IMPLEMENTING THE NECP WEBINARS

MONEY TALKS: FUNDING YOUR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES

OCTOBER 21, 2020

Agenda

- Webinar Overview and Objectives
- National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) and SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (SNS): Funding Levels and Sources
- SAFECOM Guidance and Available Federal Grants
- Coordination of Grant Applications
- Sustainable Funding Mechanisms
- Resources and Actions
- Question and Answer Session

Eric Runnels
October 21, 2020

Webinar Objectives

- Discuss gaps and challenges in funding emergency communications
- Learn about *SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants*
- Know where to search and apply for federal grants
- Use the NECP to prioritize communications needs and coordinate applications for federal financial assistance
- Gain an understanding of the different types of funding mechanisms in use by public safety organizations

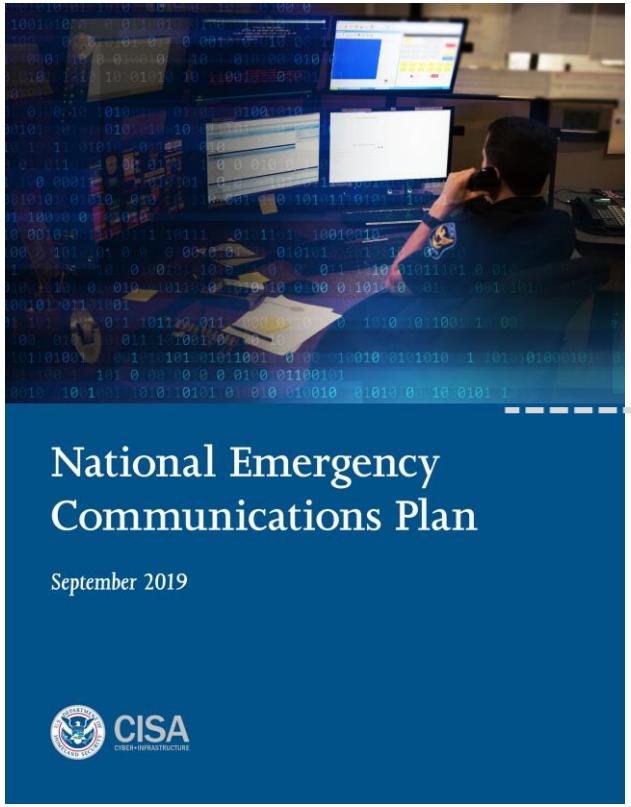
Presenters

Eric Runnels
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Bess Mitchell
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Joy Sears
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

National Emergency Communications Plan



- Mandated by Title XVIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the NECP was first published in 2008, and its latest update was published in 2019
- The NECP is the Nation's strategic plan to strengthen and enhance emergency communications capabilities
- The Plan is designed to provide guidance to those that plan for, coordinate, maintain, invest in, and use communications to support public safety operations
- It helps stakeholders enhance and update the policies, governance structures, planning, and protocols that enable responders to communicate and share information under all circumstances
- The NECP navigates the complex mission of maintaining and improving emergency communications while also integrating new technologies and capabilities for emergency responders

NECP Goals

NECP Vision: To enable the Nation's emergency response community to communicate and share information securely across communications technologies in real time, including all levels of government, jurisdictions, disciplines, organizations, and citizens impacted by any threats or hazards event

Goal 1: Governance and Leadership

Develop and maintain effective emergency communications governance and leadership across the Emergency Communications Ecosystem

Goal 2: Planning and Procedures

Develop and update comprehensive emergency communications plans and procedures that address the evolution of risks, capabilities, and technologies across the Emergency Communications Ecosystem

Goal 3: Training, Exercises, and Evaluation

Develop and deliver training, exercise, and evaluation programs that enhance knowledge and target gaps in all available emergency communications technologies

Goal 4: Communications Coordination

Improve effective coordination of available operable and interoperable public safety communications capabilities for incidents and planned events

Goal 5: Technology and Infrastructure

Improve lifecycle management of the systems and equipment that enable emergency responders and public safety officials to share information efficiently and securely

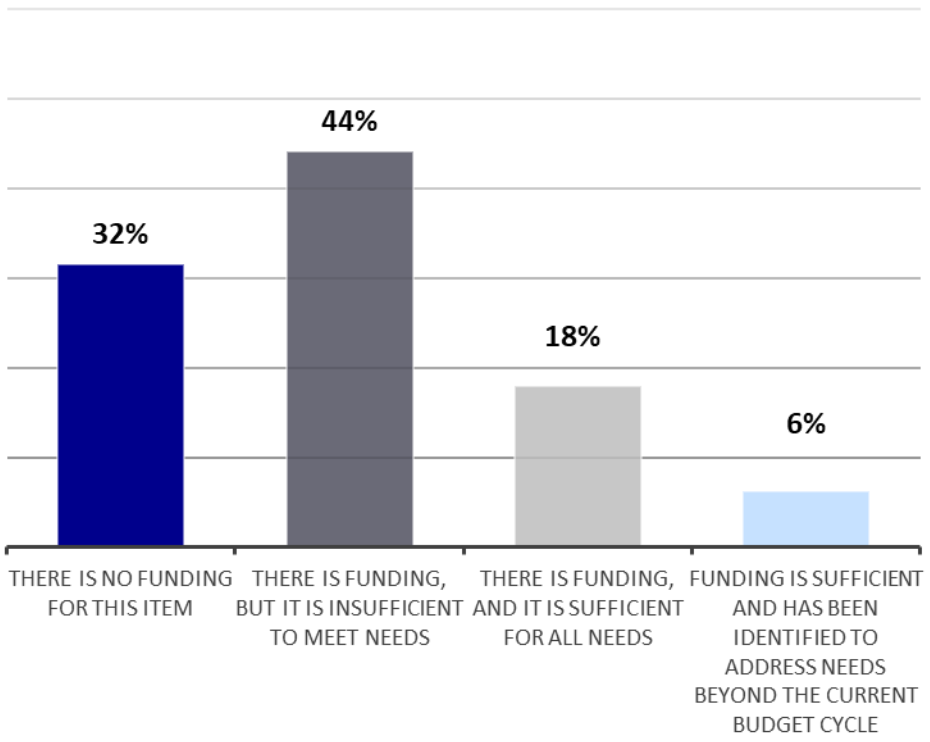
Goal 6: Cybersecurity

Strengthen the cybersecurity posture of the Emergency Communications Ecosystem

Funding Overview

- Emergency communications systems and equipment are expensive to purchase, operate, and maintain
- Federal grant-making agencies are encouraged to consistently update their guidance to accommodate the newest technologies and capabilities
- The SNS found that 76% of public safety organizations reported that they have no or insufficient funding for capital investments in emergency communications network systems
- Public safety organizations have turned to various funding mechanisms and resources as alternatives to grants in their efforts to prioritize system sustainment and upgrades

