

# Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program



Sallianne Schagrin, Policy Analyst  
Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program,  
US Department of Commerce, NTIA

Don Speights, Partner, Compass Communications



APCO National  
Conference  
Baltimore, MD  
August 9, 2007

# PSIC Background

- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 established a \$1 billion grant program for public safety interoperability communications
  - The funds are borrowed from the anticipated auction proceeds of the 700 MHz spectrum
  - The Call Home Act of 2006 required all funding to be awarded by September 30, 2007
  - The Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (PL 110-53) will amend the PSIC Grants (discussed later in presentation)
- NTIA partnered with DHS (NPD)
- \$968 million in funding is available for grants

# PSIC Funding Goals

- Funding is to assist public safety agencies in the **the acquisition of, deployment of, or training for** the use of interoperable communications, software and systems that utilize – or enable interoperability with communications systems that can utilize – reallocated public safety spectrum in the 700 MHz band.\*
- Proposed solutions must achieve meaningful and measurable **improvements to interoperability** and **fill interoperability gaps** identified in the Statewide Plans.

# PSIC Funding Priorities

The program will not dictate a technology or an approach for interoperability solutions. However, NTIA has identified the following technology and all-hazards mitigation priorities

## Technology

- Adopt advanced technological solutions
- Improve spectrum efficiency
- Use cost-effective measures

## ALL-Hazards Mitigation

- Improve communications in areas at high risk for natural disasters
- Continue to improve interoperability efforts in urban and metropolitan areas at high risk for threats of terrorism

# More on Technical Objectives

---

- **Advanced Technology**
  - Forward-thinking technology
  - Proven solutions
- **Spectrum Efficiency**
  - Consider in proposal
  - Not necessarily a simple bits/Hz measure
  - Consider alternate technology
- **Cost-effective measures**
  - Most benefit to the greatest number of users

# Limitation of Project Scope

---

- Intent of the statute is to fund interoperability projects that include **multiple agencies** and **multiple jurisdictions**
- PSIC **will not fund**:
  - Single-Agency Projects
  - Single-Jurisdiction Projects
  - Projects Isolated from 700 MHz band\*

# Grant Guidance & Application Kit

- Released July 18, 2007
- Contains PSIC Guidance and Application Process
- Explains Statutory and Program Goals and Objectives
- Describes Eligibility, Match, Allowable Costs, and Administrative Information

# Funding Allocation

- PSIC 56 States and Territories Allocation
- PSIC UASI Tier 1 Allocation
- Allocations based on Formula
  - Each State, D.C. and Puerto Rico will receive a minimum of \$3M
  - Each Territory will receive a minimum of \$500,000.
  - Remaining Funds are allocated using a formula similar to HSGP risk formula (threat, vulnerability, consequence)

# Eligible Applicants

- The PSIC grants will be awarded to the 56 States and Territories
- The Governor of each State has designated a **State Administrative Agency** (SAA) to apply for and administer the funds under the PSIC Grant Program
- The **SAA is the only agency eligible to apply** for PSIC funds. The SAA is responsible for obligating PSIC funds to eligible pass-through public safety agencies

# Pass-Through Requirements Section

- Each State will make no less than **80 percent of the total award amount available as a pass-through** to local government, tribal government entities, or nongovernmental public safety agencies
  - The District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have no pass-through requirement.
  - Puerto Rico has a 50 percent pass-through requirement
- Each State and Territory may retain some or all of the pass-through for expenditures made by the State on behalf of the pass-through local entities through a formal Memorandum of Understanding with local entities that specifies the amount and intended use of the funds
- Additionally, Urban Areas Security Initiative Tier 1 funding pass-through is required without approved variance

# Match Requirements

- The public safety agency receiving the PSIC project funds is required to meet and document the **20 percent match** requirement
- The SAA is required to track and report the 20 percent match requirements for PSIC funds
- The documentation must demonstrate that matching funds are from non-federal sources
- Training activities are excluded from the match requirement. Training activities are capped at 20% of a State's or Territory's of the federal share of a project.

