



# **Funding for Rapidly Deployable Communications**

**Sources and Strategies for Funding Your Communications Solution**

**Grants information provided by**



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## ***Major 2007 programs funding RDC***

Funding for FY07 breaks down in two ways, funding for a particular type of agency and funding for a particular function. The list that follows contains grant programs relevant to various areas of Public Safety Interoperability. Of course, there are many other programs, small and large, that support homeland security in some form. Many of these are catalogued, along with extensive detail on the listed grants at the Grants Office UPstream database at [www.grantsoffice.com](http://www.grantsoffice.com).

### **Public Safety**

Public safety agencies have been a predominant recipient of state homeland security funding, but funding for law enforcement extends to a number of other DHS and DOJ programs, including:

- **Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (DHS)**  
This component of the Homeland Security Grants Program focuses on public safety agencies. Interoperability is a key feature of the program.  
Deadline for this program: April 5, 2007  
Official guidance is available at:  
[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants\\_hsgp2007.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_hsgp2007.htm)
- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (DOJ)**  
JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system, from multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives.  
Deadline for this program: February 20, 2007  
Official guidance is available at:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html>
- **Interoperable Communications for Public Safety (DOC)**  
This new program will provide \$1 billion in funding for public safety interoperability. Congress has mandated that these funds be spent by September 30, 2007, to assist public safety agencies in the acquisition of, deployment of, or training for the use of interoperable communications systems that utilize, or enable interoperability with communications systems that can utilize, reallocated public safety spectrum for radio communication  
Deadline: not yet available  
For the latest information on this program, visit [www.grantsoffice.com](http://www.grantsoffice.com)

With the help of this and other funding, the law enforcement community has been able to provide leadership in the development and deployment of new technologies and equipment, as well as in identifying potential problem areas and encouraging the public and private sectors to come up with solutions.

## **Fire**

Fire departments across the country have become increasingly familiar with the [Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program \(AFGP\)](#) as the predominant source of funding for local firefighters' needs. Traditionally, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (or AFGP) has been one of the most popular and broadly based competitive grants. Unlike most federal grants programs, grantwriting fees can be funded by this grant, as long as the fees are reasonable and payment is not contingent on receiving an award.

The anticipated deadline for this program is April 6, 2007, and official guidance can be found at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).

## **EMS**

In the past, EMS had been provided with limited funding from the Department of Health and Human Services. This year EMS agencies across the country have several options for funding, including:

- [Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program \(US Fire Administration\)](#)  
In 2006, this program was opened to "non-affiliated" EMS agencies (i.e., agencies not affiliated with fire departments), with a separate set aside for EMS.  
Deadline for this program: April 6, 2007 (anticipated)
- [Metropolitan Medical Response System Grants \(DHS\)](#)  
This component of the Homeland Security Grants Program has been increased in 2007, and provides funds specifically for medical response.  
Deadline for this program: April 5, 2007  
Official guidance is available at:  
[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants\\_hsgp2007.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_hsgp2007.htm)

Because funding for EMS has traditionally been less than for other first responders, many states have filled in with state-funded programs providing a few thousand dollars for each award.

## **Port Security**

Again in 2007, The [Port Security Grant Program \(DHS\)](#) will support efforts of critical national seaports/terminals to enhance port security through enhanced facility and operational security including but not limited to access control, physical security, cargo security, and passenger security.

Eligible ports are pre-determined by DHS based on the volume of cargo and/or passengers it accommodates as well as the perceived threat to life and property. The deadline for the grants is March 9, 2007. Official information on the program is available at:

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants\\_ipp2007.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_ipp2007.htm)

### **Transit Security**

Integrated into the Infrastructure Protection Program is the [Transit Security Grants Program \(DHS\)](#) The TSGP provides grant funding to the Nation's key high-threat urban areas to enhance security measures for their critical transit infrastructure, including bus, rail and ferry systems. The deadline for the grants is March 9, 2007. Official information on the program is available at:

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants\\_ipp2007.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_ipp2007.htm)

### **Buffer Zone Protection Program**

The cornerstone of the Infrastructure Protection Program is the [Buffer Zone Protection Program \(DHS\)](#) BZPP provides grant funding to build security and risk-management capabilities at the State and local level to secure pre-designated Tier I and Tier II critical infrastructure sites, including chemical facilities, financial institutions, nuclear and electric power plants, dams, stadiums, and other high-risk/high-consequence facilities. The deadline for the grants is March 9, 2007. Official information on the program is available at:

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants\\_ipp2007.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_ipp2007.htm)

### **Crosscutting and IT-related Funding**

A number of programs will support crosscutting and/or more broad-based IT programs. They typically require the involvement of a variety of agencies and first responders, but they are ideal for supporting regional IPICS implementations.

