

9-1-1 Grant Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

NOTE: We received a clarification from the Federal 9-1-1 Grant Program concerning the Training Category and what is required. The below language and attachment has been provided by the Federal 9-1-1 Grant Program – be sure to follow this if you are submitting a sub-grant application for training:

As an eligible use of grant funds, training costs are allowable, so long as the training is directly related to NG911 implementation for public safety personnel. In addition, the “[Recommended Minimum Training Guidelines for Telecommunicators](#)” must serve as a base level for the training provided. Grantees electing to use grant funds for training must submit documentation describing the training being provided, which identifies the included elements from the Minimum Training Guidelines and their relationship to the implementation of NG911. These may be submitted via Word document [with your subgrant application]. If your training plans change during the course of the grant period following the submission of your spend plan, recipients must submit revised training documents to [the state so we can submit them] to NHTSA as you make those planned changes.

Q: When will the grant application be distributed?

A: The grant application will be distributed October 2, 2019.

Q: I am a 9-1-1 Coordinator and I deal with 4 PSAPs. If I am understanding this correctly, those PSAPs can apply for individual projects and I can't apply for the grant on their behalf. Is that correct?

A: You can apply for a countywide project, or if they have individual projects, they can apply. In either event, you, as the county 9-1-1 coordinator, are required to review and approve the applications. There is a \$250,000.00 limit per county.

Q: Also it states that all projects would need to show 100% of costs being covered by local funds. I am assuming local funds do not include the WGAF disbursements we received from the state and share with 3 PSAPs. Is that correct?

A: Yes, the WGAF funds can be used as long as they are being spent in accordance with the restrictions set forth in ORC 128.57, as they become local funds when you receive them.

Q: Our county purchased and installed a NG Vesta System to move towards NG. Can we receive any reimbursement for this project through this Federal 9-1-1 Grant Program?

A: The grant program is only for new projects and only after approval from the grant review committee of your application. Anything already purchased is not eligible for the grant.

Q: We are currently using Emergitech's IP911 based software to handle 911 calls. We are wanting to upgrade from that to Zuercher's 911 software. Under the grant program, is this an eligible upgrade?

A: Although we cannot provide an answer specific to your request until the Grant Review Committee reviews your complete application, the grant does allow for software and hardware for NG9-1-1

systems. Be sure to include all information to indicate this project will transition to NG9-1-1 services not currently offered.

Q: Cyber Attack and Security is a HUGE concern for the County IT Dept. Would the following be accepted for GRANT approval?

All of the below directly impact our PSAP

- *Firewalls 1010s and 5516-Xs with 1120s*
- *Core Switches/Ports*
- *Licensing/Software*

A: The listed items could be applicable as long as it is for the NG9-1-1 system and operations. The committee would make the ultimate determination whether it fits the criteria, but if the project is for NG9-1-1, then you are on the right path. The sub-grant application should be detailed in nature as to how this equipment and software are to be used for the NG9-1-1 system.

Q: Would installing fiber optic cable lines into our building fall under the Federal 911 grant guidelines as an allowable expense?

A: The project described, if for NG9-1-1 purposes and systems, would seem to be in line with the grant criteria. The Grant Review Committee will make the final determination if projects meet the criteria. Please be very detailed in your application concerning how this project is for the implementation of NG9-1-1 in your area.

Q: Can any PSAP submit a project, or is the 9-1-1 Grant limited to the wireless PSAPs?

A: The grant program is open to any PSAP, primary or secondary, for NG9-1-1 projects.

Q: Can multiple Counties band together and put in for the grant for a regional project?

A: Multiple counties can work together and put in for the grant, but must be very specific on how the expenses are being paid and how the reimbursement would be disbursed. It should also be noted that any share of a multi-county or regional submission would count toward the county's cap of \$250,000.00. It is important to be very detailed in the application on all aspects of the project.

Q: I am looking for a simple way to clarify eligibility of a project. To qualify a project must meet the grant requirements. If that is true, then the project may not begin until after the sub grant is approved?

A: You are absolutely correct. To qualify for the grant funding, it must be a new project to begin after an agency receives the award notification and signs the grant agreement. Anything already in the works or funds already expended does not qualify.

Q: I have many requests to verify if the grant can be for a project that is already under contract, but not started and/or completed.

A: It cannot already be started. If an agency has already signed a contract and nothing has started, they could possibly amend it to be put on hold to submit for the grant. If the sub-grant is awarded and the agreement is signed, then the contract can move forward. If they do not get the grant, they

could then move ahead with other funding sources. Remember, the local agency will have to 100% fund the project and bring it to completion, and then submit receipts and documents for the 60% reimbursement.

