Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program
What to Know When You Apply

What Is the PSIC Grant Program?
The recently announced Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program provides federal funding to help state and local first responders improve public safety communications during day-to-day operations and especially when responding to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, man-made events, criminal action, and emergency calls for service.

The program is a one-time grant opportunity to improve interoperable voice, data, and video communications capabilities and encourage the use of commercial technologies that utilize—or enable interoperability with systems that utilize—the reallocated 700 MHz spectrum.

Approximately $968 million is available to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The State Administrative Agency (SAA), designated by the state or territory governor, can apply for and administer the funds. Eligible recipients must be a public safety agency—that is a state, local, or tribal government entity, or an authorized nongovernmental organization, whose principal mission is to protect safety of life, health, or property.

For more information about the PSIC Grant Program, contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at 800 368-6498 or askcsid@dhs.gov.

Key Grant Information
• Helps safety agencies enhance interoperability communications utilizing the 700 MHz spectrum
• Almost $1 billion in available funding
• All U.S. states, territories, and District of Columbia are eligible
• Grant projects must be completed in FY 2010
• Prepare applications at www.grants.gov
• PSIC Grant Program updates: www.ntia.doc.gov/psic
• FAQs: www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/PSICFAQ.pdf

Contact your Cisco account manager today or speak with your IT team.

Cisco solutions satisfy PSIC guidelines for new technologies
The PSIC Grant Program encourages the use of forward-thinking technologies and solutions to achieve interoperability...Some examples of innovative solutions include (but are not limited to) the use of voice or radio Internet protocol; broadband voice, data, or video applications; mobile public safety networks; multiband/multimode software-designed radios; network interconnect technologies; or satellite communication systems.

PSIC Grants Guidance, page 3.
Cisco provides the broadest portfolio of advanced technologies for agencies that want to increase interagency collaboration and productivity while they decrease costs.

Using Cisco’s advanced technologies, public safety teams have greater operational and situational awareness, which helps them to make the best decisions and to deliver actionable information immediately to where it is needed most. Cisco solutions converge voice, video, data, and mobility onto a highly secure and reliable standards-based IP network to streamline processes, maximize investments, and minimize cost of ownership.

**Four Areas Where Cisco Can Help You**

1. **Mobility**

   First responders and other public safety field personnel make daily decisions that affect their own safety and the safety of citizens they protect and serve. Safety and service effectiveness increase when field personnel can base their decisions on relevant information, such as criminal databases, driver’s license photos, mug shots, building blueprints, surveillance videos, and more.

   By extending network access to the field—including vehicles in motion—Cisco solutions improve public safety by promoting greater productivity, collaboration, and flexibility throughout the entire chain of command and with other agencies.

   **Fulfills grant requirements for:**
   - Voice and data services that meet wireless public safety service quality
   - Use of spectrum-conserving techniques such as multiple-access technologies
   - Use of spectrum- or channel-sharing techniques

2. **Security**

   The Cisco approach to the security of wired and wireless networks has evolved from point products to the Cisco Self-Defending Network: integrated security that is native to all aspects of government organizations. Self-defending networks identify threats, react appropriately to the severity level, isolate infected servers and desktops, and reconfigure network resources in response to an attack.

   Cisco combines highly secure connectivity, threat defense, and trust and identity management systems with infection containment and rogue device isolation capabilities—in a single, integrated security solution.

   **Fulfills grant requirements for:**
   - Use of commercial services to support interoperable communications
   - Solutions that have an open interface to facilitate the efficient transfer of voice, data, and video signals
   - Use of wired communications where possible to carry the appropriate types of communications traffic

3. **Unified Communications**

   Cisco Unified Communications helps public safety agencies deliver highly secure, reliable communications over multiple channels to foster interagency collaboration and increase service reach and responsiveness. Now, first responders can be more effective through better communications and information access from anywhere, at any time, and under any circumstances.

   Cisco Unified Communications delivers voice, video, and data through a converged IP-based network. The result is a highly effective and collaborative business environment that significantly improves the way public safety organizations interact with personnel, citizens, and other agencies.

   **Fulfills grant requirements for:**
   - Use of IP-based technology to interconnect with other systems
   - Enables interoperability with existing systems and enables a shared system-of-systems
   - Uses shared infrastructure to benefit multiple disciplines and jurisdictions across a region, state, and/or territory

4. **Operability/Interoperability**

   Cisco offers unique communications solutions for public safety, such as Cisco IP Interoperability and Collaboration System (IPICS) and Cisco rapidly deployable communications. These solutions provide comprehensive communications interoperability using existing radios and other communications devices from headquarters or in the field. Authorized personnel can join the same radio channel using any push-to-talk radio system as well as mobile phones, IP phones, public switched telephone network phones, and PC clients.

   These solutions also help agencies **address the requirement for a nonfederal 20 percent funding match**. Cisco solutions are a fraction of the cost of new Project 25 radio systems, making the funding match more affordable for organizations.

   **Fulfills grant requirements for:**
   - Use of IP-based technology to interconnect with other systems
   - Enables interoperability with existing systems and enables a shared system-of-systems
   - Uses shared infrastructure to benefit multiple disciplines and jurisdictions across a region, state, and/or territory
   - Provides the best solution that consumes the least amount of spectrum to meet user requirements

Cisco solutions address PSIC grant requirements, such as:
- Interoperability with existing systems
- Use of advanced, IP-based solutions for long-term viability
- Use of advanced commercial technologies
- Solutions that offer the most benefit to greatest number of users
- Standards-based technologies to provide voice and data services
- Consumption of the minimum amount of spectrum needed to meet user requirements
- Shared infrastructure elements to benefit multiple disciplines and multiple jurisdictions across a region, state, and/or territory