Many of these programs also take a conscientious all-hazards approach to funding homeland security, assisting in preparing for, deterring, and responding to both man-made and non-man-made disasters. The programs include:

- [State Homeland Security Program \(DHS\)](#)  
The state grants require that 80% of funding be passed through to local first responder agencies. SHSP supports the implementation of the State Homeland Security Strategies to address the identified planning, equipment, training, and exercise needs for acts of terrorism. In addition, SHSP supports the implementation of the National Preparedness Goal, NIMS, and the NRP. This grant is part of the Homeland security Grants Program.  
Deadline for this program: April 5, 2007  
Official guidance is available at:  
[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants\\_hsgp2007.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_hsgp2007.htm)
- [Urban Areas Security Initiative Program \(DHS\)](#)  
UASI Program funds address the unique planning, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high threat, high density Urban Areas, and assist them in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. This grant is part of the Homeland security Grants Program. Eligible Urban Areas are divided into Tier 1 (most vulnerable) and Tier 2 (vulnerable).  
Deadline for this program: April 5, 2007

Official guidance is available at:

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants\\_hsgp2007.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_hsgp2007.htm)

- **Emergency Management Performance Grants (FEMA)**

Emergency Management Performance Grants are no longer part of the Homeland Security Grants Program. They are administered independently, and provide truly all-hazards funding for emergency management preparedness. The Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) program is designed to assist States and Urban Areas achieve the target levels of capability to sustain and enhance the effectiveness of their emergency management program.

Deadline for this program: December 29, 2007

Official guidance is available at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fy2007empg.pdf>

These and other crosscutting programs can complement agency funding and can serve as a catalyst for involving disparate agencies, traditionally separated by function, geography, or population.

### ***Finding Programs to Fit Your Project***

Identifying programs in a list of appropriations is one thing, getting the dirt on how and where to send (or transmit) an application is sometimes quite different. Depending on the type of grant and its distribution method, you may be applying to a federal agency, state agency, or even a Congressman for the funds.

### **The Mechanisms of Funding**

These funds are generally distributed either directly to state and local governments for them to use, or they are passed to the states to be administered. Obviously, the cleanest method is to send the funding directly to the recipient, but as grant programs reach close to \$1 billion in total funding, Congress tends to push the money out to the states to distribute, to allow the states to ensure that funded projects support statewide and regional priorities.

Decisions about how the funding should be distributed, on the state or federal level, follow one of three basic formats:

- Competitive
- Formula
- Earmark

**Competitive** grants require potential recipients to submit proposals that describe their communities' needs for the funding, how they will implement a project that complies with the requirements of the grant, and the benefits they expect to accrue as a result of implementing the project. These proposals are then scored, based on pre-established criteria, and funding decisions are made, based (mostly) on the scores the proposals receive. In competitive grants, if you don't apply, you won't get funded, and not everyone who applies for funding receives it.

**Formula** funding, as the name implies, is distributed based not on a community's ability to articulate its need, but rather the data available to the administering agency. Formulas for homeland security grants may include crime statistics, population, a minimum per-state amount, (measured or un-measured) vulnerability assessment, or (more likely) a combination of these and other factors. These funds may still require an application, but the form is intended more to document statistics and set a budget for how funds will be spent than to determine fundability of a project.

**Earmark** funds are among the more misunderstood methods of federal funding. Earmarks, discretionary legislative spending, or "pork," as it's sometimes described, is the least transparent and most personal method for distributing funding. It requires a Congressional Representative to ask his or her Appropriations committee member to encumber a funding program in the amount of the local project. Like a checkbook, Congress allocates funds for this museum in Syracuse or that Roadway in Virginia.

What concerns many about this process, an important way for legislators to create goodwill in their election districts, is that the uses of the various funds may not be the most appropriate outside the context of their use for a particular Congressman. Nevertheless, earmarks are a \$28 billion reality, and as long as Congress is doing it, it may pay for the local community to try to get its share of the money.

### **Getting in the Loop**

Except in the case of earmarks, you cannot generally apply for funding until a program has been officially announced as open. Using information from previous years may give you a general idea of when the grant will be administered, but the official word comes from the agency responsible for the grant. Federal grantmaking agencies are becoming increasingly adept at using the Federal Grants Gateway, [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), to announce funding opportunities. Raw information on the program is available to browse and search. In the "Find" screen, the date and agency search features are quite helpful in zeroing in on the program you're looking for. The grants.gov site is particularly useful if you already know which program you want to learn about. The site also allows you to apply online for many of the opportunities. The UPstream service at [grantsoffice.com](http://grantsoffice.com) as well as other commercial databases provide additional classification and searchability, as well as a weekly e-mail notification service, and state and local funding opportunities, to round out your search.

In general, grant announcements contain:

- Title of the grant
- Application deadline(s)
- Formatting and transmittal requirements
- Required elements and forms
- Program contact information

### **Using the Guidelines Provided**

Announcements may also contain such valuable information as reviewer's guidelines and scoring criteria or allowable expenditures and requirements of awardees. All this information can be used to make your proposal stronger.

Knowing how your proposal will be reviewed is key to presenting the information in the most effective manner. Ultimately, the goal is to articulate your project so that it receives the highest possible score, given the scoring criteria for the program. The higher the score, the more likely the proposal is to win.

### **About Grants Office**

Grants Office, LLC is a grants development and support company located in Rochester, New York. Through information and direct consulting support, Grants Office helps make municipalities, non-profit organizations, and industry partners more successful at obtaining funds from federal, state, and local sources.