



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

**FISCAL YEAR 2009**

**INTEROPERABLE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS  
GRANT PROGRAM**

**GUIDANCE AND APPLICATION KIT**

**NOVEMBER 2008**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

- \* • **Development of communications system life-cycle plans.** Emergency response providers must upgrade and regularly maintain communications systems and capabilities to ensure effective operation. System life-cycle planning is needed to ensure long-term sustainability of communications systems and infrastructure. Grantees are required to provide a system life-cycle plan for any communications system purchased with IECGP funding and may use funding for costs associated with the development of a system life-cycle plan.
- **Equipment Purchases and Related Costs.** If an SAA certifies that its State, territory, or pass-through recipient has fulfilled all of the objectives of Priority Groups 1 and 2, the State, territory, or pass-through recipient has the flexibility to purchase interoperable communications equipment with any remaining IECGP funds. When making equipment purchase decisions, grantees should take into account multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional needs. IECGP funds may be used for costs associated with the following–
  - a. Design, implementation, enhancement, replacement, and maintenance of emergency response communications systems and equipment
  - b. Migration to approved open architecture and interoperable next generation systems, where appropriate
  - c. Leveraging of existing and emerging technologies to expand and integrate disaster communications capabilities among emergency response providers
  - d. Governance, development of policies and procedures, and the conduct of training and exercises needed for use of systems and equipment

For more information on this allowable cost category, please see the OEC *Recommended Guidance for Federal Grant Programs (SAFECOM Guidance for Grant Programs)* available at [www.safecomprogram.gov](http://www.safecomprogram.gov).

Applications must follow the applicant's formal written procurement policy or the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

**M&A limits.** A maximum of up to 3 percent of funds awarded may be retained by the State. All such retained funds must be used solely for management and administrative purposes associated with the IECGP award. Local subgrantees may use a maximum of up to 3 percent of their funds for management and administrative purposes associated with the IECGP award. States may also choose to pass through a portion of their State M&A allocation to local subgrantees to support local management and administration activities, so long as the overall subgrantee M&A amount does not equal more than 3 percent.

**NOTE: Construction related activities are not permitted with funding from the FY 2009 IECGP.**