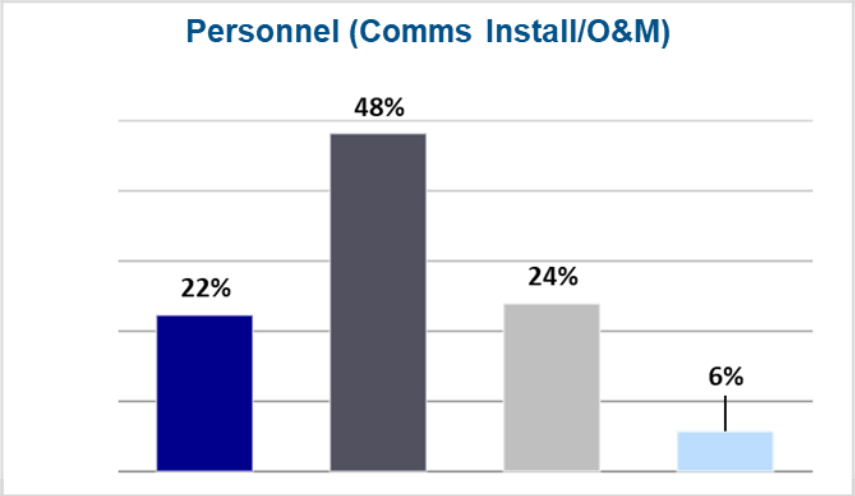
Funding for Network Systems – Capital Investments

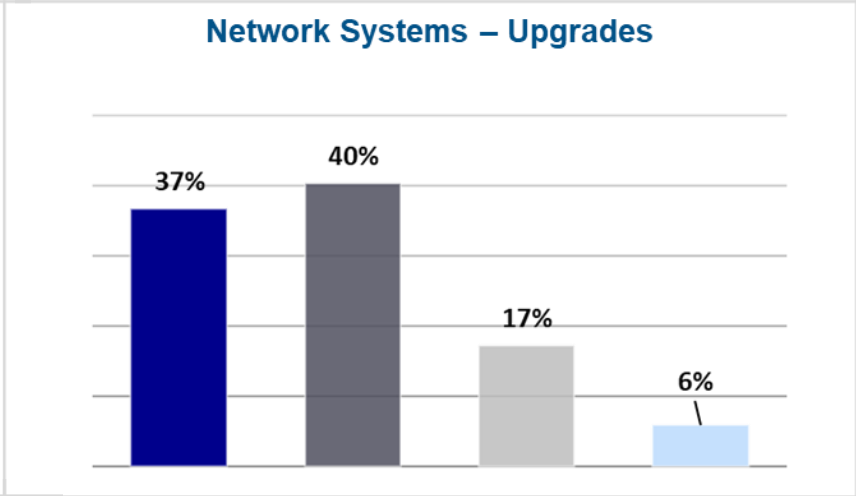


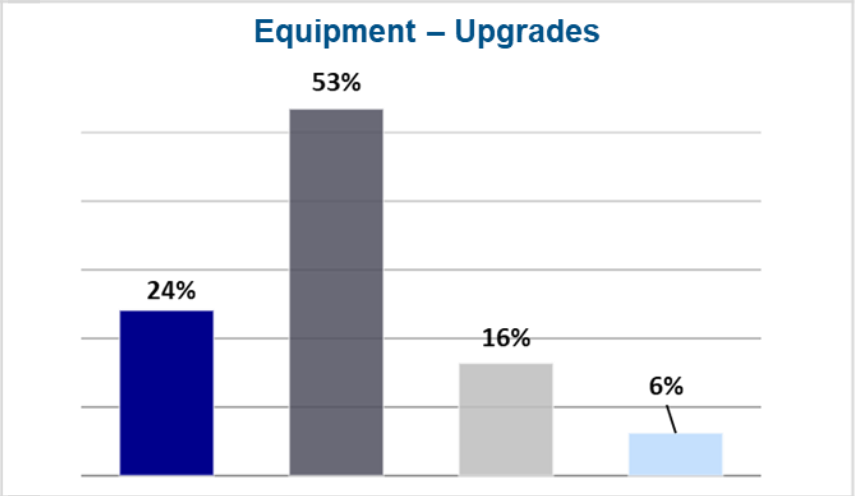
SAFECOM Nationwide Survey

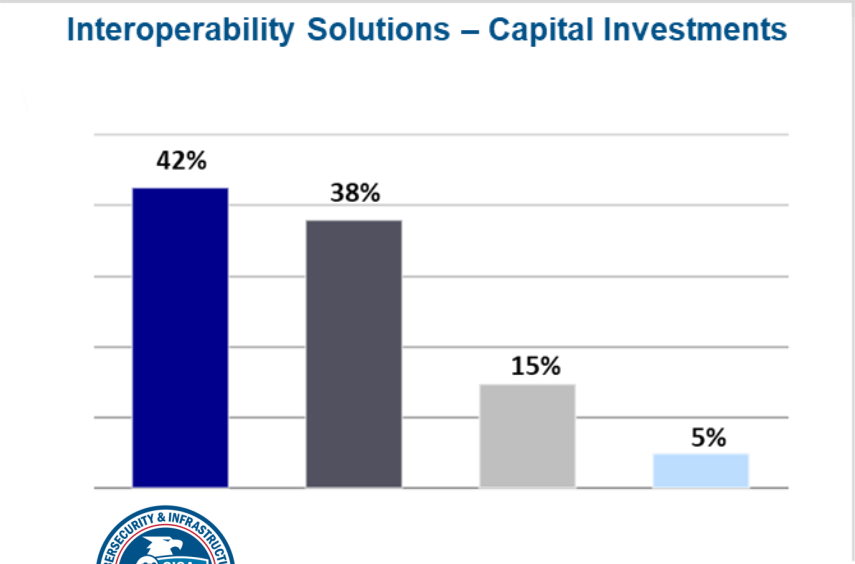
- The SNS is a data collection initiative that supported the content and recommendations of the NECP
- The SNS consisted of 38 questions that span the 5 elements of the *SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum*, plus a security element that accounted for cybersecurity
- Findings from the SNS gauge the status of the Nation's emergency communications capabilities and helped inform the NECP's goals, objectives, and success indicators

