

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PURPOSE

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) is soliciting proposals for services to research and evaluate the effectiveness of programs offered by the Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS) in the areas of simulation, computer-based instruction, and behind-the-wheel training. The work proposed will evaluate the effectiveness of the instruction in terms of information and skills learned and measure the impact of the training in terms of improvement of the on-road safety of the drivers trained.

The evaluation will provide a direct benefit to Michigan by providing needed and previously unavailable information on effective training techniques to enhance commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety. It will evaluate the existing driver training program, identifying what works well in the program, and propose any needed changes to enhance the training.

The purpose of CMV training is ultimately to improve CMV driver safety behavior and to reduce the number and severity of crashes on the nation's highways. The MCTS needs to know if current CMV training is working, what aspects or techniques are working well, and what methods can be improved.

Securing the services of an outside consultant will ensure that a comprehensive evaluation is developed, conducted, and researched independently.

This proposal is only available to universities and non-profit research agencies.

BACKGROUND

In Michigan in 2011, there were 10,551 commercial motor vehicle-involved traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities reported. CMV-involved crashes and injuries make up a fairly small percentage of overall crashes and injuries, 3.7 percent and 3.6 percent respectively.

CMV-involved truck fatalities, however, represent 8.2 percent of fatalities in Michigan. Since 1998, even though the total number of commercial motor vehicle crashes, injuries, and fatalities has declined, its percentage of all crashes has remained fairly constant. Many CMV drivers who experience an event on the roadway use the services offered by the MTSC.

The MCTS is responsible for the day-to-day operation of educational programs sponsored by the Michigan Truck Safety Commission (MTSC). The center is operated through a grant to the Michigan Trucking Association Educational Center, Inc. (MTA) and is housed at the MTA headquarters in Lansing. The grant is based on fees paid to the State of Michigan from the trucking industry.

The MCTS is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing highway safety through safer commercial vehicle travel. The MCTS does this by providing Michigan's trucking industry with a variety of free educational safety programs and services. The MCTS also provides the general motoring public information on how to share the road safely with commercial vehicles. It is believed to be a "one of a kind" commercial vehicle education center in the United States. The MCTS is part of the Michigan Truck Strategic Plan and also contributes to the MTSC Annual Report.

REQUIRED SCOPE OF WORK

Task #1: The grantee shall choose to research and evaluate one or more of the three components at the MCTS:

- ✓ Education Programs
- ✓ Skid Pad
- ✓ Simulator (If simulator is selected, the grantee must select at least one other component to research and evaluate)

Preference will be given to grantees that select to research and evaluate more than one component, but it will not be the only determining factor. The grantee will include the component(s) for selection on the grant application.

Task #2: The grantee will provide a thorough description of the methodology, timeline, evaluation process, and data collection details in the grant proposal.

Task #3: The grantee will conduct a kick-off meeting at the MCTS in Lansing at the November 7, 2012, MTSC meeting in order to launch the project with invited stakeholders. The grantee shall present the project objectives, work plan, timeline, and solicit comments and answer questions from the stakeholders regarding the project.

Task #4: The grantee will give updates on all project details, issues, and progress to the MTSC at all scheduled meetings held in Lansing. A schedule will be provided by OHSP.

Task #5: The grantee will review and evaluate any published literature including MTSC Annual Reports, the MCTS Web site, educational materials, and any brochures or literature provided to the public. The grantee will also determine if any other such education centers are presently training CMV drivers in other states and what, if any, programs those centers are using to improve education and safety of drivers. This task is due no later than March 2, 2013.

Task #6: The grantee will review crash and citation histories of drivers who have participated in the MCTS training and a matched control group of drivers in order to obtain a good sample for analysis. Class evaluation summaries will also be evaluated along with interviews with trucking who have utilized the MCTS for training. This task is due no later than July 27, 2013.

Task #7: The grantee will develop recommendations for driving training enhancement based on the evaluation. This task is due no later than July 27, 2013.

Task #8: The grantee will provide a draft evaluation to the MTSC Research and Evaluation Committee for review and comment no later than August 3, 2013. OHSP will provide comments no later than August 17, 2013.

Task #9: The grantee will provide a final copy of the evaluation to MTSC Research and Evaluation Committee by August 31, 2013.

Task #10: The grantee will present the final results and summary of the project to the MTSC during September 2013 meeting in Lansing.

ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

The organization awarded the grant must agree to abide by the OHSP "Grant Certifications and Assurances," as posted on the OHSP Web site. Following the selection of a successful proposal, the grantee must complete the formal grant application and review process through OHSP's Web-based grant application to finalize grant details. All OHSP grants are administered on a reimbursement basis. All grant-related costs incurred are first paid by the grantee, the grantee bills OHSP, and then OHSP reimburses the grantee. Quarterly progress and financial reports are required, even for quarters with no activity.

Funding for this project is contingent upon the approval and the availability of funding from the MTSC. OHSP appreciates the difficulty of adjusting plans and appreciates grantees' flexibility in adapting projects to evolving conditions. The grantee will receive immediate notice of proposed changes and has the right to refuse project expansions beyond their capabilities, in which case supplemental assistance may be sought.

It is the policy of OHSP that the maximum indirect cost rate for universities than can be charged to any grant is 20 percent.

Proposals must include a minimum of two (2) examples demonstrating similar projects completed by the consultant.

DUE DATE

All proposals for this project must be received at OHSP by August 17, 2012. Proposals must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word. Electronic proposals MUST be e-mailed to both Farnumk@michigan.gov and KilvingtonC@michigan.gov.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS

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