

# Financial Assistance DOT Dash 2011-02

Date: January 4, 2011  
To: Financial Assistance Agency Points of Contact  
From: Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight Division  
Subject: OST Review of Pending Assistance Awards

Over the past several months, there have been a number of questions regarding the submission of pending assistance awards (grants, cooperative agreements, loans and all other types of financial assistance) to OST for review/approval. Currently, the DOT Financial Assistance Guidance Manual (FAGM) includes a requirement that all assistance awards with a total value (including all options) that exceed \$1M must be submitted to OST for review and approval. This is coordinated, within DOT, by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs.

However, in the present environment with the high level of visibility associated with The **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)** reporting requirements, and in order to ensure the general public is well informed; any pending **discretionary assistance awards** (grants, cooperative agreements, loans, etc) are subject to review by OST prior to making the final award. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs has been working through AO Administrators to identify what specific grants fall into this category.

If you have any questions regarding the submission of discretionary assistance awards to OST for review and approval, such questions should be directed to Heideh Shahmoradi, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, on (202) 366-4910.



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