



# Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program

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Public Safety Interoperable Communications

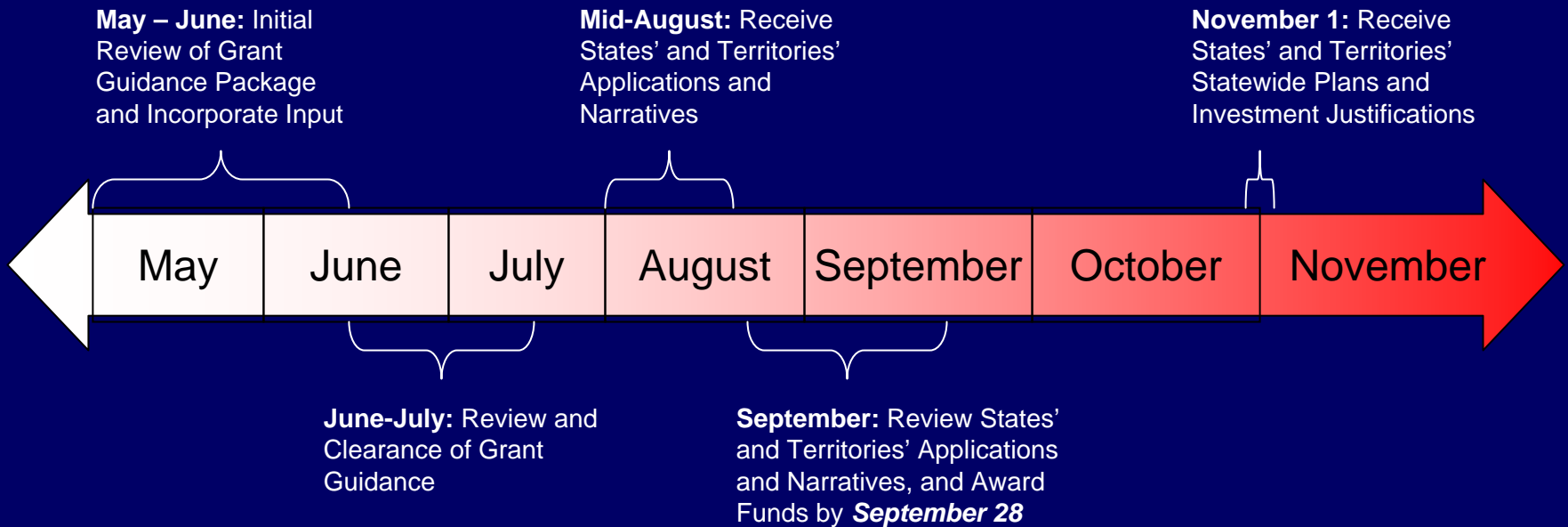


## PSIC Background

- **The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 provided the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) the authority to establish a \$1 billion grant program for public safety interoperability communications**
- **The funds are borrowed from the anticipated auction proceeds of the 700 MHz spectrum**
- **The Call Home Act of 2006 requires all funding to be awarded by September 30, 2007**
- **Through an MOU, NTIA partnered with DHS (NPD)**
  - **DHS will provide grants-related administrative services and expertise**
  - **NTIA retains approval authority**
- **Total of \$958.9 million in funding is available for grant awards**

# Current Timeline of PSIC Activities to Meet Call Home Act Requirements

## May through November 2007



# Key Features of PSIC Grant Program

- **Awardees:** Funding will be awarded through the 56 State and Territory Administrative Agencies (SAA)
- **Period of Performance:** PSIC grants will be awarded no later than September 30, 2007 and period of performance will end on September 30, 2010
- **Statewide Planning:** Up to 5 percent of the total funds allocated to a State or territory will be available at the time of the award to support the completion of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (Statewide Plan)
- **Technical Assistance:** DHS technical assistance will support grantees with planning and implementation of PSIC awards
- **Technical Review:** Remaining funds (95 percent) will be contingent upon submission, technical review, and approval of a Statewide Plan and Investment Justifications
- **Use of Funds:** Funding can be used for “acquisition of, deployment of, or training on” interoperable communications systems that use or enable use with the 700 MHz frequency band
- **Match:** PSIC includes a statutory requirement of not-less-than 20 percent match



