

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
And
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007
Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program**

Amount: \$19,180,347

Match Requirement: 20% match, in kind or cash match (excluding training expenditures)

Performance Period: October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2010 (pre-planning State expenses from April 1, 2007 forward may be eligible for reimbursement).

Overview: The FY 2007 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program provides funding to 50 states and six Territories as a one-time formula based, matching grant program to assist public safety agencies in the acquisition of, deployment of, or training for the use of interoperable communications systems that utilize, or enable interoperability with, communication systems that can utilize 700 MHz frequency band. All proposed solutions must be designed to “interoperate” with the 700 MHz band when the reallocated public safety spectrum becomes available in 2009.

Coordination: The Military Department/Adjutant General serves as the State Administering Agency for this grant. The Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP) will coordinate to prepare the statewide application for this funding. The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) will lead the required statewide plan development activities that will support the grant application.

Requirements:

- ✓ *Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP):* All states must develop, adopt and submit a SCIP by November 1, 2007. The SIEC is leading the plan development efforts, with coordination from WSP, EMD, local jurisdictions, tribes and non-governmental organizations (NGO).
- ✓ *Project Development:* Each state is able to submit up to 10 Investment Justifications (IJ) for the PSIC grant. Each IJ must achieve meaningful and measurable improvements in the state of interoperability for public safety communications; fill interoperability gaps identified in the SCIP;
- ✓ *Pass-through Requirements:* Each state must pass through at least 80% of the PSIC funding to local, tribal or authorized non-governmental public safety agencies. Within 60 days of approval of Investment Justifications, 80% of the pass-through funding must be obligated to local recipients. States may retain some or all of the pass-through on behalf of the pass-through local entities. This must be recorded in a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local unit(s) of government and/or tribal government entities, as applicable. MOU must be submitted with IJs if part or all of the 80% pass-through is retained by the State.

General FFY07 PSIC Grant Information:

- 3% management/administration available as part of 20% to be retained by the State.
- 5% of the grant may be released in advance for development of SCIP.
- ALLOWABLE COSTS:
 - Planning: Developing/enhancing communications plans/protocols; developing/conducting needs assessments related to public safety communications interoperability; analysis of technology options to fill interoperability gaps; meeting related expenses; travel costs.
 - Acquisition: Actual acquisition of interoperable communications equipment and methods; procurement; system design activities; asset inventory; technology alternative/feasibility

- analyses; system designs; acquisition strategy/planning; investment/budget justifications; interoperability plans for use with 700 MHz.
- Deployment: Build out costs of interoperable communications equipment; development of standard operating procedures; communications system infrastructure build-out costs; distribution of portable/mobile equipment; deployment/SOP procedures; system acceptance testing; certification and accreditation; equipment inventory; service level agreements (operations/maintenance).
- Operations/Maintenance: Satellite fees; hosting costs; cellular services; provider services; commercial applications; project manager personnel costs.
- Construction/Renovation: Interoperable communications infrastructure construction based projects (erecting communication towers, enhancing equipment shelter, retrofitting dispatch shelter, etc).
- Training/Exercise: User training on 700 MHz band systems or interoperable systems with 700 MHz; multi-jurisdictional interoperable communication exercises and drills related to 700 MHz interoperability; user guides/instruction manuals on 700 MHz interoperability; trainer costs and backfill/overtime costs associated with training.
- DISALLOWED COSTS: Supplanting; office expenses such as phones, vehicles, office rental, furniture, office supplies and indirect charges. Also, individual agency or individual jurisdictional projects will not be allowed – all projects must be multi-jurisdictional/multi-agency in nature.
- Grant focuses on all-hazards mitigation as well as terrorism threats.

Timeline (dates are approximate):

July 18, 2007:	Guidance released, allocations announced
August 22, 2007:	Generic application due (EMD/WSP) * State Form 424 * Brief Narrative * Budget if up to 5% is requested for pre-award activities * Certification that 20% match can be achieved for full award
September 30, 2007:	Mid-term review of draft SCIP Awards processed (5% released)
October 1, 2007:	Performance period begins
November 1, 2007:	Investment Justifications due Final SCIP due
December 1, 2007:	Peer review/evaluation of Investment Justifications and SCIP
March 15, 2008:	States receive approval/denial of Investment Justifications/SCIP 60 day obligation period begins
May 15, 2008:	60 day obligation period ends – local funds must be obligated
September 30, 2010:	Grant ends – No extensions will be granted

** Additional detail will be provided by the Washington State Patrol as it becomes available. Please contact Arel Solie (arel.solie@wsp.wa.gov) for additional information.*