

The top of the page features a composite image of the United States flag on the left and a bald eagle in flight on the right, set against a dramatic, cloudy sky.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Overview: FY 2008 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program

September 2008



Grant Programs Directorate

Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program Overview

Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP)

Total Funding Available in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008: \$48,575,000

Purpose: The goal of IECGP is to improve local, tribal, regional, statewide, and national interoperable emergency communications, including communications in response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. According to the legislation that created IECGP, funding will enable states, territories, local units of government, and tribal communities to implement their Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIP) and align with the goals of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). IECGP will also advance near-term priorities established by DHS deemed critical to improving interoperable emergency communications, consistent with goals put forth in the NECP. In FY 2008, IECGP has two priority groups: 1) Leadership and Governance; 2) Common Planning and Operational Protocols, and Emergency Responder Skills and Capabilities.

- **Establishment of formal interoperable emergency communications governance structures**

Governing bodies for interoperable emergency communications efforts are essential to ensure coordinated and consistent planning, implementation, and resource allocation for emergency communications solutions. States and territories should establish interoperability committees that include multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary, and intergovernmental representation in order to effectively manage interoperable emergency communications efforts statewide.

- **Establishment of common planning and operational protocols**

Common planning and operational protocols provide emergency responders with the procedures necessary to guide agency interaction and the use of emergency communications solutions. Grantees should continue strategic and tactical emergency communications planning efforts (e.g. SCIPs and Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans) and are expected to establish common operational protocols through activities such as the development of standard operating procedures (SOP), consistent use of interoperability channels, plain language protocols, common channel naming, and others. SOPs should be National Incident Management System Incident Command System-compliant.

- **Enhancement of emergency responder skills and capabilities through training and exercises**

Many public safety agencies do not conduct regular training or exercises to ensure that emergency responders have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to operate emergency communications solutions or follow procedures, potentially resulting in ineffective performance during an actual emergency, as reported in recent

assessments including the National Communications Capabilities Report. Interoperable emergency communications-specific training and exercises that are Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program-compliant on technology solutions and operational protocols should be offered and conducted on a regular basis.

Eligible Applicants: The governor of each state and territory has designated a State Administrative Agency (SAA), which applied for and will administer the funds under IECGP. The SAA is the only agency that was eligible to apply for IECGP funds.

Application Evaluation: Applications underwent a joint Office of Emergency Communications and FEMA Grant Programs Directorate review process to ensure that all applications were compliant with program requirements and to assess effectiveness of proposed investments before the funds are awarded.

Program Allowability: For FY 2008, there are four allowable costs categories: planning, training, exercise, and personnel. Equipment acquisition is not an allowable cost category for IECGP in FY 2008. All activities proposed under IECGP must be integral to interoperable emergency communications and must be aligned with the goals, objectives, and/or initiatives identified in the grantee's approved SCIP.

Program Awards: FY 2008 IECGP funds were allocated based on risk and statutory minimums, per the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will receive a minimum of 0.50 percent of the total funds allocated. Four territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) will receive a minimum allocation of 0.08 percent of the total funds allocated. Funds are expected to be awarded by Sep. 30, 2008.

FY2008 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program Allocations

State/Territory	Allocation	State/Territory	Allocation
Alabama	\$538,731	Montana	\$242,875
Alaska	\$278,294	Nebraska	\$293,557
American Samoa	\$54,033	Nevada	\$500,868
Arizona	\$797,224	New Hampshire	\$242,875
Arkansas	\$309,053	New Jersey	\$1,443,315
California	\$6,107,351	New Mexico	\$290,478
Colorado	\$609,616	New York	\$7,835,108
Connecticut	\$545,234	North Carolina	\$866,572
Delaware	\$242,875	North Dakota	\$242,875
District of Columbia	\$629,619	Northern Mariana Islands	\$53,935
Florida	\$2,004,978	Ohio	\$1,201,262
Georgia	\$1,120,474	Oklahoma	\$362,815
Guam	\$77,241	Oregon	\$483,699
Hawaii	\$251,038	Pennsylvania	\$1,587,026
Idaho	\$242,875	Puerto Rico	\$394,293
Illinois	\$1,827,339	Rhode Island	\$242,875
Indiana	\$730,005	South Carolina	\$439,948
Iowa	\$330,399	South Dakota	\$242,875
Kansas	\$369,007	Tennessee	\$670,566
Kentucky	\$531,180	Texas	\$3,508,771
Louisiana	\$887,944	U.S. Virgin Islands	\$60,654
Maine	\$242,875	Utah	\$366,269
Maryland	\$1,036,871	Vermont	\$242,875
Massachusetts	\$978,519	Virginia	\$1,240,055
Michigan	\$1,080,797	Washington	\$996,731
Minnesota	\$658,690	West Virginia	\$259,907
Mississippi	\$361,909	Wisconsin	\$532,340
Missouri	\$642,535	Wyoming	\$242,875
		Total	\$48,575,000