



TAPPA AMERICAS
Transported Asset Protection Association

RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

WWW.TAPAONLINE.ORG

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Grant Program

The purpose of the Research Grant Program is to support sponsored research that advances cargo crime prevention, supply chain security, loss mitigation, and risk intelligence.

Mission Alignment

TAPA's mission is to minimize cargo losses from the supply chain. TAPA achieves this through the development and application of global security standards, recognized industry practices, technology, education, benchmarking, regulatory collaboration, and the proactive identification of crime trends and supply chain security threats.

Through this program, TAPA Americas will sponsor applied research that produces data-driven insights, tools, and frameworks that support members, partners, and the broader supply chain security community.

PROGRAM GOVERNANCE

Oversight Committee Members:

TAPA Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. This board-level committee will be responsible for program governance, including policy updates, application reviews, conflict oversight, and final decision-making.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Oversight Committee will receive research grant applications and recommendations from designated subject-matter reviewers. The committee will meet as needed to review applications, supporting materials, and available financial resources.

Conflict of Interest and Recusal

Committee members and reviewers must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from review or decision-making where such conflicts exist.



SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Funding Strategies

Methods for soliciting contributions from members, sponsors, and external supporters aligned with supply chain security research.

The Board and Executive Director may develop marketing and outreach plans to support funding of the Research Grant Program, including website content and direct communications.

Donor Recognition

Policy on acknowledging and recognizing contributors, including privacy and publicity considerations.

- Donors may be acknowledged through written and public recognition, subject to donor preferences.
- All contributions will be used solely for the purposes of the Research Grant Program. No special treatment, influence, or quid pro quo will be permitted.

Funds Management

Procedures for the management and tracking of contributions to ensure they are used in accordance with the program's goals.

- All sponsored research awards issued under the TAPA Research Grant Program are subject to the TAPA Policy on Facilities & Administrative (F&A) / Indirect Costs for Sponsored Research, as approved by the TAPA Board of Directors and in effect at the time of award. This policy establishes a universal and non-negotiable cap on indirect costs and governs budget preparation, allowability, invoicing, and remedies for non-compliance.
- Contributions will be accepted by company check, credit card, ACH, or wire transfer.
- Donations are not tax-deductible, as the Transported Asset Protection Association is a 501(c)(6).
- Funds received and expenses paid will be included in the TAPA profit-and-loss statement chart of accounts.
- A separate checking account will be established for the sole purpose of the Research Grant Program.



GRANT APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

Budget and Indirect Cost Requirements

- All proposed budgets must comply with the TAPA Policy on Facilities & Administrative (F&A) / Indirect Costs for Sponsored Research, including the Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) calculation methodology.
- Applications that do not conform to this policy may be revised as a condition of award or deemed non-responsive.

Eligibility Criteria

- Accredited post-secondary educational institutions and formally recognized research institutions are authorized to conduct and administer sponsored research programs.
- **Institutional Preference:** Preference may be given to eligible institutions with a demonstrated focus or substantial academic footprint in supply chain, logistics, transportation, or related security studies.
- **Subcontractors and Collaborators:** Applicants that propose to engage personnel from other institutions, third-party consultants, or subcontractors must identify all such arrangements in the application. TAPA Americas' prior written approval is required for any subcontracting or collaboration with third parties, and the sponsored research agreement shall require that all intellectual property, confidentiality, and compliance obligations flow down to such parties through written agreements, copies of which shall be provided to TAPA Americas upon request.

Principal Investigator Requirements

Each application must identify a Principal Investigator with relevant subject-matter expertise who is affiliated with and sponsored by the submitting institution. The sponsored research agreement shall include provisions addressing the continued participation of the Principal Investigator and other key personnel identified in the application, including TAPA Americas' right to approve any changes in such personnel.

Application Requirements

Research proposals must include a description of the research objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, timeline, budget, and alignment with the TAPA mission.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on research merit, feasibility, relevance to cargo crime and supply chain security, and responsible use of funds.



Application Review Process

Step 1: The applicant will submit the Research Grant Application to the Executive Director of TAPA.

Step 2: Submissions will undergo an initial eligibility and completeness review.

Step 3: Eligible applications will be reviewed by designated peer or subject-matter reviewers.