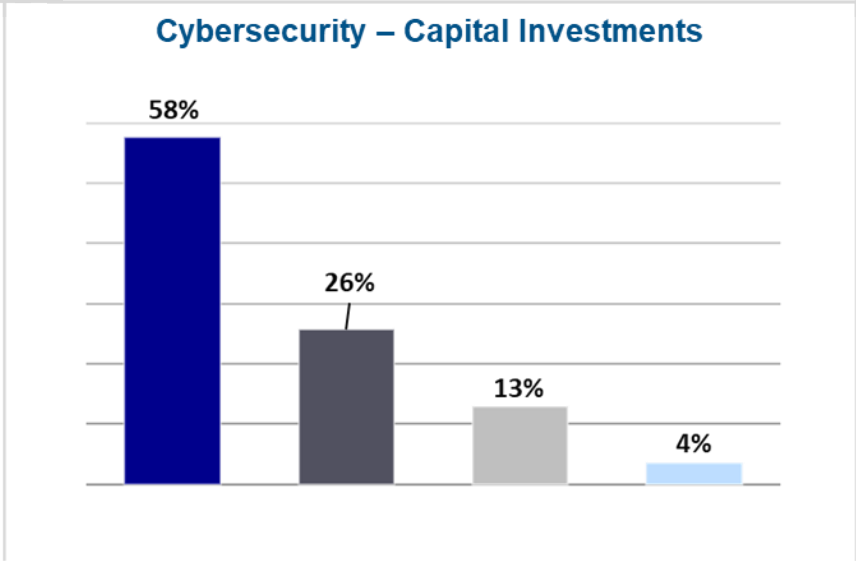
SNS: Funding

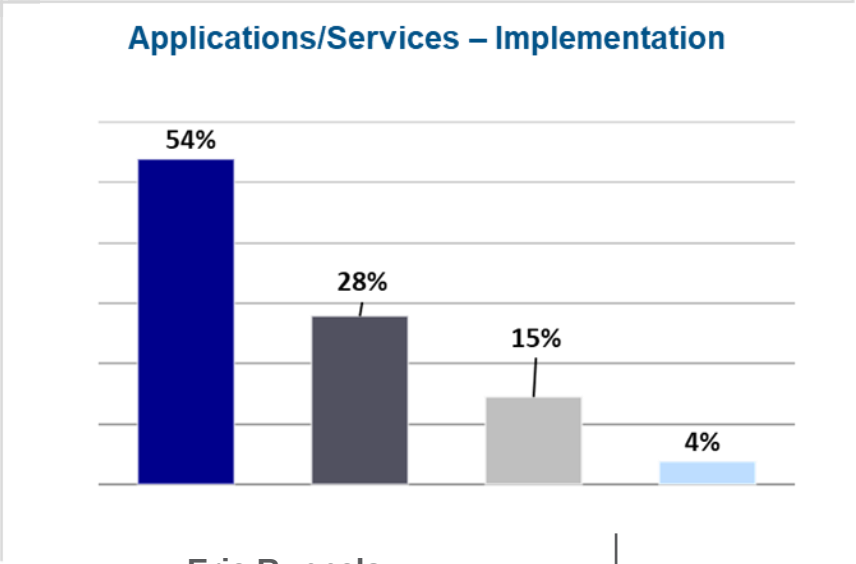








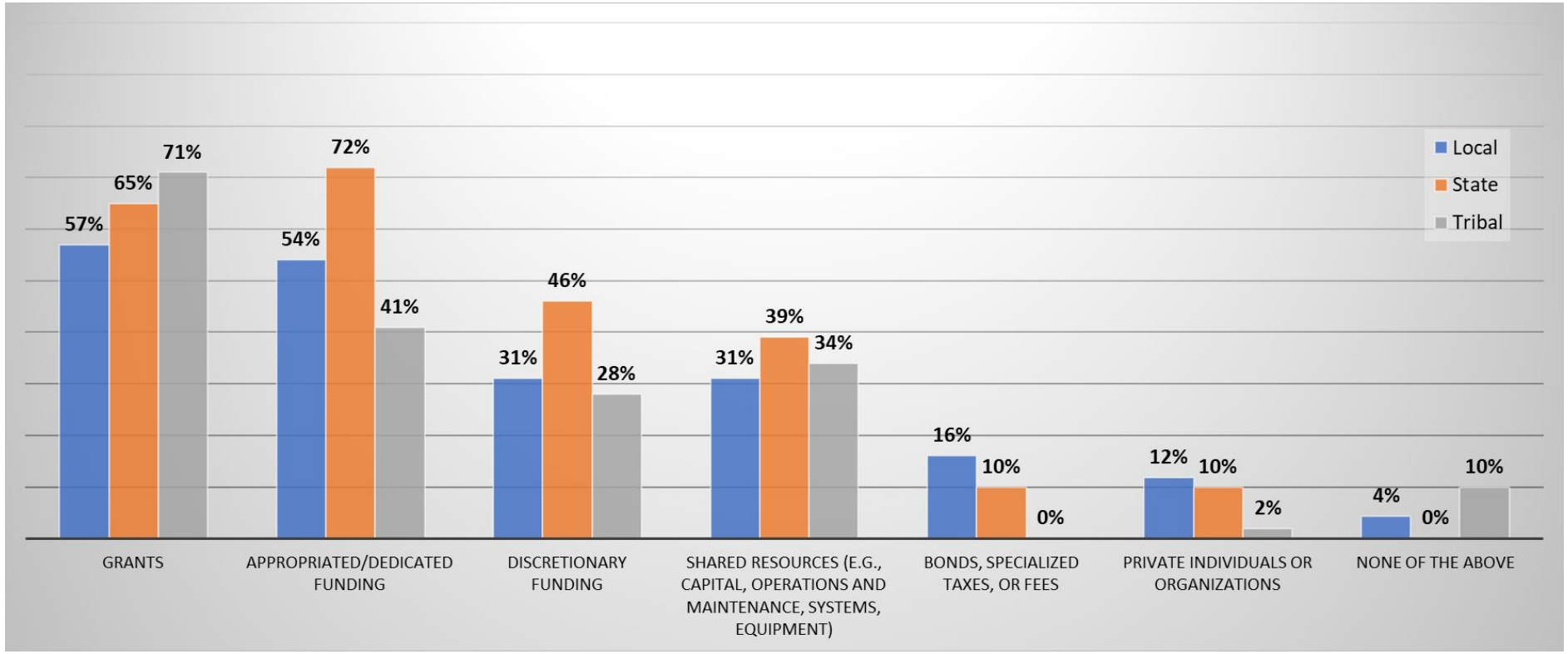




- There is no funding for this item
- There is funding, but it is insufficient to meet needs
- There is funding, and it is sufficient for all needs
- Funding is sufficient and has been identified to address needs beyond the current budget cycle