# PSIC Goals and Objectives

**The program will not dictate a technology or an approach for interoperability solutions. However, we are considering two goals and five objectives for the PSIC Grant Program**

## Goals

- Achieve meaningful and measurable improvements in the state of interoperability for public safety communications; and
- Fill interoperability gaps identified in the Statewide Plans

## Objectives

### Technological

- Adopt advanced technological solutions
- Improve spectrum efficiency
- Use cost-effective measures

### Geographical

- Improve communications in areas at risk for natural disasters
- Continue to improve interoperability efforts in urban and metropolitan areas



## Eligible Applicants Section

- **The PSIC grants will be awarded to the 56 States and Territories**
- **The Governor of each State has designated a State Administrative Agency (SAA) to apply for and administer the funds under the PSIC Grant Program**
- **The SAA is the only agency eligible to apply for PSIC funds. The SAA is responsible for obligating PSIC funds to eligible pass-through public safety agencies**



## Pass-Through Requirements Section

- **Each State will make no less than 80 percent of the total award amount available as a pass-through to local government, tribal government entities, or nongovernmental public safety agencies**
  - **District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island have no pass-through requirements**
  - **Puerto Rico has a 50 percent pass-through requirement**
- **However, each State and Territory may retain some or all of the pass-through for expenditures made by the State on behalf of the pass-through local entities through a formal Memorandum of Understanding with local entities that specifies the amount and intended use of the funds**





## Match Requirements Section

- **The public safety agency receiving the PSIC project funds is required to meet and document the 20 percent match requirement**
- **The SAA is required to track and report the 20 percent match requirements for PSIC funds**
- **The documentation must demonstrate that matching funds are from non-federal sources**
- **The only exception to this previous statement is that funds used for training activities do not require a 20 percent match**



## Statewide Plans and PSIC

- **FY 2007 HSGP requires States to develop and adopt a Statewide Plan**
- **Proposed PSIC projects to receive funds should align with the goals and gaps identified in the Statewide Plan**
- **Statewide Plans must incorporate the three PSIC criteria:**
  - **Description of how public safety agencies operate on or interoperate with the 700 MHz frequency band, via voice, data, and/or video signals;**
  - **Description of how local and tribal government entities' interoperable communications needs have been included in the planning process and how their needs are being addressed, if applicable; and**
  - **Description of how nongovernmental organizations' interoperable communications needs have been included in the planning process and how their needs are being addressed, if applicable**
- **This criteria was released to State teams at the Statewide Planning Workshop sponsored by the National Governors Associations (NGA) and DHS on March 21, 2007**



## Investment Justification Overview

- **All States and Territories will be required to develop Investment Justifications to request FY 2007 PSIC funding**
- **The Investment Justification provides a template for applicants to outline the proposed initiatives for the FY 2007 PSIC funding**
- **There will be a limit on the number of Investment Justifications that the States and Territories will be allowed to submit**



# PSIC Investment Justification

The Investment Justification Template may ask for the following project information/metrics:

<b>IJ COMPONENT</b>	<b>REVIEW CRITERIA</b>
<b>Project Narrative</b>	Problem, proposed solution, expected outcomes
<b>Baseline</b>	Historical funding, description of need, stakeholder involvement
<b>Strategy</b>	Consistency with Statewide Plan, consistency with PSIC technological and geographical objectives
<b>Funding Plan</b>	Estimated costs, concurrent funding sources, and matching funds
<b>Milestones</b>	Specific project milestones
<b>Project Management</b>	Proposed management structure, contract management approach, roles and responsibilities
<b>Investment Challenges</b>	Up to 5 expected challenges, level of impact, mitigation strategy
<b>Impact</b>	Specific outcome metrics, cost-effective measure, long-term sustainability approach





## Contact Information

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