Step 4: Applications and recommendations will be submitted to the Grant Oversight Committee for approval or denial.

Step 5: The Executive Director will notify applicants of the final determination.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Disbursement Schedule

Grant funds will be disbursed in accordance with approved milestones and deliverables. Each sponsored research agreement shall include a written schedule of milestones, deliverables, and corresponding payment amounts. Disbursement of funds for each milestone shall be contingent upon TAPA Americas' written acceptance of the associated deliverables. TAPA Americas may retain a portion of the total award amount, as specified in the sponsored research agreement, until all final deliverables have been submitted and accepted.

Use of Funds

Grant funds may be used for research labor, data acquisition, field studies, analysis, and approved publication or dissemination costs.

Sponsored Research and Intellectual Property

All research conducted under this program shall be treated as sponsored research. All intellectual property, data, analyses, and deliverables developed under the grant shall be owned exclusively by TAPA Americas. Any deviation from this policy for a specific award requires prior written approval of the TAPA Board of Directors.



Data Ownership and Confidentiality

For purposes of this policy, data associated with a sponsored research award falls into two categories. The first category is member-contributed data, which includes all information, incident reports, cost figures, survey responses, interview content, and operational data provided by TAPA members or obtained through TAPA's databases, networks, or relationships.

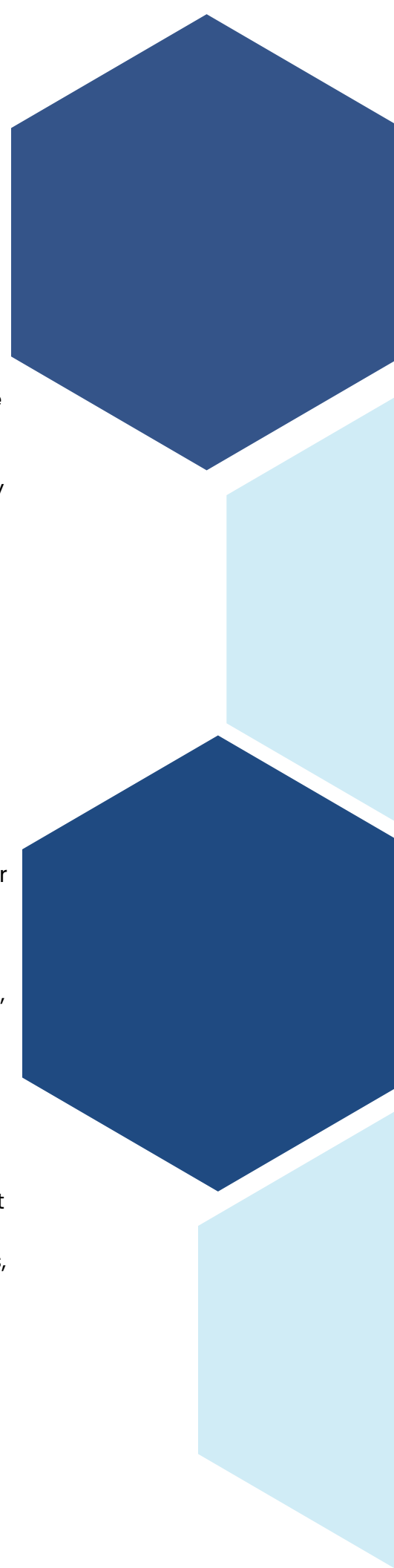
Member-contributed data shall be owned exclusively by TAPA Americas, and no exception to this requirement shall be granted. The second category is research-generated data, which includes analytical outputs, coded datasets, statistical models, model parameters, derivative datasets, and other data products created by the grant recipient in the course of performing the research.

Research-generated data shall be owned by TAPA Americas. Where an institution is unable to assign ownership of research-generated data due to institutional policy, the TAPA Board of Directors may approve, on a case-by-case basis, an alternative arrangement under which the institution retains ownership of research-generated data and grants TAPA Americas an exclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free license, with the right to sublicense and to create and own derivative works, to use such data for any purpose. No such alternative arrangement shall apply to member-contributed data.

Grant recipients shall maintain the confidentiality of all TAPA member data and proprietary information and shall implement commercially reasonable technical and organizational data security measures appropriate to the sensitivity of the data. Each sponsored research agreement shall address data ownership for both categories of data, confidentiality obligations, permitted uses, security standards, and data return or destruction upon completion or termination of the award.

