Questions and Answers after Grant Announcement

##	Questions	Answers
1	The questions deadline is the same date as the application deadline. Does this mean that you'll accept questions until the application deadline?	Correct. We will accept question until Application Due Date, which is December 8, 2016.
2	Regarding Tier 2 Data Aggregation "Existing Infrastructure". Will this grant be based solely on our current radio system or will plans for a new/upgraded system be taken into account?	Only existing infrastructure should be included in the application.
3	County has two specific positions that handle interoperable communications for the local, county, state and federal public safety agencies. The titles are: Director of Emergency Communications and Communications Coordinator. Can the 20% salary reimbursement be used for both titles?	20% is a maximum amount of reimbursement per year utilizing any and all SICG awards. Only one person's salary will be reimbursed.
4	The Interop grant app at the end has the attachment boxes. The second one says "MOUs with State Agencies/Authorities (mandatory)". Does this mean we are supposed to have a mandatory MOU with State agencies for radio use? Or does it mean "if" we have MOUs then it is mandatory that we attach them with the application?	IF you have MOUs with other agencies, then the attachment is necessary. For the purpose of the grant, only those MOUs and Agreements that can be supported with documentation will be accounted for.
5	The grant questionnaire about subscriber under 2.2 of the RFA is confusing. Some systems can operate as regional systems with more than one core, but one regional user ID administration. In fact is better to have multiple cores for redundancy. The instructions for 2.2 state "For shared systems with a single core between several counties: Provide only amount of users for your county" The instruction for 2.2.1.A.2 State Provide total amount of users on shared system. (Include State agencies, authorities, other counties and local governments, such as towns and villages). County manages 2,103 subscriber radios on its system including 470 from the State Agency. When we join the regional system (December 2016), that number will grow to over 12,000 users but we do not have access to the other counties subscriber data. Each county will manage its own subscribers to avoid duplication of effort. What umber do we put in? The 2,106 locally maintained or the 12,000 that will have access to our system?	Please download the latest revision of the Application posed on DHSES OIEC website. All questions are applicable to the existing system, not the future or planned projects. If you have a shared-core system today, you would complete the application as follows: In Question 2.2 enter the amount of users for your county, which is, looking at your question, 2,103. In Question 2.2.1 A.2, enter the total amount of users managed by shared core, which is, as stated in your question, 12,000.

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6	Can you tell me if the new SICG grant allows for tower maintenance, lease/rent, etc?	LMR (including microwave backhaul) tower maintenance, lease payments and/or rent are permissible expenses under 2016 SICG-Formula Program.
7	Will the new round of formula based funding be allowed to be used entirely for the purchase end user equipment (mobiles/portables/basestations)?	2016 SICG-Formula will allow purchases of subscriber equipment up to the amount of the award and as long as it complies with requirements set in the grant.
8	My county is in the process of rolling out a LMR project with and joining a shared core. Do I fill this survey out as if I already have the system up and running as construction has already begun or do I fill it out with the current system in place? As a county in on a shared core, do we provide the total amount of users on the entire system, shared core, or just users on the specific county. As a county still under construction and not in operation, how do I provide numbers as they are not in operation yet?	All questions are applicable to the existing system, not the future or planned projects. Please fill out this year application with current system information. Only after you join the shared core system, you will fill the application as described in the RFA. You cannot provide any shared system data until you start operating on it.
9	Can grant funding be used to offset Maintenance of county Radio System infrastructure (i.e. Equipment located at the tower sites)?	The 2016 SICG-Formula Grant allows maintenance costs for radio system infrastructure.
10	I have a question in regards to the 2016 SICG program. On page 15 of your RFA, (revision 0 10/24/16) it mentions "broadband" as a cost that is not permissible. Does this pertain to purchasing Multi-Band Radios? Please clarify the term "broadband".	Multi-band radios are permissible expense under this grant program. Currently manufactured multi-band radios, which operating on the land mobile radio (LMR) networks, do not implement broadband technology; they are operating on the narrowband frequency spectrum. Broadband, for the purpose of this grant program, could be defined as a technology that utilizes wide-band data transmission; examples could include Wi-Fi, WiMAX, LTE technologies, wireless internet cards and devices. However, backhaul connectivity for LMR networks is a permissible expense.
11	Submission of written questions and the application due date is listed as December 8th, 2016. Could you please clarify?	We will accept question until the Application Due Date, which is December 8, 2016.
12	The terminology "share a single core" is an exclusive premise. The question as written provides an unfair advantage to homogenous, large county run systems with little redundancy for the subscriber counties. Counties can have a regional system with each county maintaining its own "core" or multiple site systems, yet all the counties are interconnected, allow shared talkgroups, and roaming across systems for interoperability. The current wording also excludes the use of ISSI to connect radio systems of disparate vendors.	For the purpose of this grant, "shared single core" means that several counties (even with multiple geographically separated cores) operated and managed as a single shared radio system, where the connectivity is done on a core level. It does not apply to ISSI and P25 connectivity, where disparate systems still have separately managed cores and provide different level of interoperability.

