

Funding Public Safety Communications



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Whether you are a law enforcement agency, looking for funding to support an interoperable communications solution or a school, seeking to improve communications between building administrators, grants may provide the funding you need to implement a robust, scalable communication system.

As you begin your grantseeking project, keep in mind that most grant programs exist to solve a particular problem or address a particular issue, not to fund a technology. The Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program will fund an interoperable communications project, but it will also fund chemical protective garments and firefighting vehicles. It is up to you, the applicant, to justify the inclusion of specific solutions in terms of how they will help you address your stated needs and achieve the outcomes of the project.

Here are some other tips that will help as you begin to develop your grantseeking plan:

1. Involve others in your project, but be judicious: make sure they have a purpose for their involvement.
2. Make sure you can devote the time and resources necessary to understand each program you're planning to apply to and develop a customized and compelling narrative, as required by the funder.
3. Whether are using internal staff or outside consultants to write the grants, stay involved in the grantwriting process and keep your relationship with the grantwriter as collaborative as possible.

Determining Desirability

The sheer number of grants in public safety can be overwhelming. It's important to trim the number of grants you apply to so that you can spend the time and resources necessary to produce the best possible grant applications, without becoming distracted by less than ideal opportunities.

Consider the following characteristics of each grant you're planning to apply to:

- **Eligibility**
- **Total amount available (competitiveness)**
- **Matching requirements**
- **Application burden**
- **Scale (your ability to reasonably complete the project)**
- **Collaboration/partnering requirements**
- **Lead time**
- **Track record with the funder**

Selected Communications-Friendly Grant Programs

Note that some of these programs have deadlines that have passed. You may want to use these deadlines for planning for '08-'09, as grants tend to open around the same time each year. Grant amounts are forecasted, based on available information, and all information is subject to change pending appropriations and agency grant administration procedures.

Homeland Security

The Homeland Security Grant Program state applications are anticipated to be due in May, 2009. You can access the funding breakdown at:

<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/index.shtm>

States were required to submit competitive applications this year, and the allocations above reflect the combination of risk and need, as determined by the Department of Homeland Security.

Grant Title: Interoperable Emergency Communications (\$400 million)

Summary: In 2006, Congress mandated that \$1 Billion for Public Safety Interoperable Communications be administered by the Department of Commerce. Originally, the program was intended to be a one-time opportunity, but the newest authorizing statute for homeland security has extended the program (now called the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program) through 2012.

The new edition of interoperability grants is structured similarly to the PSIC grants, distributed to state SAAs with an 80% pass-through requirement and a 20% matching requirement. However, in contrast to the \$1 billion distributed in 2007, the new program is authorized to provide \$400 million each year.

Application deadlines and procedures vary by state, but the program will provide a significant opportunity for interoperable communications projects. For more information, visit the Department of Homeland Security (www.dhs.gov).

Grant Title: Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (\$100 million)

Deadline: January 31, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: PDM provides funds to states, territories, tribes, and communities for hazard mitigation planning and for the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event.

Grant Title: **Emergency Management Performance Grants (\$291.4 million)**

Deadline: March 1, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: EMPG's purpose is to aid state and local emergency managers develop maintain and improve their emergency management capabilities, key components of a comprehensive national emergency management system for all hazards.

Grant Title: **Buffer Zone Protection Program (\$48.5 million)**

Deadline: March 17, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: The BZPP supports the development and implementation of Buffer Zone Plans for preventing and protecting the perimeter of critical infrastructure sites, including chemical facilities, nuclear and electric power plants, dams, stadiums, arenas and other high-risk areas from terrorist site surveillance or attacks with a focus on public-private partnership and fusion center coordination. Funds may be used for planning, equipment, and management of protective actions as related to the program objectives.

Grant Title: **Port Security Grant Program (\$388.6 million)**

Deadline: March 17, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: PSGP supports sustainable, risk-based efforts to enhance access control and credentialing, protect against IED and other non-conventional attacks, and conduct disaster-response scenarios. PSGP funds are awarded based on risk and competition to eligible ports, as well as eligible ferry systems.

Grant Title: **Transit Security Grant Program (\$388.6 million)**

Deadline: March 17, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: TSGP supports sustainable, risk-based efforts to protect critical transit infrastructure from terrorism, especially explosives and non-conventional threats that would cause major disruption to commerce and significant loss of life. Funding is provided to owners and operators of the nation's critical transit infrastructure, including rail, freight rail, intra-city bus, ferry systems, and Amtrak.

Grant Title: **Trucking Security Program (\$15.5 million)**

Deadline: March 17, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: TSP provides funding to identify and recruit highway professionals (carriers, drivers, first responders, highway workers) to actively participate in an anti-terrorism and security awareness program, as well as implement program training and 24/7 call center support.

Grant Title: **Intercity Bus Security Grants (\$11.1 million)**

Deadline: March 17, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: IBSGP focuses on vulnerability assessments, security plans, and preparedness exercises for explosives and non-conventional threats. Program priorities include facility, driver and vehicle security enhancements; emergency communications technology; coordinating with local police and emergency responders; training and exercises; and passenger and baggage screening programs in defined UASI service areas.

Grant Title: **Assistance to Firefighters (to be announced, FY 2008 funding was \$547 million)**

Deadline: April 4, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: This program is designed consists of 3 subcategories: Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety, Vehicle Acquisition, and Emergency Medical Services.

