



American Short Line and  
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### SHORT LINE TRAINING CENTER SECURES FY 25-26 CRISI GRANT

*Grant will enable accessible and affordable training for short line workforce*

**WASHINGTON – October 20, 2026** – The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) has been awarded an FY25-26 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant to expand and enhance the workforce development training provided by the Short Line Training Center.

The project award of \$5.625 million will be supported by a 25% match from ASLRRA, for a total project value of \$7.5 million.

Originally funded by a FY20 CRISI Grant to the Iowa Northern Railway Company with ASLRRA as the primary contractor, training developed under the Short Line Training Center is available to all short line railroads and contractors. The project has already delivered essential industry-specific safety, compliance, and regulatory training to nearly 2,000 short line railroad employees through in-person instructor-led seminars and online computer-based courses. Under the previous grant, ASLRRA provided subject matter expertise, project management and staffing support to deliver: 1) a mobile technical training center equipped with two Type II locomotive simulators and classroom space for six students; 2) a customized online Learning Management System (LMS) platform; and 3) thirty FRA compliant instructor-led and computer-based training programs.

“The Short Line Training Center has met and exceeded all expectations, has become a trusted training resource for dozens of short line railroads, and is steadily growing. This new FY25-26 CRISI grant will provide for a continued pipeline and the delivery of subject matter expert-developed training that would otherwise be out of reach for most short line railroads,” said Chuck Baker, President, ASLRRA. “Training delivered via the online LMS platform allows employees who cannot be spared for a three or four day in-person seminar the opportunity to gain knowledge, acquire skills, and improve the safety, compliance and efficiency of their railroads. It’s a win for our workforce and a win for the industry by improving safety and compliance through affordable, accessible, and vetted training designed specifically for short line railroads.”

Over a six-year period, the FY25-26 grant will fund a minimum of 24 industry-specific instructor-led and computer-based training programs; support delivery of up to 48 in-person instructor-led training seminars; and enable acquisition and implementation of cutting-edge technology to enhance course delivery, improve the learner experience, and maximize content retention. As is the case with content developed under the previous grant, companies that already use a third-party LMS may license the Short Line Training Center’s computer-based training courses for use on their platform.

Letters of support for the project were submitted by key Congressional leaders, including Senator Todd Young (IN), Chair of the Senate Surface Transportation Subcommittee, Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL), Member of the Senate Surface Transportation Subcommittee, Representative Daniel Webster (FL), Chair of the House Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, and Representative Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia (IL) and Representative Dusty Johnson (SD), both members of the House Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee.

The project also received letters of support from twenty ASLRRA Member Short Lines, each of which had employees who participated in the Short Line Training Center offerings funded under the FY20 grant award.

For more information on the current offerings or to join the program, click [here](#).

**About ASLRRA** - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation's 603 short line and regional railroads and railroad supply company members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short lines operate 50,000 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately one third of the national railroad network, touching in origination or termination one out of every five cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network.