SNS: Funding Sources

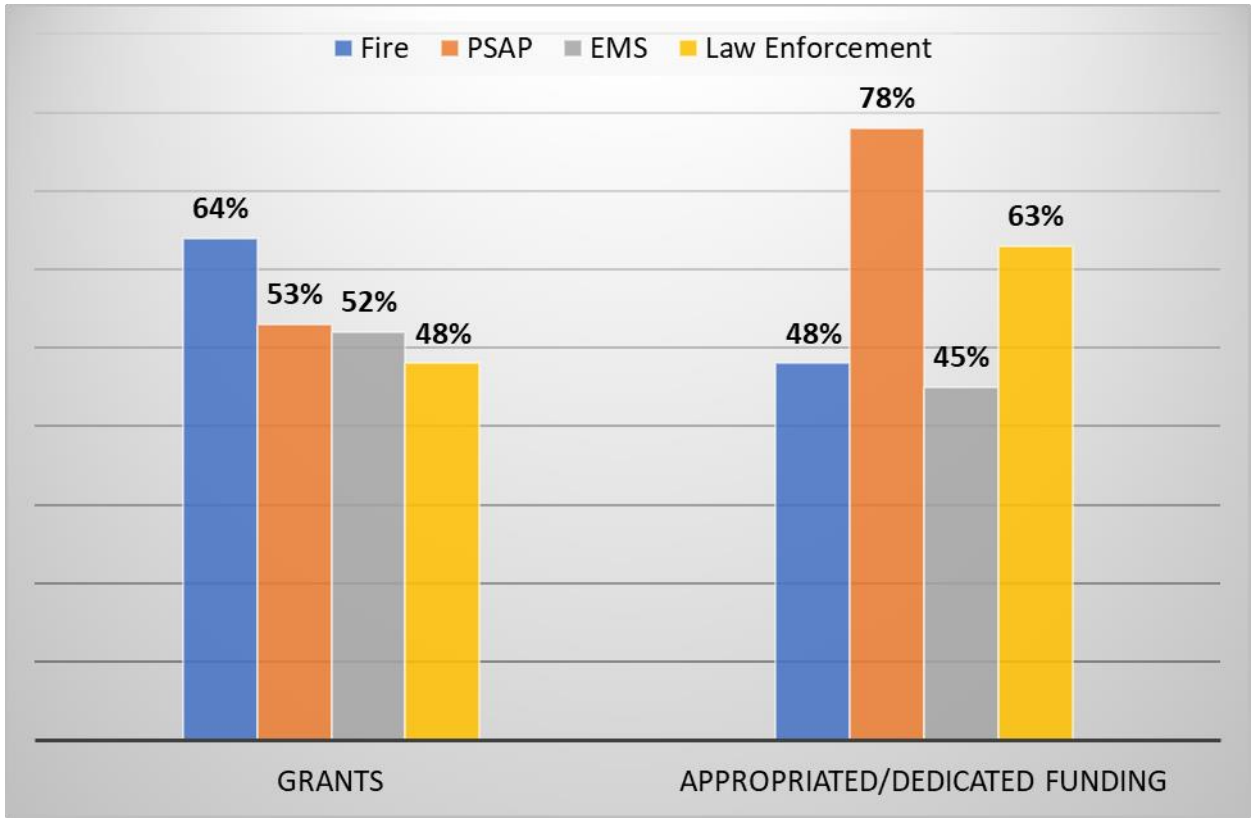
Emergency Communications Funding Sources



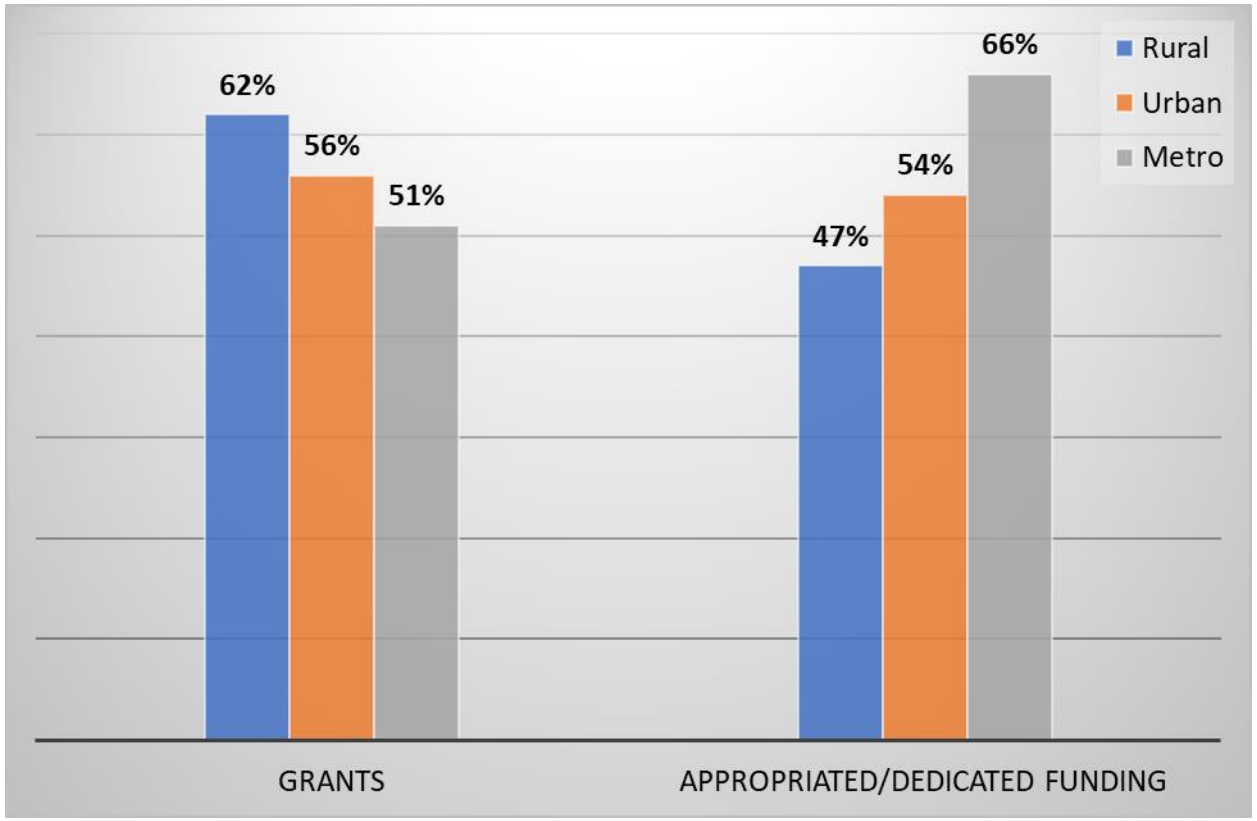
- Of the funding sources identified, local organizations indicated grant funding is the source most used to fund emergency communications

