

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Federal NG911 Grant Program**

January 2020

### **1. Will we be using E-grants to submit our applications for this grant program?**

*Office of Emergency Communications will not be using E-grants for the federal NG911 Grant Program.*

*Instructions for submitting your application can be found on page 2 of the grant announcement -*

*[https://dma.wi.gov/DMA/divisions/oec/library/2019/2019-22\\_NG911\\_Grant\\_Announcement\\_1.0FINAL.pdf](https://dma.wi.gov/DMA/divisions/oec/library/2019/2019-22_NG911_Grant_Announcement_1.0FINAL.pdf)*

### **2. How much funding am I eligible for?**

*\$2.7 million total has been made available for local grants. Funding for individual grants will be determined based on the number of eligible applications received. You should use your required vendor quote(s) to determine your estimated project budget and consider the maximum amount that you are able to match from non-federal sources. Your proposed project budget total must reflect a maximum of 60% federal share and a minimum of 40% non-federal (local) match.*

### **3. My communications center is not considered a “public safety answering point”. Are we still eligible for a grant?**

*This funding is only for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The purpose of the NG911 Grant Program is to provide Federal funding to support transition of PSAPs and their interconnecting 911 network and core services, to facilitate migration to a digital, IP-enabled emergency network, and adoption of NG911 services and applications.*

### **4. We just signed a contract with our vendor to upgrade our 9-1-1 system. Are we still eligible for a grant?**

*To be eligible to apply for funding from the 911 Grant Program, an applicant cannot supplant funding. In this instance, the Federal rule of “supplement not supplant” means that if you had money in your budget to cover the cost of a contract to upgrade your 911 system, it must be clearly designated in your budget as funding for the purposes of applying and completing your grant funded project to avoid being considered supplanting. Your contract should include similar language to indicate that fulfillment of the contract may be contingent on grant funding.*

*If you have signed a contract that was not contingent on grant funding, you would not be eligible to apply. Suspected supplanting will be subject to audit.*

### **5. We just made an upgrade to our 9-1-1 system. Are we still eligible for a grant?**

*You would not be eligible for a reimbursement of any upgrades made or contracted for prior to the grant period of March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. If there are other needed items on the list of eligible expenses on page 3 of the grant announcement, you may apply for those items.*

*Prioritization will be given to end of life call handling equipment that is not NextGen-capable, but all eligible applications submitted by the deadline will be scored and considered by the Grant Evaluation Team.*

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**6. My equipment is already NextGen-capable but is considered “end of life” by my current vendor. Should we still apply?**

*Yes, you would need to attach a copy of your existing equipment contract. In the application narrative, thoroughly explain that the existing equipment is/was at the end of life by a certain date.*

*Prioritization will be given to end of life call handling equipment that is not NextGen-capable, but all eligible applications submitted by the deadline will be scored and considered by the Grant Evaluation Team.*

**7. What are the eligible expenses under this grant program?**

*Eligible expenses are listed on page 3 of the grant announcement:*

*[https://dma.wi.gov/DMA/divisions/oec/library/2019/2019-22\\_NG911\\_Grant\\_Announcement\\_1.0FINAL.pdf](https://dma.wi.gov/DMA/divisions/oec/library/2019/2019-22_NG911_Grant_Announcement_1.0FINAL.pdf)*

*For equipment – Non-expendable equipment is tangible property having a useful life of more than two years and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. Equipment purchased through this grant program must comply with current NG9-1-1 standards listed in the [FY 2019 Department of Homeland Security’s SAFECOM guidance](#).*

**8. Can we request the costs to pay for ongoing support services?**

*No, ongoing support services are considered a normal operating cost that is not covered by this grant.*

**9. Where can I find the list of standards in the Department of Homeland Security’s SAFECOM Guidance?**

*The list of standards can be found towards the end of the document in Appendix B, page B-13.*

**10. Our system has been upgraded but still needs minor modifications to accept SMS, photos, etc. Is this grant meant for us?**

*You can apply for anything listed under the eligible expenses on page 3 of the grant announcement.*

*Prioritization will be given to end of life call handling equipment that is not NextGen-capable, but all eligible applications submitted by the deadline will be scored and considered by the Grant Evaluation Team.*

**11. Are end of life radio repeaters an eligible expense under this grant?**

*Radio services equipment (e.g. subscriber radios and repeaters) are not an eligible expense under the federal grant program. Eligible expenses are listed on page 3 of the grant announcement.*

**12. Can the two or more vendor quotes be of different types of systems (i.e. new hardware system and a hosted system)?**

*Two or more vendor quotes for each system type should be included with your application unless you have a sole source quote.*