Homeland Security

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TO: All State Administrative Agency Heads
                 All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
                 All State Administrative Agency Grant Points of Contact
                 All State Homeland Security Directors
                 All Urban Area Core City/Core County and State Points of Contact

FROM: Corey D. Gruber
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SUBJECT: Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program

On February 16, 2007, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Grants and Training and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will have DHS administer the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program. The PSIC Grant Program will provide funding to qualified States and Territories in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 to enable and enhance public safety agencies' interoperable communications capabilities. This program is being implemented by DHS and NTIA in accordance with the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and Call Home Act of 2006. DHS is providing this information in anticipation of the release of grant guidance in the coming months and issuance of grant awards by September 30, 2007, pursuant to the Call Home Act of 2006.

As directed by Congress and consistent with the MOU, NTIA through DHS will award approximately $960 million in grants to qualified States and Territories in FY 2007 to capitalize on the auction and reallocation of radio spectrum for use by public safety agencies. Key features of the PSIC Grant Program will include:

- PSIC grants will be awarded no later than September 30, 2007 and the period of performance is 36 months;

- Up to 5 percent of the total funds will be available at award to ensure that Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans include consideration of the PSIC Grant Program requirements;

- Remaining funds will be contingent upon submission and peer review of a Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan (Statewide Plan) and investment justifications and federal approval of applications and investment justifications;

- Funding can be used for the acquisition of, deployment of, or training for, the use of interoperable communications systems that use or enable interoperability with

communications systems that support the 764–776 MHz and 794–806 MHz frequency bands as well as other available technologies to advance overall public safety interoperability, so long as those technologies will enable first responders to interoperate with the 700 MHz band in the future; and

- PSIC includes a statutory not-less-than 20 percent match.

All States and Territories may submit preliminary Statewide Plans by September 30, 2007 for a mid-term review, and the final plans are due by November 1, 2007. These dates are revised deadlines from what was previously identified in the FY 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) in order to more closely align with the September 30, 2007 PSIC Grant Program award date, as directed by the Call Home Act of 2006.

The Statewide Planning Workshop for Public Safety Interoperable Communications will be held in Los Angeles, California on March 21-23, 2007. This important workshop will be hosted by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), and will revolve around discussions and workshops dealing with the Statewide Plan guidelines. In a letter sent to all Governors on January 12, 2007, all State and Territories were encouraged to designate a five-member team including State and local practitioners and policy makers to participate. Additionally, DHS is creating a technical assistance program specifically designed to support the statewide planning process in order to assist States and Territories in developing their Statewide Plans by the November 1, 2007 deadline.

Should you need additional information or have further questions regarding the PSIC Grant Program, please contact your Preparedness Officer or the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at 1-800-368-6498.