

2023 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (Formula-Based)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG)?

A: Any county government in New York State and New York City (NYC) as a single entity.

Q: Can multiple counties apply together jointly or with one county as lead applicant and other counties as co-applicants?

A: Counties must apply as a single entity. While a county's application can benefit other counties, only one applicant is allowed per application.

Q: Can a consortium apply for the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant?

A: No. Only New York State county governments and NYC are eligible.

Q: Can a town, village, city, state authority, or agency, tribal nation, or other entities apply for the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant?

A: No. Only New York State county governments are eligible. Counties must apply as a single entity. While a county's application can include projects which benefit cities/towns/villages within their county, only a single application per county will be considered. Distribution of funds to these entities should be defined in the application, where appropriate.

Q: Is the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant formula based or competitive?

A: The Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant is a formula based grant.

Q: Who must I designate as my County Interoperability Coordinator?

A: Your County Interoperability Coordinator, which is designated/selected by a county, will serve as the single point of contact to oversee the county's interoperability efforts and coordinate interoperability and communication projects. The person should be familiar with county interoperable communication at all levels. If not already in place, this person must be identified within 120 days of potential notice of award. Failure to comply with any and all requirements in this section may result in the immediate suspension and/or revocation of the grant award.

Q: What are “indirect costs” referenced in the RFA under non-permissible expenses?

A: Indirect costs are those that have been incurred for purposes common to a number or to all of the specific projects, programs, or activities of an agency or institution, but which cannot be identified and charged directly to such projects, programs, or activities with a reasonable degree of accuracy and/or without an unreasonable amount of accounting effort.

Q: If a county and a state agency or an authority has a partnership, does that constitute a consortium?

A: No. A consortium must include two or more counties. A state agency is not considered a county for purposes of a consortium. However, applications which include agreements with state agencies on issues of interoperability, and benefit state agencies within the county’s jurisdiction, are encouraged.

Q: Are matching funds required in order to receive an award?

A: No. Matching funds are not required for this grant.

Q: Is there a minimum and maximum dollar amount per award?

A: There is no minimum or maximum amount of the award. \$45 million allocated for this year’s grant program will be distributed by formula among all applicants meeting the qualification criteria listed in the RFA.

Q: Can the grant pay for projects currently in progress by paying for current and future project phase expenses?

A: Yes. Applications can include requests to fund future phases of interoperable communications projects currently underway within the county, provided the request is for allowable expenditures and occurs within grant performance period.

Q: Can the grant be used to pay for staff salaries?

A: Only up to 20% annually of a person performing duties of County Interoperability Coordinator. 20% a year is a maximum reimbursement utilizing any and all SICG awards.

Q: Does the recipient county have to share its awarded funds with other counties in the consortium?

A: No. It is hoped that while the consortium as a whole will benefit from any award, individual awards will be disbursed to applicants that meet grant requirements.

Q: Are consultant fees eligible?

A: Yes. Consultant fees for services provided are eligible, as long as they are consistent with the permissible expenses of the grant.

Q: Is purchase of subscriber equipment eligible?

A: Yes, provided the equipment meets requirement stated in the grant RFA.

Q: Are broadband related projects eligible for funding?

A: No. Public safety broadband is not an eligible expense in this program. Consideration will be given in future rounds of the grant, pending further guidance from the federal government (e.g., NTIA and FirstNet) and technical standards for the proposed nationwide system.

Q: Which data systems are eligible for funding?

A: Land mobile radio (LMR) based systems that support voice or voice and data are eligible.

Q: Who do I contact if I have a question about the grant?

A: All substantive questions must be submitted in writing to Grant.Info@dhSES.ny.gov.