



Homeland Security and Emergency Services

2023 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant Program (SICG) - Targeted Grant Program: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

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

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

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

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

3) Question: Can a consortium apply for the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant?

Answer: No. Only New York State County governments and NYC are eligible.

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

Answer: 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.

5) Question: What is the distribution of funding for the Statewide Interoperable Communications Targeted Grant?

Answer: Funding for the 2023 SICG-Targeted Program is distributed based on a two-tiered approach: Tier 1 – Eligibility Requirements (pass/fail); and Tier 2 – Interoperability Evaluation and Gap Analysis of interoperability infrastructure and coverage across the state.

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

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

7) Question: Are matching funds required to receive an award?

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

8) Question: Is there a minimum and maximum dollar amount per award?

Answer: There is no minimum amount of the award, the maximum available award is \$3 million. For the 2023 SICG Targeted Program, a total of \$20 million in funding is available for counties to improve infrastructure related to National Interoperability channels. Funding will be applied or distributed to counties, those of which were identified as areas with insufficient coverage and/or insufficient infrastructure of National Interoperability Channels.

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

Answer: 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.

10) Question: Can the grant be used to pay for staff salaries?

Answer: No, staff salaries is not an eligible expense under this grant program.

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

Answer: 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.

12) Question: Are consultant fees eligible?

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

13) Question: Are broadband related projects eligible for funding?

Answer: 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 nationwide system.

14) Question: Who do I contact if I have a question about the grant?

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