

FAQ/Fact Sheet for the National 911 Grant Program

A SECO Grant Application Workgroup was formed by the Policy Sub-committee to assist with the application process and review. They are working with SECO to identify which areas the state should focus on while asking for grant funding and the process for partnerships with Counties for grant application submissions.

Q - What is the Next Generation 911 National Grant Program?

The Next Generation 911 Grant Program was developed to help drive the 911 community's transition to NG911 and is jointly administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Department of Commerce (DOC) National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). A total of \$115 million has been set aside for the Grant from the FCC's AWS-3 spectrum auction which generated approximately \$44.8 billion in revenue. Final Rules on how the grant will be administered are pending OMB approval after which the application process will begin. Although not finalized, draft rules and previous grants lead us to believe that grants will be administered through states and territories.

The vision of the National 911 Grant Program is to advance implementation of NG911 and improve the technology and operation of the nation's 911 system. Eligible costs according to draft rules include:

- Adoption and operation of NG911 services and applications.
- Implementation of IP-enabled emergency services networks and applications enabled by NG911 services (includes IP-networks and the related software infrastructure).
- Consulting services & project management for NG911 system design and implementation.
- Training for call-takers, first responders and other involved in the emergency response process.
- Up to ten percent of grant funds can be used to perform an assessment of current 911 systems.

Q - What does this mean to the counties and PSAPs in the State of Washington?

It is important to remember that this grant is meant to *help* our transition to NG911 throughout the state and is not meant to fix any fiscal deficits.

Q - When Can States apply for funds?

We anticipate the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be out in Spring 2018, with applications opening shortly thereafter.

Q - What are the Federal eligibility requirements?

- Have a State 911 Plan that includes an NG911 component.
- Be willing to match proposed 40 percent of the grant – estimated start time Fall 2018 – September 30, 2022.
- No diversion of any 911 funding in the 180 days preceding the application and throughout the grant period.

Q - What will the process be for submitting applications through SECO?

- SECO will provide an application following the published Federal Grant Rules
- County to complete and submit application to SECO
- SECO will develop a comprehensive vetting process that is clear, defensible and based on the outlined priorities. Vetting will include:
 - Is the application complete
 - Does it articulate the desired project or program
 - Is the project/program budget included
 - Is match provided in the request
 - Does the request align with the stated priorities for the State application

If more requests are received than there is available funding SECO will prioritize the requests. Depending on the final rules, it is likely the final application will be a compilation of all State and County requests.