Publication and Dissemination

Grant recipients may not publish, present, or publicly disclose research findings, data, or methodologies developed under the grant without the prior written approval of TAPA Americas. Each sponsored research agreement shall specify pre-publication review procedures, including the timeframe for TAPA Americas' review, and the conditions under which TAPA Americas may require modifications to or withholding of proposed publications to protect confidential information or intellectual property rights.



Required Sponsored Research Agreement Provision:

Each sponsored research agreement entered into under this program shall address, at a minimum, the following subjects: (a) assignment of intellectual property rights to TAPA Americas, including copyright, and the scope of any license-back to the institution for academic purposes; (b) identification of key personnel and conditions for TAPA Americas' approval of personnel changes; (c) data ownership, confidentiality, security standards, and data return or destruction obligations; (d) milestone-based disbursement schedule with acceptance criteria; (e) pre-publication review and approval procedures; (f) representations and warranties regarding authority, non-infringement, and personnel agreements; (g) approval requirements and flow-down obligations for subcontractors, consultants, and collaborators at other institutions; (h) termination provisions, including termination for convenience and ownership of work product upon termination; (i) indemnification, insurance, and liability allocation; and (j) reporting and progress update requirements. The specific terms for each subject shall be negotiated and documented in the applicable sponsored research agreement.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Performance Monitoring

Grant recipients must provide periodic progress updates as specified in the sponsored research agreement.

Evaluation of Outcomes

TAPA Americas will evaluate funded research based on the completion of milestones, the quality of outputs, and their relevance to program objectives.

Reporting

Grant recipients must submit a final report summarizing research outcomes, findings, and lessons learned.

AUDITING & COMPLIANCE

Auditing Processes

Grant activities are subject to annual financial review, including contributions and disbursements.

Compliance Checks

All research activities must comply with applicable laws, regulations, and TAPA Americas policies.

Suspension, Termination, and Recovery of Funds

- TAPA Americas reserves the right to suspend or terminate a sponsored research award for material non-compliance, misuse of funds, failure to meet milestones, or material misrepresentation.
- Upon termination, TAPA Americas may require cessation of research activities and return of unexpended or improperly used funds. TAPA Americas shall retain ownership of all work product, data, and deliverables produced before termination. TAPA Americas reserves the right to terminate a sponsored research award for convenience upon written notice to the institution, subject to payment for work satisfactorily completed before the effective date of termination as determined by TAPA Americas. The obligations of the parties relating to intellectual property, data ownership, confidentiality, indemnification, and insurance shall survive termination of the award.

Indemnification, Liability, and Insurance

- To the extent permitted by applicable law, the sponsored research institution shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless TAPA Americas, its officers, directors, employees, and agents from and against any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of or relating to the conduct of the research or any breach of the sponsored research agreement. Where an institution is prohibited by law from providing contractual indemnification, the institution shall instead agree to cooperate fully with TAPA Americas in the defense of any such claims and to maintain insurance coverage sufficient to cover its potential liabilities under the award.
- Institutions must maintain commercially reasonable insurance coverage appropriate to the nature of the research.

Governing Law and Dispute Resolution

- This program and all sponsored research agreements shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.
- Any disputes arising out of or relating to the program shall be resolved in the state or federal courts located within Palm Beach County, Florida.
- Nothing herein prevents TAPA Americas from seeking injunctive or equitable relief to protect its intellectual property or confidential information.

AMENDMENTS & POLICY UPDATES

Review Cycle

Regular review cycle for policies and procedures to ensure they remain relevant and effective.

Amendment Process

Process for proposing, reviewing, and implementing amendments to the grant program policies and procedures.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The TAPA Policy on Facilities & Administrative (F&A) / Indirect Costs for Sponsored Research is incorporated by reference into all Research Grant solicitations, award notifications, and sponsored research agreements issued under this program. The full text of the F&A policy is available at <https://www.tapaonline.org/research-policies>.

In the event of a conflict between an application budget and this policy, the F&A policy shall govern.