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13	Does this next round (2016) include subscriber equipment or just maintenance of the present system? If possible I would like to buy new radios on UHF to go with the grant we are finishing. Also to do work at all the tower sites since most have guidewires outside the fence.	Subscriber equipment is a permissible expense under 2016 SICG-Formula grant. However, grant recipients must follow posted requirements and guidelines for subscriber equipment purchases. Requirements could be found on the *2016 SICG-Formula* web page under section "**2016 SICG-Formula Additional Documents**": http://www.dhses.ny.gov/oiec/grants/2016/2016-SICG%20Analog-Phase1-Phase2-Decision-Chart.pdf And http://www.dhses.ny.gov/oiec/grants/2016/2016-SICG-P25-Phase-2-Requirement.pdf Improvements to tower sites would also be eligible under this grant program.
14	I have two questions regarding the 2016 SICG Grant. 1. The performance period starts 1/1/17. If we expend money on an approved project, after the performance period starts and the prior to the executed contract, will we be able to get reimbursed for approved expenditures? 2. Can the 2016 Grant be used to complete a project that is already started, and pay project contract milestones for approved expenditures as long as the milestone is started and completed within the performance period?	1. Yes. You will be able to obtain reimbursement for eligible expenses before contract execution as long as expenditures occurred during the performance period. However, you must comply with M/WBE and other procurement requirement listed in the RFA. 2. Yes, you will be able to receive reimbursement for the ongoing project, as long as expenditures occurred during the performance period of the grant and compliant with M/WBE and other procurement requirement listed in the RFA.
15	Does tower or LMR maintenance costs include electricity costs for towers, core sites, and dispatch (radio) centers?	The LMR maintenance costs could include electricity cost for towers and core sites, but not the dispatch center(s).
16	In regards to Page 9 Section 2.2.1.B.1 "How many users, other than your County, are on the system? (Include State agencies, authorities, other counties and local governments, such as towns and villages)" Is the intent to identify the number of subscriber units authorized or the number of non-county agencies authorized?	Please identify a number of non-county subscriber units authorized on the system.