# Statewide Plans and PSIC

- FY 2007 HSGP requires States to develop and adopt a **Statewide Plan**
- Proposed PSIC projects to receive funds should align with the goals and **gaps identified in the Statewide Plan**
- Statewide Plans must incorporate the following **PSIC criteria**:
  - Description of how local and tribal government entities' and nongovernmental organizations' interoperable communications needs have been included in the planning process and how their needs are being addressed, if applicable.

# Additional Key Parameters

---

- **Period of Performance:** PSIC grants will be **awarded** no later than **September 30, 2007** and period of performance will **end on September 30, 2010**
- **Investments:** Each State and Territory may submit **up to 10 Investment Justifications** for funding consideration

# Investment Justifications

- All States and Territories will be required to develop up to **10 Investment Justifications** to request FY 2007 PSIC funding
- The Investment Justification provides a template for applicants to outline the proposed initiatives for the FY 2007 PSIC funding
- The **IJ Template and Reference Guide** to assist applicants in completing IJs will be released soon.

# PSIC IJ Review Process

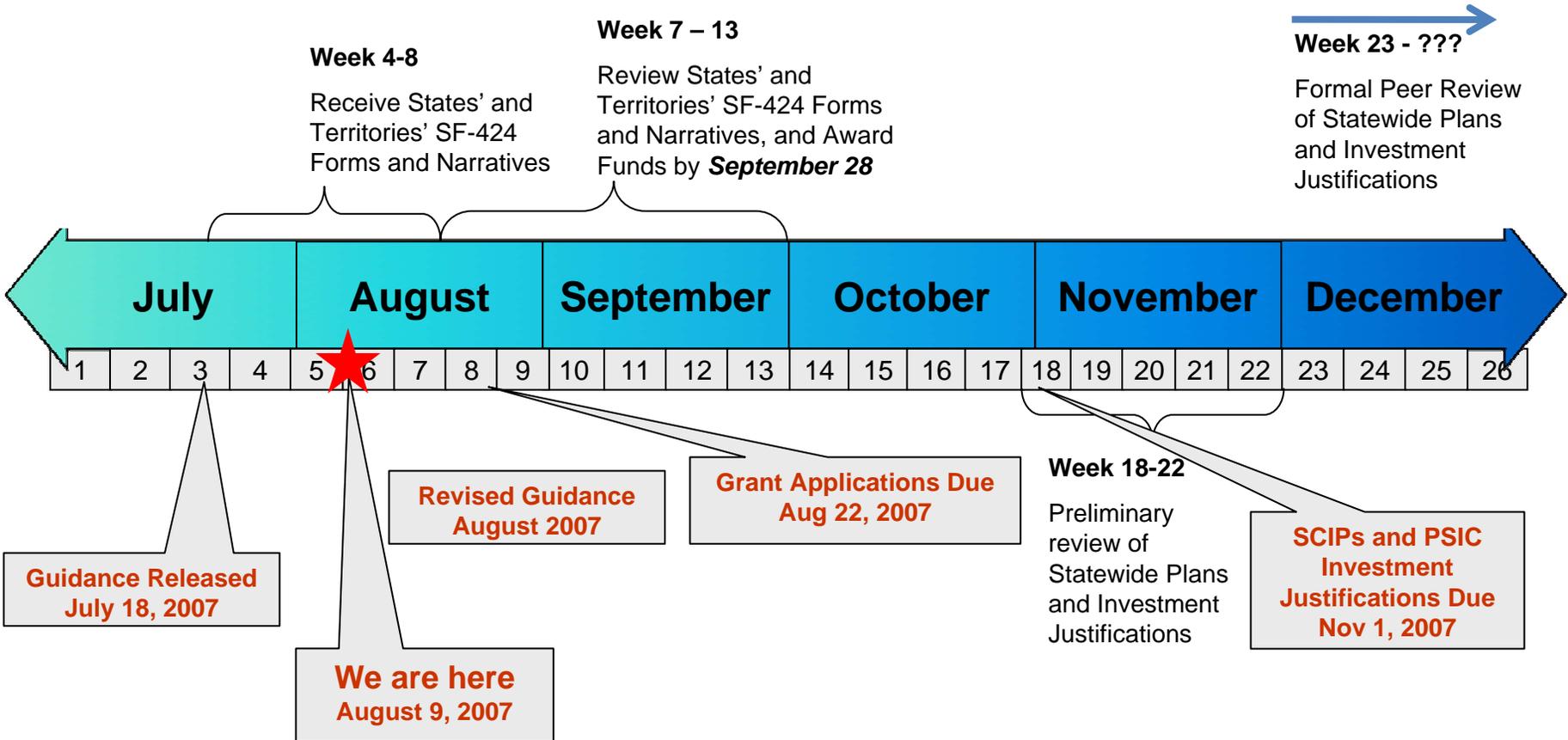
- The IJ Review Process is in final stages of development
- In general, process will be similar but distinct from statewide plan review.
- NTIA and DHS staff will perform **programmatic review** of IJs
- A **peer review** will be conducted after staff approval
- Based on Peer and Staff recommendations, the **Assistant Secretary of Commerce** will approve IJs

