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Interoperability Grant Overview

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The Public Safety Interoperability Communications (PSIC) Grant Program is a one-time, formula-based, matching grant program intended to enhance interoperable communications with respect to voice, data, and/or video signals. PSIC provides public safety agencies with the opportunity to achieve meaningful and measurable improvements to the state of public safety communications interoperability through the full and efficient use of all telecommunications resources.¹

Eligible Applicants²

Federal funds that are allocated for improving emergency response communications and interoperability should only be provided to emergency response agencies or organizations at the regional, state, local, or tribal level. They include:

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies
- Fire service agencies
- Law enforcement agencies
- An organization representing the above agencies
- Any emergency response agency listed as an eligible applicant in Federal grant programs that include this guidance

Eligible Activities²

The following are the eligible activities for which Federal funding awarded for interoperable voice and/or data communications may be used, subject to the statutory authority of the grantor agency (Utah Division of Homeland Security):

- **Planning and Management** activities, including:
 - Establishing a governance structure for emergency response interoperability projects
 - Conducting a capabilities assessment
 - Operational (standard operating procedures, training, usage)
 - Technical
 - Strategic planning
 - Operational (standard operating procedures, training, usage)
 - Technical
 - Implementation and management
- **Equipment Acquisition** for the purposes of:
 - Building emergency response communications systems
 - Upgrading/enhancing emergency response communication systems and equipment
 - Replacing emergency response communication systems and equipment
 - Maintaining emergency response communication systems and equipment

- **Training and Exercising** on the following:
 - Use of equipment and systems
 - Use of standard operating procedures

Projects and Priorities

SIEC Authority

As required by the Department of Homeland Security, Utah's State Administrative Agency (SAA) is responsible for the application and distribution of the funds allocated to Utah in the 2007 Interoperability Grant. Mike Kuehn, Director of the Utah Division of Homeland Security and Utah's SAA, has delegated the responsibility of scoring, and offering final recommendations of awards, to Utah's State Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC). The SIEC in turn, must develop:

- Projects –up to a total of eight, as required for the official request of funds due in August
- Priorities –as outlined in the State Communications Interoperable Plan
- Applications –templates to be used by requesting agencies
- Scoring Criteria –to ensure fair and impartial review of submitted applications
- Award Recommendations to the SAA

Priority Criteria

SIEC is to establish a priority ranking of projects that ensures an allocation of resources that best supports a statewide strategy for interoperable communications. SIEC must ensure that requesting agencies do not apply for project funding if their infrastructure is unable to support it. For example, an agency should not apply for the funding of end-user equipment unless that agency exhibits sufficient infrastructural capabilities to support that equipment.

Proposed projects

1. Deployment of P25 compliant 150/700 MHz dedicated interoperability network
2. Deployment of Cisco IPICS infrastructure
3. Statewide deployment of 800MHz conventional repeater systems
4. Deployment of current UCAN trunking technology into regions unable to provide interoperability with current 800 trunking users
5. Compatible dispatch center upgrades to interface with current state interoperability platform
6. Gateway devices (similar to the JPS-1000)
7. Purchase end-user portable or mobile radios

References

¹ Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program
(Program Guidance and Application Kit)
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/PSICguidance.pdf>

² FY 2007 SAFECOM Grant Guidance
http://www.safecomprogram.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8FE2AC9D-6E05-4713-8928-876284384E4E/0/FY07SAFECOMGrantGuidance_FINAL4_.pdf

³ PSIC Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/PSICFAQ.pdf>