



**Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program
Programmatic and Peer Review Feedback for PSIC Grantees**



Washington (WA)

Summary

SCIP Status	PSIC Investment Justification	Federal Funds Requested	Status
Pass	Portfolio Summary	-	Approved
	1. Homeland Security Regions 1 and 2 Interoperability	\$7,378,500.00	Approved
	2. Spokane-Kootenai Regional Emergency Communications System	\$1,919,800.00	Approved
	3. Pierce County Interoperable Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Discipline Radio Network	\$2,313,115.00	Approved
	4. King County South Loop Microwave	\$1,935,995.00	Approved
	5. Puget Sound Next-Generation Voice/Data System—UASI	\$3,417,274.00	Approved
	6. Puget Sound Next-Generation Voice/Data System—Thurston County	\$1,620,253.00	Approved

A Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) has been prepared to release \$18,584,937.00 for approved PSIC Investments. Please note that compliance with environmental assessment requirements (or other associated laws) is required per the PSIC Grant Guidance and Application Kit. Additional follow up environmental assessment information is forthcoming.

Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Status

The Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications has approved the SCIP, which has been communicated to the State Administrative Agency and SCIP point of contact.

PSIC Feedback

Portfolio: The projects in this Investment Justification (IJ) support six regional infrastructure enhancements throughout the State. Both the programmatic and peer review panels concluded that the IJ collectively fills interoperability gaps identified in the SCIP and that the IJ was developed with input from a variety of local and regional organizations. The portfolio represents a best practice, with each Investment supportive of one another and logically arranged. The peer reviewers specifically noted that the State should consider better defining performance measures in some of the Investments to assist in evaluating future success. In addition, it was noted that there was only limited discussion on training and exercises within the IJ. It is suggested that the State consider these issues throughout the grant period of performance to ensure the success of the projects. Finally, to ensure compliance with match requirements, the State should closely monitor its in-kind match to make certain that it is properly documented and in line with all applicable regulations. In-kind salaries may be used to meet the matching



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requirement, but the salary and benefits must be funded with a non-federal source. The person must be working directly on the PSIC grant program. The time, salary, and benefits must be demonstrated and documented. This issue will be monitored throughout the grant period of performance to ensure that the State meets applicable requirements.

No Action Required

Investment 1: Homeland Security Regions 1 and 2 Interoperability

In preparation for the 2010 Olympics, this Investment would expand coverage of a point-to-point, software-based, radio-over Internet Protocol (RoIP) solution for a multiple subsystem architecture. The programmatic and peer reviewers agreed that this is a well-reasoned, well-documented Investment that will provide interoperability to numerous agencies. The reviewers also agreed that the project utilizes advanced technology (e.g., IP and digital Project 25 [P25] equipment), is spectrally efficient and cost effective, thereby addressing PSIC programmatic objectives. There was some concern regarding the sustainability of the project past the PSIC period of performance, and this should be monitored to ensure compliance with PSIC requirements. Overall, the program management requirements are sufficiently addressed with a named program and contract manager.

No Action Required

Investment 2: Spokane-Kootenai Regional Emergency Communications System

This project proposes creating a 700 megahertz (MHz), P25, digital trunked radio system that integrates existing radio systems utilizing various frequency bands. The programmatic and peer reviewers agreed that this project is a model Investment that proposes a clear solution for interoperability. They also agreed that the Investment has a realistic strategy with a sound funding plan. However, as written, the State appears to be engaged in a sole source purchasing process. Justification in writing is needed to support the sole source process, which must be in line with existing DHS policies. Finally, peer reviewers noted that the Investment would have benefited from more detail on outcomes measurement, which is a recommendation for consideration in the implementation of this project. These issues will be monitored throughout the implementation of the grant to ensure compliance with all PSIC requirements.

No Action Required

Investment 3: Pierce County Interoperable Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Discipline Radio Network

This Investment proposes unifying radio communications by connecting all radio systems within Pierce County using RoIP, unifying dispatch operations with common technology and formatting, linking public safety answering points and dispatch centers to a common regional network, and creating and implementing standard operating procedures. Reviewers supported this Investment, but noted that the project will need to be closely managed to ensure completion by the statutory deadline of September 30, 2010.



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This issue will be monitored throughout the grant period of performance to ensure that the State meets applicable requirements.

No Action Required

Investment 4: King County South Loop Microwave

Through this Investment, Washington proposes designing, engineering, acquiring, and installing a high-capacity digital microwave network capable of transporting voice and data intelligence. The reviewers each found this to be a logical approach to connect the lower Seattle region, thereby increasing interoperability. The reviewers agreed that the proposed solution is spectrally efficient and extremely cost effective based on the additional capacity that would be provided. Reviewers also believed that the funding plan and implementation steps are detailed and thorough, including identification of a program manager. Overall, the Investment meets the programmatic requirements.

No Action Required

Investment 5: Puget Sound Next-Generation Voice/Data System—Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

Through this Investment project, current technology will be replaced with an IP-based P25-compliant switch for voice and data traffic with consoles for dispatching and managing the network. Reviewers concluded that connecting Seattle with surrounding agencies through an IP-based P25 solution will improve public safety interoperability, meets the programmatic goals of advanced technology and spectrum efficiency, all within a geographic area designated as high threat. However, the peer reviewers specifically expressed some concerns that the mitigation strategies to address challenges, as laid out in the Investment, did not meet the complex nature of the project; this should be tracked throughout the grant period of performance to ensure the success of the project. The programmatic review noted concern with the applicability of the in-kind match. Specifically, vendor matches are ineligible. Going forward, the State's in-kind match will be closely monitored to ensure that it is properly documented and in line with all regulations.

No Action Required

Investment 6: Puget Sound Next-Generation Voice/Data System—Thurston County

This Investment proposes installing high-capacity digital microwave links at existing remote radio sites to connect the Thurston County Network with the Tri-County Network (Seattle area). Reviewers found this to be a logical solution to improve public safety interoperability. While the programmatic and peer reviewers collectively agreed that the project meets the programmatic requirements, they believed that further consideration should be given throughout the implementation of this project to outcomes measurements and the mitigation strategies necessary to overcome the identified challenges of this complex solution. These issues should be closely monitored to ensure the success of the project.

No Action Required