



Fact Sheet

Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Planning Grant Program

BACKGROUND: The federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Act) directs the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to establish a grant program to assist States with planning for the use of and the integration of existing systems with the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN), to the satisfy the wireless broadband and data services needs of emergency response agencies (ex: law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, etc.) and individual emergency responders (policemen, firemen, medical technicians, etc.). NTIA has titled this planning grant program as the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP).

The Act also establishes the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as an independent authority within NTIA and authorizes it to take all actions necessary to ensure the design, build and operation of the NPSBN. FirstNet is responsible for ensuring nationwide standards for the use of and access to the network and issuing competitive requests for proposals (RFPs) to build, operate, and maintain the network. In issuing the RFPs, FirstNet is directed in the Act to leverage existing private sector commercial wireless infrastructure to speed the deployment of the network.

The SLIGP is designed as a formula-based, matching grant program to assist States, in collaboration with regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions, in performing the necessary planning for the establishment and use of the NPSBN, which includes the planning, consultation and data collection activities required to develop FirstNet's RFPs and ensure the deployment and use of the NPSBN.

Eligible activities under the grant include: establishment of governance structures; providing education and outreach to stakeholders; identifying the potential public safety users of the NPSBN; developing Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) to facilitate the use of existing infrastructure with private sector entities that have been chosen by FirstNet to build, operate, and maintain the network; preparing plans that identify and describe public safety end user needs.

As required by the Act, the SLIGP requires cost sharing, also known as a matching fund requirement. By statute, the federal share of the cost of any activity carried out under the grant program may not exceed 80 percent. Thus, NTIA is requiring that States provide at least 20 percent non-federal matching funds toward the total project cost. The formula-based grant allocation amount to the State of Montana and required minimum State share is as follows:

State	Maximum Federal Share	Minimum State Share	Total Project Amount
Montana	\$1,860,000	\$465,000	\$2,325,000



STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION



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The Act provides for the NTIA Assistant Secretary to waive, in whole or in part, the matching requirement for good cause, if the Assistant Secretary determines that such a waiver is in the public interest. In addition, NTIA SLIGP guidelines state that matching funds may be in the form of either cash or in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions are non-cash donations of property, goods or services that will benefit the federally assisted project, and which may be counted toward satisfying the State matching requirement, if such contributions meet certain criteria. The Department of Administration, State Information Technology Services Division will, in their application to NTIA, request a waiver, in whole or in part, for the matching requirement and/or will request the use of in-kind contributions to satisfy the matching requirement.

Eligible costs under SLIGP will include all costs incurred in performing the above listed eligible activities, in the following categories of expenses: personnel costs, including salaries for staff and consultants; travel costs; administrative services costs, equipment costs, and supplies necessary to prepare for and manage the grant program.

Ineligible Costs: SLIGP funds may not be used for activities related to site preparation, broadband deployment, installation, construction, or the acquisition of equipment used to provide wireless broadband services.

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