

PHMSA HAZMAT Grants FAQ

1. Are food or refreshments an allowable cost for the PHMSA HAZMAT grants program?

Food or refreshments are generally unallowable under PHMSA's Hazmat Grants Program. PHMSA encourages applicants to plan sufficient meal breaks and use per diem rates for conference attendees to purchase their own food. However, beverages such as water are needed for training in rural locations or during outdoor training, where hydration is essential to ensure exercises are conducted safely. If an applicant has a unique circumstance that may require food, the request to cover food costs should be included in the application and explained.

2 CFR 200.432 allows the **non-federal entity** to pay for food, not the federal agency. Allowable conference costs paid by the non-Federal entity as a sponsor or host of the conference may include facility rental, speakers' fees, and meal and refreshment costs. 2 CFR 200.432 authorizes the agency to allow food at conferences if deemed reasonable and necessary. In general, PHMSA encourages applicants to plan sufficient meal breaks and use per diem rates for conference attendees to purchase their own food.