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CONTACTS: Dan Nelson (DOC) 202-482-4883
Todd Sedmak (NTIA) 202-482-7002
DHS Press Office 202-282-8010

Secretaries Gutierrez, Chertoff Announce Nearly \$1 Billion in First Responder Communications Grants

Funds to Help Fire Fighters, Police and Other First Responders Communicate During a Disaster

WASHINGTON - U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez and U.S. Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff today announced the \$968 million in Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grants to help state and local first responders improve public safety communications and coordination during a natural or man-made disaster.

The PSIC grant program will assist public safety agencies in the acquisition, deployment, and training of interoperable communications systems to enhance the ability of first responders to communicate via voice, data, and/or video signals. Also, released today are the grant guidance and application kits. Applications are due in 30 days, and grants will be awarded by September 30, 2007, as required by the Call Home Act of 2006.

The U.S. Congress authorized \$1 billion to establish the PSIC program as a one-time, formula-based, matching grant program in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Grant awards will be made to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and four U.S. territories.

“Under this streamlined program, states will be given grants to use technology that will make our cities and states safer,” said Secretary Gutierrez. “When disaster strikes, we want our first responders to have the best tools available to communicate.”

“Achieving interoperable communications is a major priority for our department and should be a priority for every community across our nation,” said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. “These grants will help states and cities purchase equipment, conduct training and exercises, and develop effective interoperable communications plans to get this important job done.”

First responders from different jurisdictions and agencies use disparate communication technologies that impede critical communication among fire fighters, police, and other emergency personnel during a disaster. Such differences can pose problems and impede the critical work of the nation’s first responders.



PSIC FUNDING ALLOCATION

State	Funding Allocation
Alabama	\$ 13,585,399
Alaska	\$ 7,250,345
American Samoa	\$ 691,948
Arizona	\$ 17,713,050
Arkansas	\$ 11,169,402
California	\$ 94,034,510
Colorado	\$ 14,336,638
Connecticut	\$ 12,999,879
Delaware	\$ 8,196,842
District of Columbia	\$ 11,857,972
Florida	\$ 42,888,266
Georgia	\$ 25,311,354
Guam	\$ 2,600,678
Hawaii	\$ 8,069,879
Idaho	\$ 7,289,795
Illinois	\$ 36,414,263
Indiana	\$ 18,291,735
Iowa	\$ 10,935,974
Kansas	\$ 10,667,169
Kentucky	\$ 15,405,625
Louisiana	\$ 19,672,287
Maine	\$ 7,567,579
Maryland	\$ 22,934,593
Massachusetts	\$ 21,191,988
Michigan	\$ 25,039,781
Minnesota	\$ 14,262,071
Mississippi	\$ 10,989,345
Missouri	\$ 17,465,576
Montana	\$ 6,549,685
Nebraska	\$ 8,582,108
Nevada	\$ 12,042,417
New Hampshire	\$ 5,966,760
New Jersey	\$ 30,806,646
New Mexico	\$ 8,288,725
New York	\$ 60,734,783
North Carolina	\$ 22,130,199
North Dakota	\$ 7,052,490
Northern Mariana Islands	\$ 719,236
Ohio	\$ 29,377,337
Oklahoma	\$ 11,684,183
Oregon	\$ 12,182,532
Pennsylvania	\$ 34,190,555
Puerto Rico	\$ 9,590,025
Rhode Island	\$ 7,365,694
South Carolina	\$ 13,499,308
South Dakota	\$ 6,549,691
Tennessee	\$ 17,540,752
Texas	\$ 65,069,247
U.S. Virgin Islands	\$ 856,907
Utah	\$ 10,353,261
Vermont	\$ 4,476,761
Virginia	\$ 25,012,521
Washington	\$ 19,180,347
West Virginia	\$ 8,429,484
Wisconsin	\$ 15,367,216
Wyoming	\$ 5,952,187
Total =	\$ 968,385,000

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)	Tier I UASI Funding	Total State Funding
Bay Area, CA	\$ 14,528,292	\$ 94,034,510
Chicago Area, IL	\$ 16,195,438	\$ 36,414,263
Houston Area, TX	\$ 14,586,128	\$ 65,069,247
Jersey City/Newark Area, NJ	\$ 17,495,751	\$ 30,806,646
Los Angeles/Long Beach Area, CA	\$ 22,278,788	\$ 94,034,510
National Capital Region*	\$ 11,857,972	\$ 11,857,972
New York City Area, NY	\$ 34,812,602	\$ 60,734,783

*This allocation only represents District of Columbia funding, which may support the National Capital Region Tier 1 Urban Area. In submitting their investment justifications, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia SAAs should consider both State-specific as well as National Capital Region interoperability projects.

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is working with public safety agencies to achieve meaningful improvements in communicating during an emergency, and fill gaps identified in the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans. To address these goals, states and territories are encouraged to leverage innovative technologies and solutions that enhance capabilities for responding to all hazards when selecting projects for PSIC funding. In particular, applicants should consider solutions that use the nation's airwaves efficiently, are cost-effective, and enhance communications in areas at high risk for natural and manmade disasters. Grant-funded projects must be completed by the end of fiscal year 2010.

PSIC funds were allocated using a formula that considers threats, vulnerabilities and consequences to determine risk. The program also is consistent with existing guidance from the SAFECOM Program Office within the DHS Office for Interoperability and Compatibility.

Attached are fact sheets and funding information for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and four U.S. Territories. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic> or <http://www.dhs.gov/xgovt/grants/index.shtm>.

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