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17	Question 2.1 – How many State agencies and authorizes are operating on the county system. And copies of MOU's have to be attached. Our county in the past has allowed multiple users on our system without any written mou's or any other documentation. We are in the process of correcting that past process, but it will take some time. The application is due December 8th, so we were considering attaching a cover letter with an explanation. Is this the correct thing to do?	The application will only be accounting for those partnerships that can be supported with written documentation, such as MOUs, frequency agreements, county board memorandums or minutes reflecting partnerships with agencies. Cover letter without supporting documentation will not be taken into consideration.
18	If County B is licensed to use a national interoperability channel and County A has a MOU to share resources, does that count, and how do we list it on the document?	County B would list the licensed National Interoperability channels in question 3.1 of the RFA, since they maintain the base stations and equipment. If County A does not hold licenses for National Interoperability channels, they should not enter the information in question 3.1 of the RFA. MOUs for sharing the communications resources between counties is a big part of the governance and operational procedures, and part of the Tier 1 eligibility requirements, however, we do not collect specifics of those MOUs between counties for 2016 SICG-Formula based program. For 2016 SICG-Formula, we collect information related to MOUs and agreements between a County and the State.
19	Instructions for 2.1-second section states: "Provide a list of those entities below…" The field directly below this question/statement is a numeric field. Where then should the list of agencies be placed?	The RFA revision correcting the field entry is posted on the DHSES website. Please download the latest revision from http://www.dhses.ny.gov/oiec/grants/2016/2016-SICG-Formula-Grant.cfm
20	I have 2 questions please. 1) We have core, backend components within our 911 system that are severely outdated. Are 911 system upgrades allowable? 2) We wish to procure non-proprietary P25 encryption for our PD's radio system. Is this allowable?	1) Expenses related to PSAP 911 system upgrades are not allowable under this grant program, for the exception of "Upgrade of Customer Premises Equipment (CPEs) to IP-based technologies", as stated in the RFA. If you are referencing LMR (land mobile radio) system, in this case, core and other LMR upgrades are eligible under this grant program. 2) This program allows the purchase of AES-256 encryption for P25 systems. Other types of encryption are not allowed under this grant program. Please refer to Section I, paragraph 5 (Standards and Guidelines) of 2016 SICG-Formula RFA.

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21	I have a question relative the 2016 SICG Grants. In the regional Workshop that was held in Buffalo, we have documentation that the Formula Based Grant would be released in October (which it was) and then the Targeted Grant will be released in January. 1st Question – Is the Targeted Grant still on track to be released in January for $20 Mil? 2nd Question – Can a County apply for a Formula Grant now and then also apply for a Targeted Grant in January?	1) Targeted Grant will be implemented in the first quarter of 2017. There will be no application process for the Targeted grant program. The State will work with Counties directly to close gaps, which were identified based on the communications survey. 2) All counties are encouraged to apply for the SICG-Formula grant. If a county is identified as a "gap"-county, the State will work directly with that County to remedy that gap as much as possible. There will be no application process for the Targeted grant program. A County will not be disqualified to receive Targeted grant funding if they apply and receive SICG-Formula award.
22	In reviewing the Revision 2, Nov 18th application I see there is no request (section) for us to provide a Project Narrative. Are the project narrative, budget justification, qualitative return on investments, etc. that had been required in previous grant applications not required to be submitted on December 8th? Will this information be submitted following the announcement of the awards when we submit our proposed budget?	The completed 2016 SICG Formula Application, signed Application Cover Page and copies of MOUs/Agreements with State Agencies are the only documents due on December 8th. You will work with your grant representative to provide additional information necessary for contract development after the award announcement.
23	1. If County B is licensed to use a national interoperability channel and we have and MOU to share resources, does that count, and how do we list it on the document? 2. Seeking clarification on 2.2. In the first question 2.2 are you asking for just OUR County Government numbers without other "in county" municipalities and local governments? 3. Question 2.2.1.B.1 Are you referring to local governments in our county or outside of?	1. For 2016 SICG-Formula, we collect information related to MOUs and agreements between a County and the State. (Question 2.1 of the RFA). MOUs for sharing the communications resources between counties is a big part of the governance and operational procedures, and part of the Tier 1 eligibility requirements, however, we do not collect specifics of those MOUs between counties for 2016 SICG-Formula based program. 2. Please provide a total amount of your county users on your system in question 2.2, including "in-county" municipalities and local governments, if they are utilizing your county system. 3. Your county local governments are accounted for in question 2.2, hence DO NOT include it in question 2.2.1.B.1. Question 2.2.1.B.1 should contain the following information: number of the following users your county authorized to operate on your LMR system: other counties, other county's local governments, state agencies, federal agencies.
24	For the SICG 16 Formula grant, will FCC Frequency Licensing and alternative alerting programs (i.e. I am Responding) fall in as an authorized expense?	The FCC frequency licensing for LMR systems would fall under permissible expenses. The alternative alerting programs and systems are not permissible under the 2016 SICG-Formula program; this expense is related to PSAP operations. You might want to look into PSAP Operations Grant program.

