of Sub-applicant Executives.*

1. *Applicability and what to report.* Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, for each first-tier sub-applicant under this award, you will report the names and total compensation of each of the sub-applicant's five most highly compensated executives for the sub-applicant's preceding completed fiscal year, if—

- i. in the sub-applicant's preceding fiscal year, the sub-applicant received—
 - (A) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and sub-awards); and
 - (B) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts), and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act (and sub-awards); and
- ii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm>)

2. *Where and when to report.* You must report sub-applicant executive total compensation described in paragraph c.1. of this award term:

- i. To the Applicant.
- ii. By the end of the month following the month during which you make the sub-award. For example, if a sub-award is obligated on any date during the month of October of a given year (i.e., between October 1 and 31), you must report any required compensation information of the sub-applicant by November 30 of that year.

d. *Exemptions*

If, in the previous tax year, you had gross income, from all sources, under \$300,000, you are exempt from the requirements to report:

- i. Sub-awards, and
- ii. The total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of any sub-applicant.

e. *Definitions.* For purposes of this award term:

1. *Entity* means all of the following, as defined in 2 CFR Part 25:
 - i. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local Government, or Indian tribe;
 - ii. A foreign public entity;
 - iii. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;
 - iv. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization;
 - v. A Federal agency, but only as a sub-applicant under an award or sub-award to a non-Federal entity.
2. *Executive* means officers, managing partners, or any other employees in management positions.
3. *Sub-award*:
 - i. This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the Applicant award to an eligible sub-applicant.
 - ii. The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, see Sec. __ .210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations").
 - iii. A sub-award may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you or a sub-applicant considers a contract.
4. *Sub-applicant* means an entity that:
 - i. Receives a sub-award from you (the Applicant) under this award; and
 - ii. Is accountable to you for the use of the Federal funds provided by the sub-award.
5. *Total compensation* means the cash and noncash dollar value earned by the executive during the Applicant's or sub-applicant's preceding fiscal year and includes the following (for more information see 17 CFR 229.402(c)(2)):
 - i. *Salary and bonus*.
 - ii. *Awards of stock, stock options, and stock appreciation rights*. Use the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the fiscal year in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (Revised 2004) (FAS 123R), Shared Based Payments.
 - iii. *Earnings for services under non-equity incentive plans*. This does not include group life, health, hospitalization or medical reimbursement plans that do not discriminate in favor of executives, and are available generally to all salaried employees.
 - iv. *Change in pension value*. This is the change in present value of defined benefit and actuarial pension plans.
 - v. *Above-market earnings on deferred compensation which is not tax-qualified*.
 - vi. Other compensation, if the aggregate value of all such other compensation (e.g. severance, termination payments, value of life insurance paid on behalf of the employee, perquisites or property) for the executive exceeds \$10,000.

18. OMB PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA): Any activities involving information collection (i.e., paper or web-based surveys, questionnaires, etc.) from 10 or more non-Federal entities, including States, are subject to PRA requirements and may require the USDOT to coordinate an OMB Information Collection Clearance, a process that generally takes eight months. The Recipient will coordinate with the AOR on this process.

19. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If at any time during performance, the Recipient identifies an actual or potential personal or organizational conflict of interest relating to performance of this Agreement, the Recipient must immediately notify the AO in writing. Actual or potential conflicts of interest may include but are not limited to any past, present or planned contractual, financial, or other relationships, obligations, commitments or responsibilities, which may bias the Recipient or affect the Recipient's ability to perform the agreement in an impartial and objective manner.

The AO will review the statement and may require additional relevant information from the Recipient. All such information, and any other relevant information known to DOT, will be used to determine whether agreement performance by the Recipient creates an actual or potential conflict of interest. If any such conflict of interest is found to exist, the AO may (a) terminate the Agreement pursuant to the termination term of the Agreement, or (b) determine that it is otherwise in the best interest of the United States to continue the agreement and include appropriate provisions to mitigate or avoid such conflict in the Agreement pursuant to 2 CFR 200.112.