

QUESTIONS RECEIVED REGARDING RFA ROUND 3 STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT

This document consists of questions timely received regarding this RFA. Questions have not been altered, except to provide clarity and anonymity to counties.

Question 1. *We write to inquire whether applications will be accepted from applicants in New York County.*

Answer 1. Only New York State County Governments are eligible to apply for Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG). Round 3 SICG has very specific eligibility criteria, which described in Request for Applications. Additional information can also be found in FAQs, which posed on our web side <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/oiec/grants/sicg-round3.cfm>

Question 2. *In reviewing the grant information, we have found that we are not eligible for Round 3 funding as we received funding in previous grant Round. Is there any chance at all that this could change?*

Answer 2. We do not anticipate any changes in the established eligibility criteria for the Round 3 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant. Updates, if any, have been posted on the website at this time.

Question 3. *Can you explain the new Letter of Agreement requirement?*

Who is included in the “authorized user” section of the following statement?

Answer 3. The Letter of Agreement references DHSES personnel, which include our Executive team (Commissioner, Deputies and Directors of our offices), OFPC personnel, OIEC, OEM and certain members of OCT office. DHSES will work closely with your county to establish all further details, channels, and procedures and substantiate the best way for interoperable and operable communications.

Question 4. *Is there a definition or amount of time and frequency for the following?
“Funded grantees and subgrantees agree to attend and participate in any DHSES-sponsored conferences, training, workshops or meetings (excluding those identified by DHSES as voluntary) that may be conducted, by and at the request of DHSES, during the life of the grant contract.”*

Answer 4. The information on DHSES-sponsored conference, training, workshops and meetings is forthcoming. There is no pre-defined time period at this time.

Question 5. *Page 3 of 39. Part I. Introduction, 1) Summary, 2nd paragraph, states “For public safety purposes, interoperability is defined as the ability of emergency responders to work seamlessly with other systems or products without any special effort.” What does “special effort” mean? Please define.*

Answer 5. Interoperability and tactical interoperable communications are terms defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

“...In general, interoperability refers to the ability of emergency responders to work seamlessly with other systems or products without any special effort. Wireless communications interoperability specifically refers to the ability of emergency response officials to share information via voice and data signals on demand, in real time, when needed, and as authorized. For example, when communications systems are interoperable, police and firefighters responding to a routine incident can talk to each other to coordinate efforts. Communications interoperability also makes it possible for emergency response agencies responding to catastrophic accidents or disasters to work effectively together. Finally, it allows emergency response personnel to maximize resources in planning for major predictable events such as the Super Bowl or an inauguration, or for disaster relief and recovery efforts...”

If you need more information, please visit US DHS website at

<http://www.safecomprogram.gov/>

Question 6. *Page 8 of 37. 2. Applicant Eligibility, J. Completed M/WBE and EEO Requirement Documents. If funded, the County would need to issue an RFP for consultant services. How should Attachment 5 be completed as part of the application in this situation?*

Answer 6. When you complete your application you should try to determine if there is any opportunity to procure the item or services from a M/WBE vendor. Certified MWBE suppliers and contractors may be located by searching the MWBE directory at :

<https://ny.newnycontracts.com/FrontEnd/VendorSearchPublic.asp?TN=ny&XID=4687>

In addition, we will be hosting a webinar, where we will be going over M/WBE and EEO Requirements.

Question 7. When will grant award announcements be made?

Answer 7. The grant announcement exact date has not been defined yet; however we anticipate the announcement before the end of 2013.

Question 8. Please provide additional guidance regarding Attachment 5 -- M/WBE and EEO Required Documents.

Answer 8. The M/WBE and EEO forms are planning documents. For information on how to identify potential M/WBE suppliers and contractors, please see question #6.

If awarded funding under this program, the M/WBE goals outlined in the planning documents will be referenced in the contract language. The objective is to establish goals which are achievable. Any modifications or changes to the M/WBE Utilization Plan after the contract award and during the term of the contract must be reported on a revised M/WBE Utilization Plan and submitted to DHSES. In addition, a Workforce Utilization Report identifying the workforce actually utilized on the contract will be required during the contract period.

Grantees are not limited to doing business only with M/WBE business enterprises. The goal is to provide meaningful participation opportunities to NYS Certified M/WBEs in the performance of NYS contracts.

Question 9. What are the implications of listing a vendor as To Be Determined (TBD) on the Utilization Plan?

Answer 9. If you are awarded funding under this program, please keep in mind that M/WBE goals must be established as part of the contract, and the objective is to establish goals which are achievable. Any modifications or changes to the submitted and accepted utilization plans after the Award and/or during the Contract term must be reported on a revised MWBE Utilization Plan and submitted to DHSES for approval.

The goal that DHSES has established is 20% of non-discretionary funding: 10% dedicated to MBE and 10% to WBEs. For example, you may have a \$100,000 budget, but only \$10,000 is considered discretionary non-personal service. Your goal would be to contract \$1,000 (10%) with MBE and \$1,000 with a WBE (10%).