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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL OHIO COUNTY EMA DIRECTORS

FROM: NANCY DRAGANI, EXEC. DIRECTOR
OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY 

SUBJECT: FEMA GRANTS PROGRAM FY 2010
INTEROPERABLE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
GRANT PROGRAM (IECGP)

DATE: JANUARY 4, 2010

Attached is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security FY 2010 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) guidance and application kit. Counties are invited to submit no more than two applications under this IECGP, in accordance with the attached Federal Guidance.

Grant applications must be received by the Ohio EMA Technical Support Division by close-of-business (5:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

The project timeline for the FY 2010 IECGP is as follows:

- Jan. 26, 2010 – Local project submittal due date.
- Feb. 3, 2010 – Project review, prioritization and funding recommendation.
- Feb. 8, 2010 – State EMA preparation of application narrative.
- Feb. 11, 2010 – State upload of applications.
- Feb. 12, 2010 – Federal application deadline.

The intent of the FY 2010 IECGP is to provide planning, training and exercise funds in support of initiatives to improve interoperable communications. Equipment acquisition is an allowable cost category for the IECGP but all statewide grant governance, planning, training and exercise objectives must be met before funds can be used for equipment purchase. Under the FY 2010 IECGP, Ohio is eligible to receive \$1,119,500.00 in federal funds. The pass-through requirement of the grant is that 80% be allocated to local government. Available county funding totals \$895,600.00. Counties may submit projects related to governance structure, planning, training, exercises, personnel and equipment activities. Regional projects are encouraged. Special funding consideration will be given to regional projects, which align with the BSSA vehicle response or Ohio Homeland Security regions. Part of the state share of the FY 2010 IECGP grant will be allotted to the development of Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) plans for each of the eight Ohio Homeland Security regions. Utilizing these funds, the state will hire a contractor to work with each of the eight Statewide Interoperable Emergency Communications (SIEC) committee regional governance groups on TIC development.

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

Planning:

- Planning funds can be used for the development or enhancement of interoperable emergency communications plans, tactical interoperable communications plans and the development of interoperable emergency communications assessments and inventories to include Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) development.

Training:

- Training funds may be used for developing and conducting communications-specific training.

Exercise:

- Exercise funds may be used to design, conduct and evaluate interoperable emergency communications exercises. Exercises conducted using IECGP funds must be managed and executed in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

Personnel Activity:

- Salaried personnel, hiring, overtime and backfill expenses are permitted in performing allowable IECGP planning, training and exercise activities. Personnel activity funding applies only to new personnel. Applicants must identify in their application the sustainable sources of funding for personnel hired under the grant that will be used to fund these positions for future years after the grant closes. IECGP funds may not be used to support the hiring of any personnel for the purposes of fulfilling traditional public safety duties or to supplement traditional public safety positions or responsibilities.

Equipment:

- Equipment purchase is eligible under the IECGP if the SAA and SWIC certifies on a statewide basis that all IECGP Group 1 and 2 goals have been met. The purchase of equipment requires a 25% cost match. Counties may apply for equipment funds but projects submitted for equipment will only be considered for funding after all statewide priority Group 1 and 2 needs have been met.

Construction related activities are not permitted with funding from the FY 2010 IECGP.

Management and Administration:

- Up to 5% of the funds awarded for a local IECGP project may be used for management and administration.

Local and regional applications for the IECGP must be submitted on the IECGP Investment Justification template in the guidance document. The template and guidance documents are also available for download on the Ohio EMA Grants Administration website at http://www.ema.ohio.gov/IECGP_10.asp. Information included on the application template will be used in prioritizing and selecting projects for funding; therefore, each area of the application form should be completed with sufficient detail about the project to define the value of the project. As outlined above, regional projects are encouraged to address the testing of interoperability and the identification of interoperable communication gaps, these projects will receive special funding consideration.

Planning requests must clearly define the type and number of plans to be developed, jurisdictions served, provide budgetary breakout of fund use and reflect a timeline of bi-annual (6 month) activities.

Training or exercise projects must outline the type of training or exercise being proposed, justify the need, outline jurisdictional involvement and provide an estimated number of people to be trained or participating. A detailed budget and quarterly breakout of activities should also be provided. Applicants should be careful to address the project outline template requirements defined in the grant guidance.

There will be a 36 month performance period for this grant.

Any questions related to the FY 2010 IECGP grant or application process should be directed to your Ohio EMA Grants Coordinator or, Mr. Dave Ford or Mr. Mark A. Patchen of the Ohio EMA Technical Support Division at 614.889.7156.

Attachment