SNS: Funding Sources Breakdown

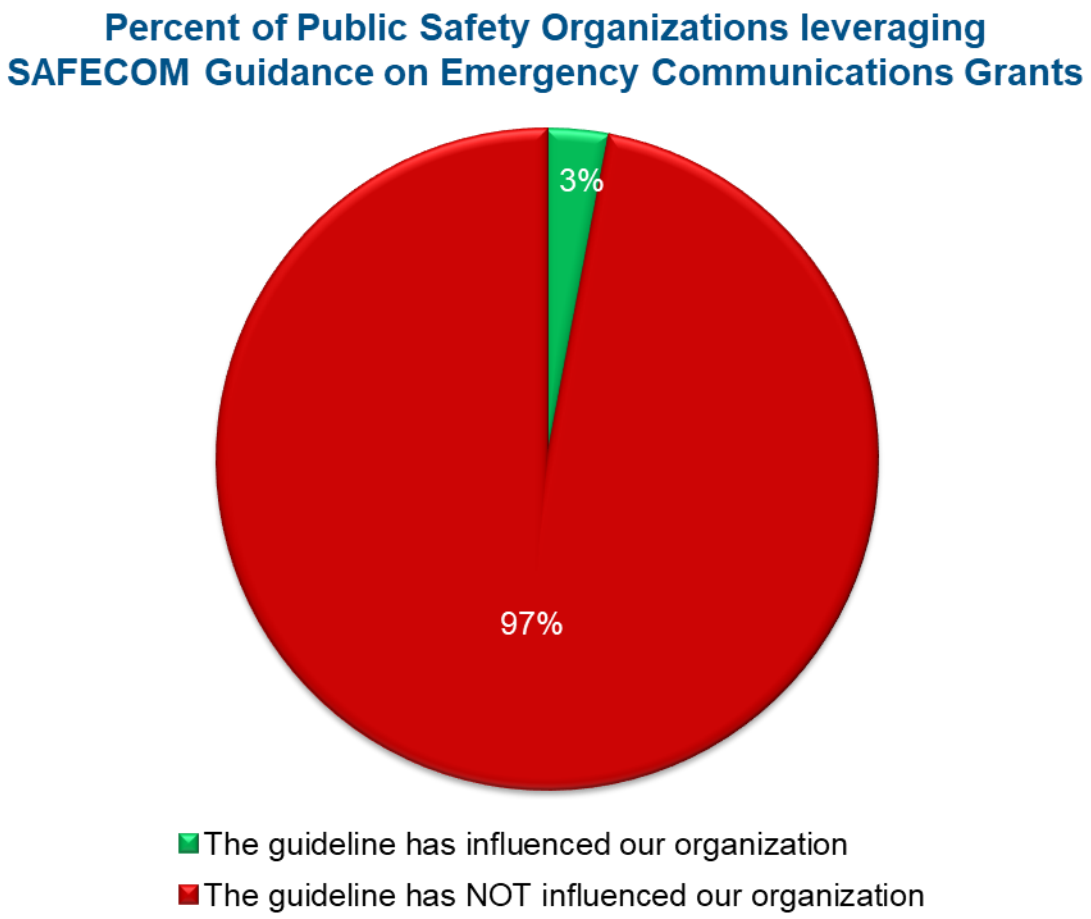
Grants vs. Appropriated Funding by Discipline



Grants vs. Appropriated Funding by Geography



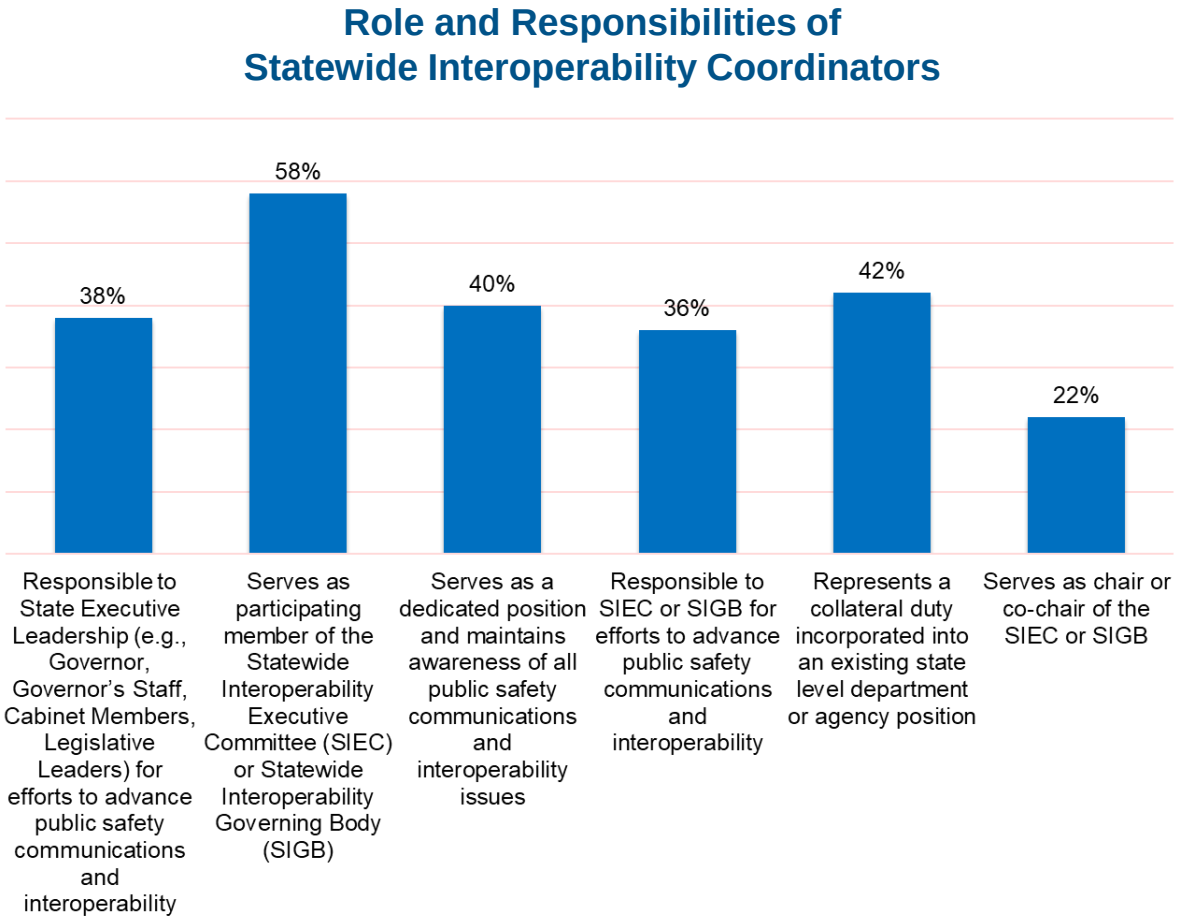
SNS: Funding Guidance



- Only 3% of public safety organizations reported utilizing the *SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants*

NECP Success Indicators: Funding

- Federal funding authorities develop grant guidance for emergency communications governance and investments consistent with SAFECOM guidelines and the NECP
- State and territorial governance bodies prioritize communications needs and coordinate with the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and other state-level planners on applications for federal financial assistance
- Public safety organizations and governing bodies identify sustainable funding mechanisms to support the lifecycle planning model



SAFECOM Guidance Overview

The essential guide for state, local, tribal, and territorial government agencies planning and applying for federal funding to invest in emergency communications projects