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25	Regarding section 4 in the SICG Formula RFA application attachment 2 requires MOU's to be attached. The County currently has no other State or local entities operating on its system, hence we do not possess any signed MOU's at this juncture. How should I proceed so as not to submit an incomplete grant application?	Do not check the box for Attachment 2 in Section 4 of the RFA, leave it empty if you do not have any documentation to support the frequency sharing. This check box and submission is mandatory only for those who claim they have MOUs and other frequency sharing agreements with State Agencies.
26	I have two questions regarding the 2016 SICG Formula Grants: 1. In the RFA, under permissible costs "Subscriber Equipment" is listed, under Costs Not Permissible "Paging receivers" are listed. Would subscriber pagers (i.e. Motorola Minitor VI or equivalent) be eligible? 2. In the Application, 2.1 asks for "State Agencies and Authorities" should we include any Federal Agencies operating on the system?	1. Motorola Minitor VI is a paging unit, therefore it is not an eligible expense under this program. The same would apply to paging units equivalent to Motorola Minitor VI. 2. Question 2.1 applies only to State Agencies and Authorities and must be supplemented with documentation. However, please include federal agency user counts in question 2.2.1.A.2 or 2.2.1.B.1.
27	Question: Current quantity of towers or structures owned/leased by county for county LMR operations: a. Include quantity of structures utilized for base stations, transmitters, LMR-antennas utilized for operations of your county LMR system (do not include base stations which are not part of your main LMR system and not connected by a backhaul). Are you looking for the quantity of towers and structures (shelters) only or are you looking for the total number of base stations, transmitters and LMR-antennas as well	We are looking for quantity of structures that support base stations, transmitters and microwave equipment for county LMR system. One tower with shelter might have multiple base stations and other equipment installed, such as microwave equipment, however, you would count it as 1 tower or structure. Shelters installed near those towers should not be counted as separate structures.
28	Our County is a member of several consortiums, however, we only have a signed agreement with one. Should we only attach the signed agreement or should I attach all of the agreements. If we only attach the signed agreement should we list the groups we are part of in the cover letter? Additionally, regarding question 2.1, we have signed talk group usage and frequency usage agreements with several State Agencies/Authorities, however, we do not have a signed agreement with one of them. Should we list the total number of State Agencies/Authorities or only the number with which we have signed agreements?	Please attach only consortium agreement(s) that have been signed and provide a letter explaining what other consortiums or memberships your county is part of. Please try to finalize all related governance documentation with other consortiums in 120 days after potential award notification. In question 2.1, please list only agencies that you have agreements, MOUs or if you can supplement it with county executive board resolution(s) or meeting minute(s). Example: if your county allowed LMR system access and/or frequency sharing for NYS agency and it is captured in meeting minutes or a resolution, copy of this documentation will be acceptable for the purpose of the grant program.

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29	In regards to TIER 2 Data Aggregation section of the 2016 SICG application, question 2.1 (page 9), we have the following questions: • Please confirm question 2.1 refers only to State Agencies and State Authorities. This excludes counties and federal entities. • If we indicate 10 entities as an example, do we need MOUs, agreements, county records where system sharing was approved for all 10 entities or can we provide a sample of documents evidencing some of the entities are operating on the county system? • In terms of the MOUs, agreements, and record, some of these documents are deemed confidential. Do we need to attach the entire document with the signatory page or would just page 1 of the document along with the signatory page suffice?	Question 2.1 is applicable only to NYS State Agencies and Authorities, not counties, federal entities or states other than NY. All those listed in Question 2.1 must be supplemented with proper documentation, such as MOUs, agreements, board resolutions or meeting minutes. We prefer to have a complete set of documentation, however if some of those documents deemed confidential, please provide a page where parties are identified, signature page, and a brief description, capturing nature of the agreement (or MOU).