



FEMA

**National Preparedness Directorate Information Bulletin  
No. 268 October 19, 2007**

TO: All State Administrative Agency Heads  
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact

FROM: Lisa Lewis  
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SUBJECT: Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program -  
Revised and Supplementary PSIC Information

In response to stakeholder feedback collected at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) technical assistance workshops held nationwide from September 24 – October 1, 2007, both NTIA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are pleased to release the updates below to further equip and assist Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program applicants. Below is a detailed list of the updates for your information.

- A **Clarification Letter** has been attached and the **Investment Justification (IJ) Template** was revised so that applicants have more flexibility in meeting the 20 percent statutory match requirement. States and Territories no longer have to provide match on a project-by-project level; match can either be identified and allocated at the total IJ level or per individual Investment. In addition, the IJ Template's character counts were updated so that applicants have more flexibility to answer IJ questions.
- The **allowable cost matrix** provides applicants with more detailed examples of PSIC allowable and disallowable cost categories.
- **Frequently asked questions** from the NTIA-sponsored workshops were compiled so that applicants better understand the PSIC Grant Program.

In addition to the documents above, additional PSIC clarifications and updates are provided below.

- As of October 1, 2007, States and Territories can use the up to 3 percent of **Management & Administration (M&A) funds**. States and Territories can use these funds at the State-level to help fund PSIC activities before Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIP) and IJs are approved. Please reference the PSIC Program Guidance and Application Kit for any questions related to M&A allowances. Grant Adjustment Notices (GAN) are currently being prepared to allow draw-down of M&A funds.
- Many States and Territories have requested clarification on using multiple federal sources to fund PSIC positions and supplanting.
  - *For positions that are currently funded with federal grant funds (i.e., HSGP):* States and Territories may fund positions using multiple federal grant funds or transfer positions between federal grant programs provided the time, salary, benefits, and duties for the various sources of funding are documented. Please ensure that any salaries charged to PSIC are for allowable PSIC activities. Please see OMB A-87 for further information.

- *For existing State/Locally funded positions:* The salary and benefit costs associated with existing non-federally funded positions, who are reassigned to work on PSIC grants, may be used as in-kind match without the need of back-filling their previous position/duties. If PSIC funds will be used to reimburse the salary and benefits for positions that were previously funded with State/Local funds, the State or Territory must back-fill the supplanted position.
- NTIA and DHS are **soliciting participation for the upcoming joint IJ and SCIP peer review panel** (scheduled for February 2008). If you are interested in participating, please see the application information posted on the NTIA website provided below. Please note that to apply, you must be a public sector employee (i.e., local, state, or federal employee), and you must have expertise and/or experience with emergency operations, interoperable communications, public safety, or grants management.

Should you need additional information, please visit the NTIA website at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic>. If you 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 or [askcsid@dhs.gov](mailto:askcsid@dhs.gov).