



Homeland Security

State Of Arkansas
Department of Finance and Administration
Assistant Commissioner Operations & Administration
1900 West Seventh Street, 2047 Ragland Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Dear Mr. Munns:

Thank you for the December 12, 2008 letter in reference to your State's Fiscal Year 2008 REAL ID Demonstration Grant award. In your letter you express concern that the grant Special Conditions would require the state to commit to meet 15 benchmarks by December 31, 2009.

Perhaps I can add a note of clarity. A state does not have to commit to meet or complete the REAL ID benchmarks as a condition of accepting the REAL ID Demonstration Grant funding. There is no intention of an explicit or implied commitment for the State of Arkansas to commit to or meet the 15 benchmarks by December 31, 2009 as a condition of accepting the grant funds. The primary purpose of the grant funds is to assist states to improve the security and integrity of their driver's license and identification cards, processes and facilities.

The State of Arkansas may use their grant award funding to develop a more secure driver's license system consistent with REAL ID requirements. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) intention for the FY08 REAL ID Demonstration Grant award is for the States to use these funds to further enhance the security and integrity of their drivers licensing and identification card processes. On October 6, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) to provide States greater flexibility to use their grant funds to improve states driver's licenses processes consistent with REAL ID requirements without requiring the State to meet requirements by a specific date.

On a separate issue, per the REAL ID rule, States are required to become Materially Compliant by December 31, 2009 to receive a second extension until May 10, 2011. Accepting subject grant funds will not commit the state to comply with the REAL ID rule. However, the DHS does encourage all States to use their grants or other funds to become materially compliant by December 31, 2009 and fully compliant by May 10, 2011.

Hopefully the above information provides additional clarity. I would like to thank you and the State of Arkansas for your continued commitment to improve your states driver's license and identification cards and processes. I look forward to working with you to improve our nation's security.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Williams".

Darrell Williams
Director, REAL ID Program Office
Office of Screening and Coordination
Office of Policy



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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December 12, 2008

Mr. W. Ross Ashley III
Assistant Administrator (GPD) FEMA

Mr. Darrell Williams
REAL ID Program Office Director

Mr. Frank Lepage
REAL ID Grant Program Manager

To Whom It May Concern:

After a thorough review of the Grant Award and Special Condition documents as well as the October 6th email from Mr. Ashley amending special conditions #10 and #15, I am unable to accept the grant award in the amount of \$891,887.

When the grants were first announced, the states were told they would not be required to commit to REAL ID, only use the funds to work toward a more secure driver's license by attempting to meet some of the benchmarks. The Special Conditions as now proposed would require the state to commit to meet 15 benchmarks by December 31, 2009. The amount of grant offered will not cover the cost to meet these 15 benchmarks. Because of this unfunded mandate, I am unable to accept this grant offer at this time.

If this is incorrect and you provide an amendment in writing that Arkansas may use the grant to work toward a more secure driver's license system and need not commit to meet all the 15 benchmarks, then we will sign the grant award and the amended special conditions.

If you have any questions please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Munns".

Michael D. Munns
Assistant Commissioner Operations & Administration