CONTRIBUTION TERMS

Acceptance of these Terms

These Contribution Terms (the “Terms”) govern contributions made to the TAPA Americas Research Grant Program. The Terms are binding on the contributor and on TAPA Americas. By making a contribution to the Program, the contributor acknowledges receipt of these Terms and agrees to be bound by them. Contributors are encouraged to review the Terms and the Program Policy referenced below before contributing.

The Program

TAPA Americas operates the Research Grant Program (the “Program”) to support sponsored research that advances cargo crime prevention, supply chain security, loss mitigation, and risk intelligence, consistent with the mission of TAPA Americas. The Program is governed by the TAPA Americas Research Grant Program Policies and Procedures Guideline adopted by the TAPA Americas Board of Directors on April 7, 2026 (the “Program Policy”), as amended from time to time. Contributions to the Program support sponsored research activities, the administration of the Program, and related Program purposes.

Tax Status of TAPA Americas

TAPA Americas is a tax-exempt trade association under Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Program are not tax-deductible as charitable contributions. The contributor is responsible for its own determinations regarding the tax treatment of contributions and should consult its own tax advisor. TAPA Americas does not provide tax advice.

Use of Contributions

Contributions to the Program will be used exclusively for Program purposes. Program funds will not be used for lobbying activity or political activity, as those terms are defined under applicable federal tax law.

Segregation of Funds

Contributions to the Program will be held in a segregated account established for the sole purpose of the Program, separate from TAPA Americas’ general operating funds, consistent with the Program Policy. Program funds will be used only for Program expenditures. Interest and other investment income earned on segregated Program funds will remain in the Program account and will be applied to Program purposes.

Discretion in Program Administration

TAPA Americas retains full discretion over the administration of the Program, including the selection of research partners, the scope of research projects funded under the Program, the timing of Program expenditures, and the deployment of research outputs developed under the Program. Contributions are made in support of the Program generally, not in support of any specific research project, research partner, or research output. TAPA Americas may modify, expand, or restructure the Program from time to time, with the approval of its Board of Directors where required by the Program Policy.

No Special Treatment or Quid Pro Quo

Consistent with the Program Policy, no contribution shall entitle the contributor to special treatment, influence over Program decisions, preferential access to Program research outputs, or any other consideration not generally available to similarly situated members or contributors. Contributions are not consideration for goods or services. Donor recognition under Donor Recognition is acknowledgment of contributor support and is not a benefit provided in exchange for the contribution.

Donor Recognition

TAPA Americas may acknowledge contributors through written and public recognition, subject to the contributor's preferences. Contributors may indicate at the time of contribution whether they wish to be acknowledged, and if so, the form of acknowledgment preferred. Contributors may request anonymity, in which case TAPA Americas will not publicly identify the contributor.

Acknowledgment of Receipt

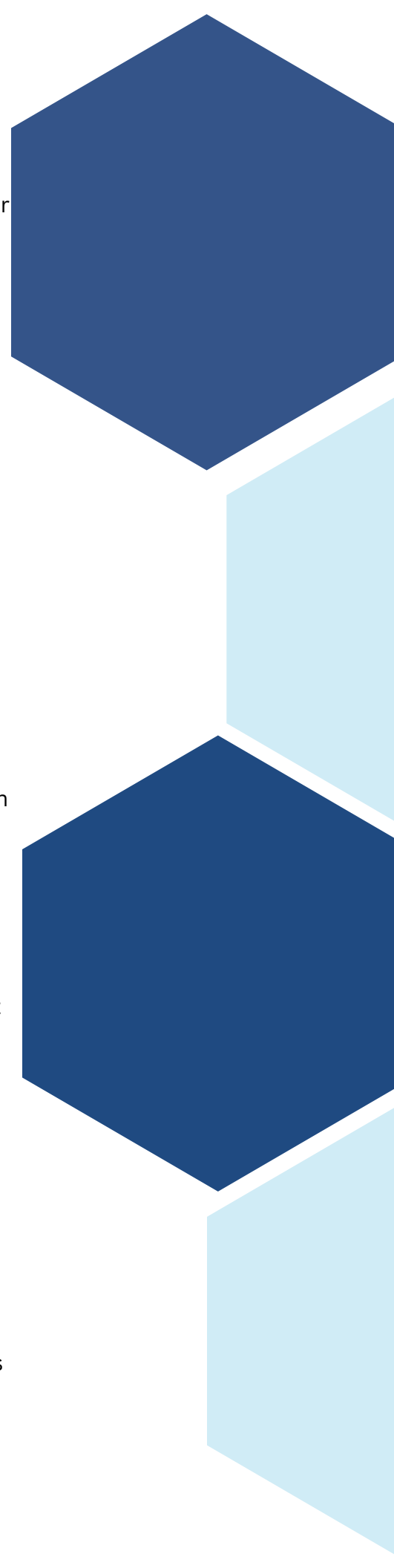
TAPA Americas will provide the contributor with a written acknowledgment of receipt for each contribution. The acknowledgment will identify the contribution amount, the date of receipt, the Program purpose, and the version of these Terms governing the contribution.

