DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Surface Transportation Board


Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Approval of rail cost adjustment factor.

SUMMARY: The Board approves the third quarter 2015 Rail Cost Adjustment Factor (RCAF) and cost index filed by the Association of American Railroads. The third quarter 2015 RCAF (Unadjusted) is 0.829. The third quarter 2015 RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.354. The third quarter 2015 RCAF–5 is 0.334.

DATES: Effective Date: July 1, 2015.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Board convenes in the Third Quarter 2015 RCAF–5 hearing. Opening and closing dates are extended to May 7 and May 28, 2015, respectively.

As set forth in the Preamble to this rulemaking, to better align the estimates of the RCAF–5 with industry practices, the Board has changed its approach to deriving the RCAF–5. This change eliminates the compilation of a list of railroads in the condition of service region and provides for the Board to consult a representative sample of railroads in the condition of service region for the RCAF–5. The Board notes that this approach does not include all railroads. TheBoard accepts comments on this matter.

All comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 28, 2015, to be considered in the development of the third quarter 2015 RCAF–5.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 1133.6(e), the Board finds that the proposed RCAF–5 of 0.334, which includes the additional cost index of 0.006, is appropriate to reflect the current condition of service region.

This NOFA contains information concerning the program, application process, and amount of funding available.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applications must be received by the GPD Program Office by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 28, 2015 (see application requirements below).

Applications may not be sent by facsimile. In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, this deadline is firm as to date and time, and VA will treat any application that is received after the deadline as ineligible for consideration. Applicants should make early submission of their materials to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility as a result of unanticipated delays or other delivery-related problems.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

For consideration and approval, application materials must be received by the GPD Program Office on or before the date shown below:

Women

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Applicants are encouraged to submit the application to the GPD Program prior to the deadline if possible.

APPLICATION CONTENT:

Applicants must submit the following material on agency letterhead, for assistance under the VA’s Homeless Providers GPD Program:

(1) Application letter and all required documentation to support grant application.

(2) Background information on the organization and scope of the project.

(3) Plan of operations for the identification and services delivery to the targeted population.

(4) Resources mobilization plan that describes the intended use of funds.

(5) Service delivery plan for the delivery of services.

(6) Description of the Grant Program and associated documentation, including the mission, goals, and objectives.

APPLICATION EVALUATION:

Applications will be evaluated by the VA Homeless Providers GPD Program, Department of Veterans Affairs, for funding eligibility, as well as programmatic and technical merit. The evaluation criteria are:

(1) Effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed program.

(2) The extent to which the program is consistent with VA policy, including the mission of the agency.

(3) The extent to which the program is consistent with other available resources.

(4) The extent to which the program meets the needs of the population served.

(5) The extent to which the program improves the quality of life for the target population.

APPLICATION ADMINISTRATION:

Applicants must maintain the agreed-upon level of funding and must maintain satisfactory performance. Recipients and their collaborative VA partners (as applicable) will be responsible for ensuring that the funds are used for the provision of service and to facilitate the following for each targeted group:

Women

(1) Ensure transportation for women, especially for health care and educational needs; and

(2) Address safety and security issues including segregation from other program participants if deemed appropriate.

Frail Elderly

(1) Ensure the safety of the residents in the facility, including preventing harm and exploitation;

(2) Ensure opportunities to keep residents mentally and physically agile to the fullest extent through the incorporation of structured activities, physical activity, and plans for social engagement within the program and in the community;

(3) Provide opportunities for participants to address life transitional issues and separation and/or loss issues;

(4) Provide access to assistance devices such as walkers, grippers, or other devices necessary for optimal functioning;

(5) Ensure adequate supervision, including supervision of medication and monitoring of medication compliance; and

(6) Provide opportunities for participants either directly or through

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This NOFA announces the availability of FY 2015 funds to renew assistance provided under VA’s Homeless Providers GPD Program for the 21 FY 2014 operational GPD Special Need recipients and their collaborative VA partners (as applicable). Eligible applicants may obtain grant assistance to cover additional operational costs that would not otherwise be incurred but for the fact that the recipient is providing supportive housing beds and services for the following special needs homeles Veteran populations:

(1) Women;

(2) Frail elderly;

(3) Terminally ill;

(4) Chronically mentally ill; or

(5) Individuals who have care of minor dependents.

Definitions of these populations are contained in 38 CFR 61.1 Definitions. Eligible applicants should review these definitions to ensure their proposed populations meet the specific requirements.

VA is pleased to issue this NOFA for the Homeless Providers GPD Program as a part of the effort to end homelessness among our Nation’s Veterans. Funding applied for under this NOFA may be used for the provision of service and operational costs to facilitate the following for each targeted group:

Women

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(2) Address safety and security issues including segregation from other program participants if deemed appropriate.

Frail Elderly

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