Q: Other grants received within last three years: Identify if related to 9-1-1, public safety or other

Would this be grants where the money went towards support of the PSAP or any grant? The County & Sheriff's Office has received grants for things not remotely related to the PSAP or 911.

A: Agencies need to list all grants, but indicate what they were for so it is clear to the committee it was not related to 9-1-1 or PSAP.

Q: From prior e-mails I didn't think this was "county specific" and instead more something the 911 program office was working on more on a State of Ohio level due to it's knowledge. Can you clarify?

A: In our efforts to be transparent and communicate with the counties during the extended period of time the Federal 9-1-1 Grant was being developed at the Federal level, we communicated the various requirements. The first of which was for the State to submit its intent to apply for the grant in Ohio. A requirement of the Federal 9-1-1 Grant Program is for the State to apply for the grant, and subsequently use it for local NG9-1-1 projects. Ohio applied and was approved. As Ohio is a home-rule state, the ESINet Steering Committee approved a sub-grant process for locals, as they are the ones running the PSAPs and 9-1-1 operations. The County 9-1-1 Coordinator is now responsible to disburse the application we sent and review and approve any grant applications from your county.

Q: If a County submits a single application for the maximum amount and it is not approved, then the County would not receive any grant funding. Is it possible to submit more than one application?

Example:

Project A	\$250,000	- not approved
Project B	\$100,000	- approved by Grant Review Committee
Project c	\$ 50,000	- approved by Grant Review Committee

A: Yes, it is possible to submit more than one application and the committee will look at the projects individually and combined as the total cap is \$250,000.00 per county.

Q: We have a project that we cannot do without additional funding, however, it would be over \$300,000. Can the "Project" exceed the \$250,000 with the County knowing that the maximum reimbursable would be \$150,000 (250.6)?*

A: You can submit a project as described above. Ensure you provide a statement that you are asking for less than 60% of the project so it is clear to the committee.

Q: Can more than one county combine there \$250,000 applications on a single project?

A: Yes, you can submit a regional project with multiple counties. Please ensure you provide details on the MOUs between the counties and how the funding will be split, etc.

Q: We have just finished installing a new CAD system by Zuercher through Central Square. This new CAD system replaced our old Legacy system. My question is, can the price of the new system and associated

costs of installation be submitted even though the project is complete? Thanks in advance for your assistance.

A: Only new projects are eligible for the grant. Projects must be submitted and can only proceed after award of the grant and signing an agreement with the Dept. of Commerce. Anything purchased or paid for prior to the grant approval and agreement execution is not eligible for grant funding. Page #4 lists the following statement on the application:

“Counties, PSAPs, agencies and other eligible parties will not sign any contracts or make any purchases for projects submitted until an approval and notice to proceed is received from the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office/ODC-SFM.”

Q: Geauga County personnel install, operate, and maintain CAD, 911, and Radio. Can grant funding be used to cover technical training necessary to support NG?

A: The Federal 9-1-1 Grant Program requires that any training proposals must include the “Recommended Minimum Training Guidelines for Telecommunicators” to be eligible for the grant. In the case of your question, it appears these are IT folks and wouldn’t have a need for telecommunicator training. This results in this type of training would not meet the grant criteria. However, if the personnel are also telecommunicators and will have the required base training as noted above, then the training proposal for the technical training would meet the requirements.

Q: What is meant by "Annual operating budget for 9-1-1 operations"? Is this asking for cost that the county pays to upkeep the system, perform maintenance and pay for work that has to be done on it? Or is it more for our costs as a department: personnel costs for the dispatchers that answer and process 911 calls?

A: The question is asking for ALL costs associated with 9-1-1 in your county (or local agency) to include personnel, training, hardware, software, licenses, supplies, etc. It is a true comprehensive annual operating budget to run 9-1-1 operations in your area.

Q: The question was brought up in regards to the Federal Grant in regards to the Project/award period. The period of performance begins on the date of approval and ends on November 30, 2021. In our project proposal, it's broken down into a 3 year service and the cost is as well. Do you know if the entire cost of the project (3 year contracted price) will have to be paid before the November 2021 date or can the last payment be made in the final year of the contract? Follow up to that, if that last payment isn't paid before the date will it not be included in the 60/40 cost match?

A: The period of performance for each sub-grant begins on the date of the approval of its application and ends on November 30, 2021. This deadline has been established to allow for closeout reporting required by the 9-1-1 Grant Program before funding for the program ends.

The project has to be complete and paid for by the period of performance date on November 30, 2021. So 60% of the costs to that date paid by the grantee should be included in the

proposal. Payments beyond that are not eligible. If you would pay for the package by that date that includes 3 years of service, then that would be within the eligible date and the service period can be followed up on during our required follow-up on the projects.