

Administrations' Office of Innovative Program Delivery will support the STIPDG by working closely with FHWA's Office of Human Resources, specifically the Corporate Recruitment and Career Entry Group, which has responsibility for administering the program, to include participation and placement of college students, DOT-wide, and for all occupational disciplines, to include summer intern placement DOT-wide and nationwide. The STIPDG anticipates accepting approximately 500 applications each year and placing an estimated 60–120 undergraduate, graduate, and law students in transportation-related, non-administrative, technical, hands-on assignments with a Federal or State mentor providing on-the-job training. The STIPDG will provide college students with an opportunity to work on current transportation-related topics and issues identified in, or directly pertaining to, the current DOT Strategic Plan. The STIPDG is open to all qualified applicants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factor.

The STIPDG is open to all applicants based on the eligibility requirements that follow and based on the merit of the "Required Documents" listed in bulleted-format below:

1. Applicants must be currently enrolled in degree-granting programs of study at accredited U.S. institutions of higher education recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

2. Undergraduate applicants must be *juniors or seniors for the fall following the summer internship*. Undergraduate applicants from Junior, Tribal, or Community Colleges must have *completed their first year*.

3. Law Applicants must be *entering their second or third year of law school in the fall following the summer internship*.

4. Applicants who are scheduled to graduate during the coming spring or summer semesters are not eligible for consideration for the STIPDG *unless*: (1) They have been accepted for graduate school enrollment; (2) they have been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education; or (3) their acceptance is pending. *In all instances, the applicant must submit with their completed application packages, documentation (with the school's logo) reflecting their status.* (There will be no exceptions.)

5. Former STIPDG interns may apply but will not receive preferential consideration.

6. Applicants will be evaluated based on the "completeness of the application and the Required Documents" listed below. Priority will be given to those with GPA's of 3.0 or better (for the Major and/or cumulatively).

7. Applicants must be available and able to participate in the entire 10-week program.

*Respondents*: Approximately 500 applicants consisting of undergraduate, graduate and law students. All applicants must be U.S. Citizens.

*Frequency*: Annually.

*Estimated Average Burden per Response*: Approximately two hours to complete and submit the application.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours*: Approximately 1000 hours annually.

*Public Comments Invited*: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burdens; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

**Authority**: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: December 11, 2017.

**Michael Howell**,

*Information Collection Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Loan Guaranty: Assistance to Eligible Individuals in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing; Cost-of-Construction Index

**AGENCY**: Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION**: Notice.

**SUMMARY**: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces that the aggregate amounts of assistance available under the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant program will increase by 4.88 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Trewayne, Assistant Director, Loan Guaranty (26), Veterans Benefits

Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 632-8795. (This is not a toll-free number.)

**DATES**: *Effective Date*: This notice is applicable December 18, 2017.

*Applicability Date*: The provisions of this notice shall apply on October 1, 2017.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**: In accordance with 38 U.S.C. 2102(e) and 38 U.S.C. 2102A(b)(2) and 38 CFR 36.4411, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announces for FY 2018 the aggregate amounts of assistance available to veterans and servicemembers eligible for SAH program grants.

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 authorized the Secretary to increase the aggregate amounts of SAH assistance annually based on a residential home cost-of-construction index. Public Law 110-289, § 2605, 122 Stat. 2654, 2861. Per 38 CFR 36.4411(a), the Secretary uses the Turner Building Cost Index for this purpose.

In the most recent quarter for which the Turner Building Cost Index is available, 2nd Quarter 2017, the index showed an increase of 4.88 percent over the index value listed by 2nd Quarter 2016. Pursuant to 38 CFR 36.4411(a), therefore, the aggregate amounts of assistance for SAH grants made pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2101(a) and 2101(b) will increase by 4.88 percent for FY 2018.

The Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, requires that the same percentage of increase apply to grants authorized pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2102A. Public Law 112-154, § 205, 126 Stat. 1165, 1178. As such, the maximum amount of assistance available under these grants, which are called grants for Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA grants), will also increase by 4.88 percent for FY 2018.

The increases are effective as of October 1, 2017. See 38 U.S.C. 2102(e) and 2102A(b)(2).

### Specially Adapted Housing: Aggregate Amounts of Assistance Available During Fiscal Year 2018

#### 2101(a) Grants and TRA Grants

Effective October 1, 2017, the aggregate amount of assistance available for SAH grants made pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2101(a) will be \$81,080 during FY 2018. The maximum TRA grant made to an individual who satisfies the eligibility criteria under 38 U.S.C. 2101(a) and 2102A will be \$35,593 during FY 2018.

*2101(b) Grants and TRA Grants*

Effective as of October 1, 2017, the aggregate amount of assistance available for SAH grants made pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2101(b) will be \$16,217 during FY 2018. The maximum TRA grant made to an individual who satisfies the eligibility criteria under 38 U.S.C. 2101(b) and 2102A will be \$6,355 during FY 2018.

*Signing Authority*

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Gina S. Farrissee, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs,

approved this document on December 6, 2017, for publication.

Dated: December 6, 2017.

**Jeffrey Martin,**

*Impact Analyst, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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