



Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office

Homeland Security Grants Division

Funding Announcement: Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure

Purpose

The Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) is soliciting applications for projects that support state and regional efforts to improve or sustain interoperable emergency radio infrastructure.

Available Funding

State funds for these projects are authorized under the Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I, Rider 26 for Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Eligible Organizations

1. Regional Councils of Governments; and
2. State agencies.

Application Process

Applicants must access the Office of the Governor's eGrants website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding.

Note for All Applicants: Applicants must upload the required Texas Direct Deposit Authorization Form, Texas Application for Payee Identification Number Form, and IRS W9 Form for each application prior to submission. The eGrants system will not allow an application submission until these forms are attached to the application. These forms are available at <https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/updates.aspx> under the Financial Management section of "Forms and Guides" or from the "Forms" link on the Profile/Grant.Vendor tab within the grant application.

Key Dates

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	1/10/2020
Online System Opening Date	1/10/2020
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	3/12/2020 at 5:00pm CST

Project Period

Projects selected for funding must begin September 1, 2020 and expire on or before August 31, 2022.

Funding Levels

Minimum: \$2,500

Maximum: None. HSGD expects to make \$20 million available statewide under this solicitation.

Match Requirement: None

Standards

Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards ([UGMS](#)), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Eligible Activities and Costs

Grant projects must be consistent with the program purpose stated above and must be submitted in support of one of the following approved activity areas:

1. Development or enhancement of interoperable emergency radio communications infrastructure;
2. Connection of regional and statewide systems with other regional systems;
3. Improving or establishing tower sites and/or related communications equipment shelters; or
4. Enhancement or maintenance of existing capabilities (e.g. life cycle replacement of equipment other than subscriber equipment).

Projects must enhance current capabilities or address capability gaps identified by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) or Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) in either the Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) or DPS Report on Interoperable Communications to the Texas Legislature. **Note:** *Projects that build capabilities will be prioritized over projects that sustain capabilities. Projects to increase voice communications interoperability for counties with the lowest interoperability levels are preferred over other types of communications projects.*

Program-Specific Requirements

1. If a project is funded (once an agency receives a grant award), the planned expenditures must be submitted to and receive validation from the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) prior to purchase.
2. Cities and counties must have a current emergency management plan or be a legally established member of an inter-jurisdictional emergency management program with a plan on file with the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). Plans must be maintained throughout the entire grant performance period and must be at least at the Intermediate Level. If you have questions concerning your Emergency Management Plan (preparedness) level, contact your Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) or your regional Council of Governments (COG). For questions concerning plan deficiencies, contact TDEM at tdem.plans@tdem.texas.gov.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Entities receiving funds from HSGD must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66. This disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.
2. Beginning January 1, 2020, counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90 percent of convictions within seven business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety. By January 1, 2021, such reporting must take place within five business days.
3. Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year.
4. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has established a goal set by the Texas Legislature for all local law enforcement agencies to implement and report crime statistics data by using the

requirements of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will collect required crime statistics solely through the NIBRS starting January 1, 2021. Due to the upcoming federal deadline, grantees are advised that eligibility for future grant funding may be tied to compliance with NIBRS. Financial grant assistance for transitioning to NIBRS may be available for your jurisdiction from the Public Safety Office.

5. Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
6. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://www.sam.gov/>.

Failure to comply with program or eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or suspension or termination of grant funds.

Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the [Guide to Grants](#) or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. Purchasing or maintaining radio subscriber equipment;
2. Amateur radios and equipment, FMS radios, GMRS radios, or other radio equipment that is not P25 compliant;
3. Any expense or service that is readily available at no cost to the grant project;
4. Any use of grant funds to replace (supplant) funds that have been budgeted for the same purpose through non-grant sources;
5. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by PSO staff members and/or a review group selected by the executive director. PSO will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, cost-effectiveness, state priorities and strategies, and/or other relevant factors.

Contact Information

For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at eGrants@gov.texas.gov or (512) 463-1919.