Updated every year by CISA in close coordination with FSLTT stakeholders and partners, SAFECOM Guidance is applicable to all federal grants funding emergency communications

SAFECOM Guidance is recognized as the primary guidance on emergency communications grants by the Administration, OMB, and federal grant program offices

Published prior to the release of DHS Preparedness Grants Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) in the February–April timeframe, with release date varying based on stakeholder review and Fiscal Year appropriations

SAFECOM Guidance Guidelines

- SAFECOM Guidance identifies investment priorities that align with the NECP's goals, best practices and standards when purchasing communications capabilities, and eligible activities within common costs categories covered under most federal grants funding emergency communications

Personnel

- Hire full- or part-time staff or consultants to assist with planning, training, and exercise activities

Planning & Organization

- Develop or enhance communications plans
- Formalize governing bodies
- Execute planning activities

Training

- Plan, attend, and conduct communications-specific training workshops or meetings, including logistics costs

Exercises

- Design, develop, conduct, and evaluate interoperable emergency communications exercises

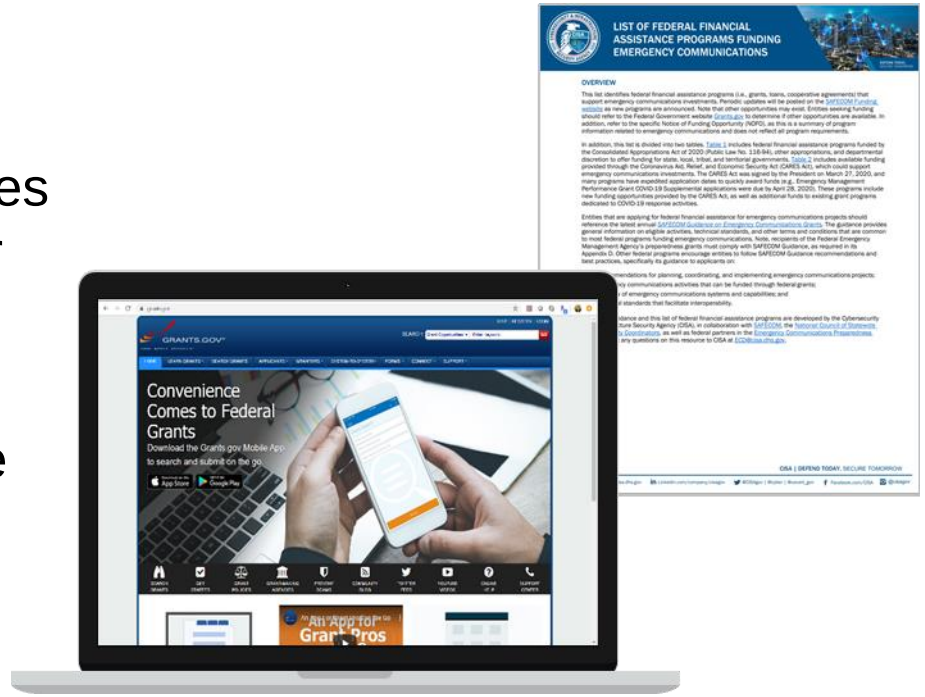
Equipment

- Upgrade sites and infrastructure
- Purchase standards-based equipment
- Conduct system assessments and threat / vulnerability analyses

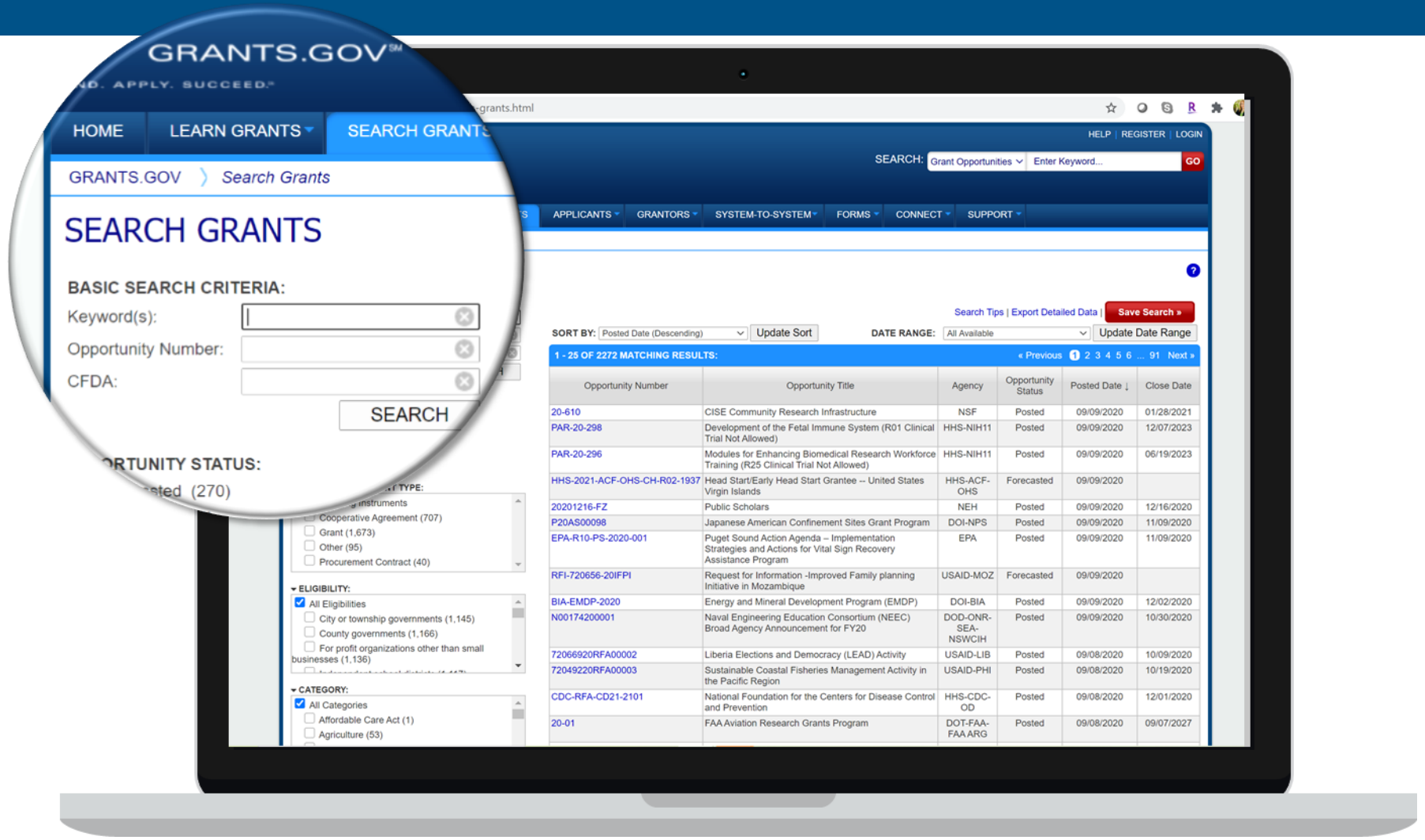
Identifying Federal Funding Opportunities

