

The Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) Grant Program: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the NGWS Grant Program (NGWSGP)?

This program funds projects to identify capability gaps and implement solutions for alert and warning to deliver timely public warning and emergency information and to protect critical infrastructure. There are rapid changes in technology, cybersecurity threats, and public preferences for consuming content, recipients will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to explore currently available, flexible, innovative, and forward-looking capabilities to disseminate emergency alerts and warnings across existing and new distribution pathways, including streaming services, sirens, giant-voice systems, satellites, internet-connected devices, and other solutions.

What legislation authorized funding for the FY 2025 NGWS Grant Program?

Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, Pub. L. No. 119-4, Title VII, Sec. 1701, subparagraph 4.

How much funding is available under the FY 2025 NGWS Grant Program?

Funding is \$40 million.

Who is eligible to apply for the FY 2025 NGWS Grant Program?

States or Tribal Nations, as defined in 2 CFR 200.1 are eligible to apply for this grant.

Where is the FY 2025 NGWS Program funding notice located?

The FY 2025 NGWS Program Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at www.fema.gov/grants, as well as on www.grants.gov.

For this funding opportunity, FEMA requires applicants to submit applications through FEMA GO.

Do I need to register with the System for Award Management (SAM)?

Yes. SAM registration is required to both begin and submit an application in FEMA GO. Organizational SAM.gov registrations are only active for one year and must be renewed annually. Therefore, applicants must ensure the applicant entity has a valid and active registration in SAM.gov before starting an application.

Applicants should contact SAM.gov with questions or concerns about their SAM registration.

DHS may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS/UEI and SAM requirements. An applicant's SAM registration must be active at the time of application, during the application review period, and when FEMA is ready to make a federal award. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DHS is ready to make a federal award, DHS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and make a federal award to another applicant.

The submission of payment requests and amendments are also contingent on the information provided in the entity's SAM.gov registration. It is imperative that all information in the application is correct, current, and matches the information in the SAM.gov registration. Please ensure that your organization's name, address, UEI number, and Employer Identification Number (EIN) are up to date in SAM.gov and that the UEI number used in SAM.gov is the same number used to apply for all other FEMA grant program awards.

How will the FY 2025 NGWS applications be submitted?

Applying for an award under the NGWS is a multi-step process, which generally cannot be completed all at one time. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to register early in their response effort to ensure it does not impact the applicant's ability to meet required submission deadlines.

All applications must be completed in FEMA GO by the application deadline. FEMA GO automatically records proof of timely submission, and the system generates an electronic date/time stamp when FEMA GO successfully receives the application. The individual with the AOR role that submitted the application will also receive the official date/time stamp and a FEMA GO tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission on the date and time that FEMA GO received the application.

Applicants who experience system-related issues will be addressed until 3:00 PM ET on the date applications are due. No new system-related issues will be addressed after this deadline. Applications not received by the application submission deadline will not be accepted.

What is the closing date for applying to the FY 2025 NGWS Grant Program?

The closing date for applications is August 15, 2025. Please submit your application using Grants.gov (FY 2025 NGWS Grant Program). The application period will not be extended.

What is the FY 2025 NGWS Program period of performance?

The period of performance is 36 months, beginning October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2028.

What are examples of successful alert and warning projects that align with the NGWS Grant Program goals and objectives?

Examples of projects that align with the NGWSGP goals would be one or more of the following:

1. Installation of IPAWS-compatible sirens and/or “giant-voice systems”.
2. Coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to enhance signals and availability for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radios.
3. Integration and deployment of emergency alert datacasting technology.
4. Deployment of systems and technologies that enable the dissemination of advanced visual and audio alerts, such as to digital billboards, signage, and kiosks.
5. Integration of IPAWS alerts in internet of things (IoT) devices.
6. Integration of satellite-based alert and warning technologies, automated message origination and distribution capabilities, and other emerging capabilities. For example, jurisdictions could incorporate advanced warning lexicons informed by behavioral science for more timely and effective public warning.
7. Development of alert and warning state and local field testing, training, and exercise programming in collaboration with FEMA and federal, state, and local alert and warning partners.
8. Deploy capabilities to increase alert and warning coverage to rural areas and other locations across the state with limited communications access.

How does the FY 2025 NGWS Grant Program NOFO differ from previous years?

The FY 2025 NGWS Grant Program NOFO is designed to better meet the needs of states and Tribal Nations. While FEMA understands the importance of broadcasters, state and Tribal governments assess the needs of their communities to determine capability gaps and solutions to improve timely warning and emergency information to the public and to protect critical infrastructure. Recipients are free to propose broadcasting solutions along with other distribution pathways and solutions.

What other resources are available to address programmatic, technical, and financial questions?

For technical assistance with the FEMA GO system, please contact the FEMA GO Helpdesk at femago@fema.dhs.gov or (877) 585-3242, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Eastern Time (ET). For programmatic or grants management questions, please contact the Office of National Continuity Programs at fema-ipaws-ngwsgp@fema.dhs.gov. All media inquiries should be sent to FEMA-Press-Office@fema.dhs.gov.

If applicants do not know who to contact for questions or concerns, please contact the fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov, Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET. For support regarding financial

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August 2025



grants management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the FEMA Award Administration Help Desk via e-mail at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.