Payment Methods

Contributions may be made by company check, credit card, ACH, or wire transfer, consistent with the Program Policy. Instructions for each payment method are available from TAPA Americas upon request.

Application of Contributions; Excess Contributions

TAPA Americas will apply Program contributions to current and future Program research, Program administration, and related Program purposes, in such order and at such times as TAPA Americas determines in its discretion. Contributions in excess of the funding required for any particular research project may be applied to subsequent Program research or held for future Program use.



Discontinuation or Material Curtailment of the Program

In the event TAPA Americas elects to discontinue the Program or to materially curtail Program activities, TAPA Americas will, with the approval of its Board of Directors, apply unexpended Program funds to one or more of the following: (a) completion or wind-up of research already commenced; (b) other research or programmatic activities of TAPA Americas substantially consistent with the purposes of the Program; or (c) refund of a pro rata share of unexpended Program funds to contributors of record at the time of such election. Selection among these alternatives is in the Board's discretion. This Section sets out the contributor's exclusive rights with respect to Program funds in the event of Program discontinuation or material curtailment, and contributors have no other refund or restitution rights with respect to contributions made to the Program.

Larger Contributions

Contributions of \$100,000 or more will be confirmed by a written confirmation letter executed by both TAPA Americas and the contributor, referencing these Terms and confirming the contribution amount and Program purpose. The form of confirmation letter is available from TAPA Americas upon request. Confirmation does not modify these Terms, which apply to all contributions regardless of amount.

Contributor Representations

By making a contribution, the contributor represents to TAPA Americas that: (a) the contributor is duly authorized to make the contribution and to direct the funds being contributed to TAPA Americas; (b) the funds being contributed are not derived from, or used to facilitate, any illegal activity; (c) the contribution and the contributor's relationship with TAPA Americas do not violate any applicable law or regulation, including U.S. sanctions and anti-money-laundering laws; and (d) the contributor has received no representation, promise, or commitment from TAPA Americas concerning the contribution that is inconsistent with these Terms or the Program Policy.

Governing Terms; Amendment

These Terms, together with the Program Policy, govern all contributions to the Program. In the event of any inconsistency between these Terms and the Program Policy, the Program Policy shall control. TAPA Americas may amend these Terms from time to time. Each contribution is governed by the version of the Terms in effect at the time the contribution is received by TAPA Americas. The version date of these Terms is set forth in the heading above; subsequent versions will be similarly identified.

Entire Agreement

These Terms, together with the Program Policy and any executed confirmation letter for contributions of \$100,000 or more, constitute the entire agreement between TAPA Americas and the contributor with respect to the contribution and supersede any prior or contemporaneous representations, communications, or understandings, whether written or oral.

Governing Law; Venue; Waiver of Jury Trial

These Terms and all contributions to the Program shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, without regard to its conflict-of-laws principles. Any dispute arising out of or relating to these Terms or any contribution to the Program shall be resolved exclusively in the state or federal courts located in Palm Beach County, Florida, and the contributor and TAPA Americas each consent to the personal jurisdiction of such courts. EACH OF TAPA AMERICAS AND THE CONTRIBUTOR IRREVOCABLY WAIVES ANY RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THESE TERMS OR ANY CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRAM.

Contact

Inquiries regarding the Program or these Terms may be directed to the Executive Director of TAPA Americas at crosen@tapaonline.org or (561) 617-0096.

These Terms are effective as of the date stated in the heading and supersede any prior representations or communications regarding the Program inconsistent with the Terms set forth herein.