- SAFECOM Guidance encourages applicants to consider all available funding sources, including traditional grants to help fund initial capital investments or improvements to communications systems, as well as other sources of funding that may partially fund emergency communications projects

- Primary resources include:
  - Grants.gov, a common website for federal agencies to post discretionary funding opportunities and for grantees to find and apply to them
  - *List of Federal Financial Assistance Programs Funding Emergency Communications*, a resource that compiles applicable funding opportunities posted on Grants.gov



Grants.gov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HOME
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SEARCH GRANTS
BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA:
Keyword(s):
Opportunity Number:
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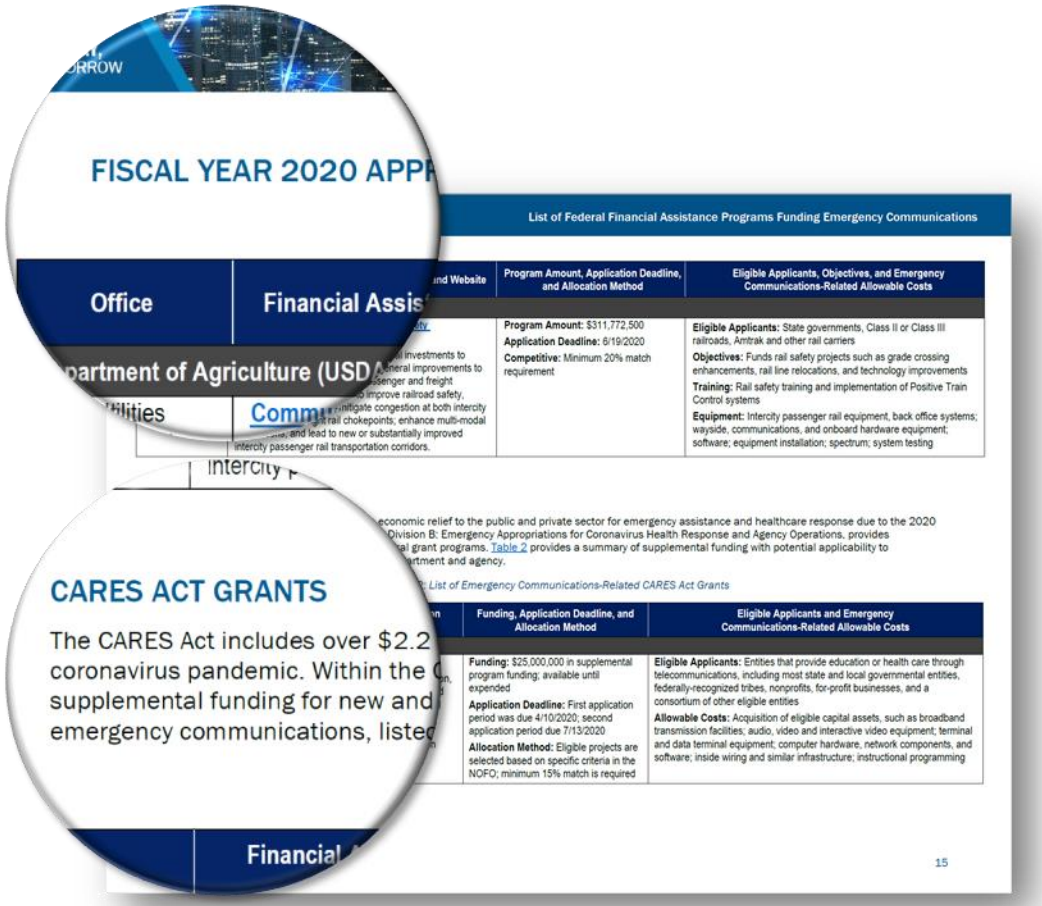
SEARCH: Grant Opportunities Enter Keyword... GO
APPLICANTS GRANTORS SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM FORMS CONNECT SUPPORT
Search Tips | Export Detailed Data | Save Search »
SORT BY: Posted Date (Descending) Update Sort
DATE RANGE: All Available Update Date Range
1 - 25 OF 2272 MATCHING RESULTS:
« Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 ... 91 Next »
Opportunity Number | Opportunity Title | Agency | Opportunity Status | Posted Date | Close Date
20-610 | CISE Community Research Infrastructure | NSF | Posted | 09/09/2020 | 01/28/2021
PAR-20-298 | Development of the Fetal Immune System (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) | HHS-NIH11 | Posted | 09/09/2020 | 12/07/2023
PAR-20-296 | Modules for Enhancing Biomedical Research Workforce Training (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) | HHS-NIH11 | Posted | 09/09/2020 | 06/19/2023
HHS-2021-ACF-OHS-CH-R02-1937 | Head Start/Early Head Start Grantee -- United States Virgin Islands | HHS-ACF-OHS | Forecasted | 09/09/2020
20201216-FZ | Public Scholars | NEH | Posted | 09/09/2020 | 12/16/2020
P20AS00098 | Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program | DOI-NPS | Posted | 09/09/2020 | 11/09/2020
EPA-R10-PS-2020-001 | Puget Sound Action Agenda – Implementation Strategies and Actions for Vital Sign Recovery Assistance Program | EPA | Posted | 09/09/2020 | 11/09/2020
RFI-720656-20IFPI | Request for Information -Improved Family planning Initiative in Mozambique | USAID-MOZ | Forecasted | 09/09/2020
BIA-EMDP-2020 | Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP) | DOI-BIA | Posted | 09/09/2020 | 12/02/2020
N00174200001 | Naval Engineering Education Consortium (NEEC) Broad Agency Announcement for FY20 | DOD-ONR-SEA-NSWCIH | Posted | 09/09/2020 | 10/30/2020
72066920RFA00002 | Liberia Elections and Democracy (LEAD) Activity | USAID-LIB | Posted | 09/08/2020 | 10/09/2020
72049220RFA00003 | Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management Activity in the Pacific Region | USAID-PHI | Posted | 09/08/2020 | 10/19/2020
CDC-RFA-CD21-2101 | National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | HHS-CDC-OD | Posted | 09/08/2020 | 12/01/2020
20-01 | FAA Aviation Research Grants Program | DOT-FAA-FAA ARG | Posted | 09/08/2020 | 09/07/2027
Cooperative Agreement (707)
Grant (1,673)
Other (95)
Procurement Contract (40)
ELIGIBILITY:
All Eligibilities
City or township governments (1,145)
County governments (1,166)
For profit organizations other than small businesses (1,136)
CATEGORY:
All Categories
Affordable Care Act (1)
Agriculture (53)