Grant Title: **Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) - State Homeland Security Initiative (\$862.9 million), Urban Area Security Initiative (\$781.6 million), Metropolitan Medical Response System (\$39.8 million), Citizens Corps (\$14.5 million)**

Deadline: May 1, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: HSGP is a wide-reaching program that funds planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise activities in support of the National Preparedness Guidelines and related plans and programs, such as the National Incident Management System (NIMS), National Response Framework (NRF), and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP). This year, 25 percent of the overall funding must address preparedness planning and mitigating the threat

of improvised explosive devices. States will have an opportunity to revise their applications prior to final submission this year, based on feedback received from DHS staff and subject matter experts. **It is imperative that you stay engaged throughout the submission process, as projects will be modified based upon the feedback states receive as the May 1 deadline approaches.**

Grant Title: Urban Areas Security Initiative Nonprofit Security Grant Program (\$15 million)

Deadline: May 1, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: UASI-NSGP provides funding to support target-hardening activities by nonprofit organizations that are considered at high risk for international terrorist attack. While this funding is provided specifically to high-risk nonprofit organizations, the program seeks to integrate nonprofit preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts.

Grant Title: Operation Stonegarden Grants (\$60 million)

Deadline: May 1, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: OPSG funds land border jurisdictions' efforts to improve border security, encourage local operational objectives and capabilities to enhance federal and state Homeland Security strategies, and improve capabilities required for border security and protection.

Grant Title: Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (\$60 million)

Deadline: May 1, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: CP provides funding to advance catastrophic incident preparedness to Tier I and designated Tier II Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Jurisdictions. The goal of RCP is to support an integrated planning system that enables regional all-hazard planning for catastrophic events and the development of necessary plans, protocols, and procedures to manage a catastrophic event.

Education

Grant Title: **Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (\$24 million)**

Deadline: February 19, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: REMS provides funds to LEAs to strengthen and improve their emergency response and crisis plans, at the district and school-building level. Grantees are required to address all four phases of crisis planning: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Grant Title: **Smaller Learning Communities (\$88.3 million)**

Deadline: February 25, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: Provides Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with funds to plan, implement or expand smaller learning communities in large high schools of 1,000 students or more (the goal is no more than 600 students in a learning community).

Grant Title: **Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants (DLT) (to be announced, FY 2007 funding was \$62.5 million)**

Deadline: June 10, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program provides funding to rural schools and health care providers to invest in telecommunications facilities and equipment to bring educational and medical resources.

Grant Title: **21st Century Learning Centers (to be announced, FY 2007 funding was \$981 million)**

Deadline: *varies by state*

Summary: The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program provides funding for after school or before and after school programs that serve disadvantaged K-12 students. Programs must include academic assistance and educational enrichment components and must address family literacy needs of adult family members.

Healthcare

Grant Title: **Hospital Preparedness Program (to be announced, FY 2007 funding was \$415 million)**

Deadline: August 1, 2008 (anticipated)

Summary: HPP provides funds to build medical surge capability through associated planning, personnel, equipment, training, and exercise capabilities at the state and local levels.

Grant Title: **Knowledge Management and Applied Informatics**

(NIH) (to be announced, FY 2007 funding was \$30 million)

Deadline: October 3, 2008

Summary: To support community-wide planning processes across multiple healthcare organizations within a local or regional area that will enable them to develop Health Information Technology (HIT) infrastructure that provides for effective exchange of health information within the community.

Transportation

Grant Title: **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) – (to be announced FY 2007 funding was \$135 million)**

Deadline: April 28, 2008 (anticipated)

Summary: Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) aimed at solving congestion and safety problems, improving operating efficiencies in transit and commercial vehicles, and reducing the environmental impact of growing travel demand. These information and communications technologies can also be used to better manage and improve how transportation providers offer services to the public.

Law Enforcement

Grant Title: **Public Telecommunications Facilities Program [DOC-NTIA] (\$16.8 million)**

Deadline: February 22, 2009 (anticipated)

Summary: The program assists, through matching grants, in the planning and construction of public telecommunications facilities. It includes Internet Streaming Equipment.

Grant Title: **COPS Law Enforcement Technology Grants (\$205.3 million)**

Deadline: July 1, 2008 (anticipated)

Summary: Law Enforcement agencies in pre-selected municipal areas (usually the three most populous in each state) are eligible to apply. These grants cover the purchase of equipment, enhancements to voice and data network infrastructures, and project management expenses.

About Grants Office

Located in Rochester, NY, Grants Office, LLC is a growing, privately held company. Established in 2000, Grants Office has been instrumental in helping clients understand and negotiate the grants process. Our team has been successful in securing over \$250 million in grant funding for clients. Grants Office, LLC is a full-service provider of strategic grants development services for municipalities, nonprofit organizations and industry partners. Grants Office's services enable organizations to develop strategic direction and successfully implement a grant-seeking program in a cost-effective, goal-oriented manner.

Specific services we provide include grant program research, grant writing, project development, training, and support. Grants Office manages every aspect of the agency's grants development process. Grants development teams consist of members from different functional areas, including grant writing, grant research, project management, account management and strategic planning. Grants Office's approach is based on collaboration and open communication between team members and clients. Our focus is on producing a strategic, robust grants development functions that reduces cost, lowers risk, shrinks typical investment of time and resources, and secures funding.