FAQ for 911 Grant Program

Q: What is the 911 Grant Program?
A: The 911 Grant Program provides federal funding to help 911 call centers nationwide upgrade equipment and operations so that citizens, first responders, and 911 call-takers can use digital, IP-based, broadband-enabled technologies to coordinate emergency responses.

Q: What law authorizes this program?
A: The 911 Grant Program is authorized by the NG911 Advancement Act of 2012 (Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Pub. L. 112-96, Title VI, Subtitle E (codified at 47 U.S.C. 942)).

Q: Who are the eligible applicants for the 911 Grant Program?
A: Any State, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territory or Tribal Organization that submitted an initial application package and met the program's certification requirements is eligible to submit a complete application packet. A chart listing all eligible applicants, along with estimated preliminary funding allocations, is available on www.grants.gov.

Q: How long will grantees have to complete projects funded by the 911 Grant Program?
A: The period of performance for all projects funded by the 911 Grant Program will end no later than March 31, 2022.

Q: Why was the period of performance changed in the Revision to the Notice of Funding Opportunity?
A: This change was necessitated because the funding to administer the program is only available through September 30, 2022. Given this funding constraint, the revised period of performance will allow the Agencies to administer and timely close-out all awards prior to the conclusion of the program.

Q: How can eligible applicants apply for 911 Grant Program funds?
A: The 911 Grant Program application is a two-step process.

Step 1 (deadline: September 10, 2018): Applicants must identify a designated 911 Coordinator. In addition, applicants must submit the certification in either Appendix A or Appendix B of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), signed by the 911 Coordinator, certifying that the applicant has complied with the required statutory and programmatic conditions in submitting its application, including the statutory non-diversion requirement. Specific information can be found in the NOFO.

After receipt of the initial applications, the Agencies will publish preliminary funding allocations for each of the States or Tribal Organizations meeting the certification requirements on www.grants.gov.

Step 2 (deadline: April 2, 2019): After the Agencies publish the preliminary funding allocations, eligible applicants must submit a complete application packet by the deadline established on www.grants.gov. The complete application packet must include:

- **State/Tribal Organization 911 Plan:** A plan that details the projects and activities proposed for funding; establishes metrics and a timetable for grant implementation; and describes steps taken by the applicant to coordinate its application with entities within its jurisdiction, ensure

that at least 90 percent of grant funds will be used for the direct benefit of PSAPs, and involve integrated telecommunications services.

- **Project Budget:** A project budget for all proposed projects and activities to be funded by the grant funds.

- **Supplemental Project Budget:** Optional supplemental project budget that identifies the maximum dollar amount the applicant can match from non-federal sources, and includes projects or activities for those grant and matching amounts.

- [Standard Form 424](): **Application for Federal Assistance**

- [Standard Form 424A:]() **Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs**

- [Standard Form 424B:]() **Assurances for Non-Construction Programs**

- [CD–511 Certification Regarding Lobbying]()**:** Enter "NHTSA-NTIA-911-Grant-Program-2018" in the Award Number field. Enter the title of the application used in field 15 of the SF-424, or an abbreviation of that title, in the Project Name field.

- [Standard Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities]() (if applicable)

- **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement** (if applicable)

A detailed description of each of these application components can be found in the [NOFO]().

Q: When should applicants register to use [Grants.gov]()**?**
A: All applicants must register before submitting their applications. Applicants are **highly encouraged** to register to use the Grants.gov website early in the application period, as registration may take several business days.

Q: How will applications be evaluated?
A: The 911 Grant Program is a non-competitive, formula-based grant program. Applications will be evaluated based on criteria specified in the [NOFO]().

Q: What items/activities can grantees use 911 Grant Program funds to purchase?
A: 911 Grant Program funds must be used for implementation of NG911 services. The following are included as eligible uses for 911 Grant Program funds:
- Hardware to provide NG911 services
- Software to provide NG911 services
- Hosted NG911 services
- Contractual costs associated with carrying out programmatic activities, including consultant fees
- Training directly related to NG911 implementation for public safety personnel
- Administration and Planning (10 percent maximum)
- Operation of the NG911 system while still operating the legacy 911 system

911 Grant Program funds may not be used for:
- Costs to operate legacy E-911 or 911 systems
- Costs to operate the NG911 system after it is fully operational
- Activities related to construction
- Independent verification and validation (IV&V) testing for product, service, and system purchases

A detailed description of eligible and ineligible costs can be found in the NOFO.

Q: How much funding is available for my State, Territory, or Tribal Organization?
A: A total of $109,250,000 is available to grantees under the 911 Grant Program. Funding will be allocated according to the following formula:

- Up to 2 percent of available funding will be set aside for federally recognized Tribal Organizations and allocated according to the following formula:
  - 50 percent in the ratio which the population of the Tribal Organization bears to the total population of all the Tribal Organizations, as shown by the latest available data on American Indian/Alaska Native Reservation of Statistical Area; and
  - 50 percent in the ratio which the public road mileage in each Tribal Organization bears to the total public road mileage in all Tribal Organizations, as shown by the latest available national tribal transportation facility inventory data.
  Tribal Organizations are eligible for a maximum grant award of $250,000.

- The remaining 98 percent of funding will be allocated according to the following formula:
  - 50 percent in the ratio which the population of the State bears to the total population of all the States, as shown by the latest available federal census; and
  - 50 percent in the ratio which the public road mileage in each State bears to the total public road mileage in all States, as shown by the latest available Federal Highway Administration data.
  Each State will receive a minimum grant award of $500,000. U.S. Territories will receive a minimum grant award of $250,000.

Q: Does the 911 Grant program have a match requirement?
A: Yes, the maximum federal share for projects funded under the 911 Grant program is 60 percent. Applicants must contribute 40 percent of total project costs.

Q: Where can potential applicants find more information on the application process and requirements?
A: More information on grant requirements can be found in the Final Rule and the NOFO.

Q: Some applicants have stated that they cannot make the certification that they have coordinated the application or established the 911 Plan by the September 10, 2018 deadline, but that they fully intend to meet all of the application prior to award. Can these applicants still apply for a 911 grant?
A: Yes. Applicants should take all reasonable steps to meet the September 10 deadline. However, an applicant that has not yet completed the requirement to coordinate its application or to establish the 911 Plan must submit the other certifications in Appendix A or B by the September 10 deadline, leaving only those two certification boxes unchecked. In such case, to satisfy qualification requirements, the

applicant <u>must</u> submit an updated certification (checking all required certification boxes) as part of its complete application packet in Step 2 of the two-step application process.

Q: How can potential applicants learn more about the specific deadlines and requirements for applying for 911 Grant Program funds?
A: A recording of a webinar explaining the specifics about deadlines and requirements is available to view online here.

Q: How can potential applicants ask questions about the 911 Grant Program?
A: Please direct all questions about the 911 Grant Program to nhtsa.national911@dot.gov.

The 911 Grant Program NOFO is the official grant document for this funding opportunity.
Nothing in this document is intended to conflict with or supersede the NOFO. Any perceived conflict
must be resolved by reference to the NOFO.