List of Federal Programs

- This is an easy-to-use resource for grant applicants to identify applicable emergency communications programs
- CISA compiles information from federal partners on upcoming funding opportunities, as well as monitors Grants.gov on a weekly basis to populate the list
- Periodic updates are posted as new programs are announced throughout the year



cisa.gov/safecom/funding

List of Federal Programs: Example

- For each applicable federal program, this list summarizes available funding amounts, application deadlines, eligible applicants, and allowable costs that may relate to emergency communications

Office	Financial Assistance Program Description and Website	Program Amount, Application Deadline, and Allocation Method	Eligible Applicants, Objectives, and Emergency Communications-Related Allowable Costs
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)			
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) EMPG assists state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in preparing for all hazards. The intent is to provide grant funding to assist state emergency management agencies in obtaining the resources required to support the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient Nation.	**Program Amount:** $355,100,000 **Application Deadline:** 4/15/2020 **Formula-based:** Amounts for each state/territory are listed in the NOFO; 50% match is required	**Eligible Applicants:** State Administrative Agency (SAA) of states/territories or Emergency Management Agency **Objectives:** Funds activities that address cybersecurity and building and sustaining core capabilities **Planning and Organization:** Developing/updating Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), Tactical Interoperability Communications Plans, Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, Stakeholder Preparedness Review, and Continuity of Operations **Training/Exercises:** Develop, deliver, attend, and evaluate training and exercises **Equipment:** Cybersecurity enhancements, interoperable communications; maintenance and sustainment (e.g., upgrades, user fees, warranties); construction/renovation of communication towers

SWIC Coordination of Grant Applications

cisa.gov/safecom/ncswic-membership

Alternative Funding Sources

FUNDING MECHANISMS	CAPITAL COSTS	ONGOING COSTS	COST-SAVINGS
State and Local Funds	✓	✓	○
System User Fees	✓	✓	○
911 Surcharges	✓	✓	○
Bonds	✓	✓	○
Unique Funding Streams	✓	✓	○
Special Taxes	✓	○	○
Leasing and Licensing Owned Towers and Infrastructure to Other Entities	○	✓	○
Traffic Ticket Fees and Vehicle Surcharges	○	✓	○
Public-Private Partnerships	○	○	✓
Leasing Equipment	○	○	✓
Grants	✓	○	✓

- Public safety agencies must increasingly rely on alternative funding mechanisms (beyond grants) to build, improve, expand, and support public safety communications systems
- SAFECOM's *Funding Mechanisms Guide for Public Safety Communications* describes common funding mechanisms, considerations, and examples of each

Alternative Funding Sources

State and Local Funds

- Funds made available through state and local budget cycles for specific emergency communications projects
- Ideally serve as the primary funding source for public safety communications systems
- **Example:** Indiana's state legislature redirected an existing portion of each Bureau of Motor Vehicle transaction to ensure investments in public safety interoperable communications

System User Fees

- Direct charges to end users for the use of emergency communications products or systems, including voice and/or data services
- Can be used towards operations, maintenance, and capital equipment costs for public safety communications-related investments
- **Example:** To sustain its public safety communications system, Michigan charges fees to members and non-members, including user fees

Alternative Funding Sources

911 Surcharges

- Minor fee applied to each phone line able to use 911 services, including wireline, wireless, and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone numbers
- Provide a steady revenue source for capital and ongoing costs
- **Example:** Pennsylvania changed its 911 Emergency Telephone Act to raise the monthly per device fee for system improvements and implementation of Next Generation 911 systems

Bonds

- Debt obligations that are repaid through taxes or fees over time, with interest
- Provide a low-risk, stable funding option for capital and ongoing costs
- **Example:** Arkansas identified multiple funding methods, including more than $20 million in tax-exempt bond funds, to create the Arkansas Wireless Information Network

Alternative Funding Sources

Unique Funding Streams

- Non-traditional funding sources, including gambling tax revenues and surcharges (e.g., internet connection surcharges)
- Often used for capital costs associated with emergency communications projects
- **Example:** Louisiana fulfills annual appropriations requests for the Louisiana Wireless Information Network from different revenue streams, including riverboat gambling taxes

Special Taxes

- Taxes that require a special vote from the citizenry to establish specific funding streams for public safety improvements
- Often used for capital costs associated with emergency communications projects
- **Example:** A Georgia county approved a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax to pay for infrastructure improvements

Alternative Funding Sources

Leasing & Licensing Owned Towers

- Revenue generated by leasing infrastructure and excess tower capacity to other public and private entities
- Often used for ongoing operational, maintenance, and upgrade costs, or payment on debt service bonds
- **Example:** Michigan charges fees for collocating equipment on towers, which are used for the payment of debt service for bonds that financed the construction of the communications system

Traffic Ticket and Vehicle Surcharges

- Fees for traffic tickets and vehicle surcharges that support emergency communications
- Often used for overtime staffing, system enhancements, or portions of operational costs
- **Example:** Florida leverages motor vehicle and vessel registration surcharges to maintain its statewide radio system, as well as fees applied to criminal offense and moving traffic violations

Alternative Funding Sources

Public-Private Partnerships

- Agreements among public and private entities codified in signed contracts with expiration dates, including terms and conditions for use and maintenance of equipment
- Used as a cost savings mechanism for initial system investments (e.g., infrastructure, radios)
- **Example:** South Carolina partnered with a private utility company to build its statewide system, which reduced costs and improved interoperability for all system users

Leasing Equipment

- Method of acquiring equipment with minimal initial expenditures, as well as spread costs over several years
- Often used as a cost savings mechanism
- May include maintenance services, hardware replacements, or software upgrades
- **Example:** A city in California used a lease-to-own option to acquire new radios to join and access the regional radio system

How You Can Take Action

- Take steps for your organization or jurisdiction to implement the NECP and achieve its success indicators
- Use the SAFECOM Guidance when planning emergency communications projects and identifying applicable grants
- Prioritize emergency communications needs and coordinate with the SWIC on applications for federal financial assistance
- Develop or promote a diverse portfolio of funding mechanisms to sustain emergency communications systems

Resources

- SAFECOM Funding Resources: cisa.gov/safecom/funding
  - *SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants – Updated annually*
  - *List of Emergency Communications Financial Assistance Programs – Updated frequently*
  - *Funding Mechanisms Guide for Public Safety Communications – 2020*
- Statewide Interoperability Coordinators
- Emergency Communications Technical Assistance and Planning Guide: Grant Funding for Emergency Communications Webinar
- National Emergency Communications Plan
- SAFECOM Nationwide Survey

Questions?

Upcoming Webinars

Join the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency for webinars focused on:

Implementing the National Emergency Communications Plan

5G is Here! How Will This Impact Emergency Communications?

December 9th at 1pm ET

To join, use:
Webinar Link (for visual): https://share.dhs.gov/necpwebinars
Dial-In (for audio): 800-897-5813

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CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

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