# Technical Assistance

- Short-term TA will consist of :
  - **Direct Outreach** to SAAs
  - **Q&A** through DHS NPD Grants Management Office
  - PSIC Brochure
  - **4 Regional IJ Workshops**  
September/October
- **Long-term TA** (State-by-State) will be available

# PSIC Activities Timeline

## July through December 2007



# Deadline Review

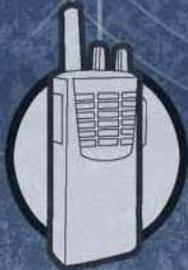
- Each State and Territory must submit its PSIC Grant application and narrative no later than **11:59pm EDT on August 22, 2007** through <http://www.grants.gov>
- Each State and Territory must submit its PSIC Investment Justifications and final Statewide Plan by **November 1, 2007** through the NPD Secure Portal at <https://opd.esportals.com>
- PSIC grants will be awarded by **September 30, 2007.**

# Changes to PSIC relating to the Passage of H.R. 1 (PL 110-53)

- The Statute includes new provisions for
  - **planning and coordination** as eligible costs
  - explicitly permitting funds to be used for **equipment and software**
  - allows investments in **other public safety communications spectrum bands**
  - requiring the establishment and implementation of **strategic technology reserve** by public safety agencies
- **\$75M** of the fund will be granted to help public safety agencies establish **Strategic Technology Reserve** to preposition interoperable communications equipment for immediate deployment during an emergency.
  - **Rebuttal Presumption**: State/Territory demonstrate prior implementation of **Strategic Technology Reserve** or higher priority public safety communications needs.
- **Revised Grant Guidance** NTIA will publish a Federal Register Notice accounting for changes as a result of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007/Public Law 110-53



Questions?



# Contact Information

---

Updates on the PSIC Program:  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov>

## PSIC State/Territory Allocation

<b>State/Territory</b>	<b>PSIC Funding</b>	<b>State/Territory</b>	<b>PSIC Funding</b>
Alabama	\$ 13,585,399	Montana	\$ 6,549,685
Alaska	\$ 7,250,345	Nebraska	\$ 8,582,108
American Samoa	\$ 691,948	Nevada	\$ 12,042,417
Arizona	\$ 17,713,050	New Hampshire	\$ 5,966,760
Arkansas	\$ 11,169,402	New Jersey	\$ 30,806,646
California	\$ 94,034,510	New Mexico	\$ 8,288,725
Colorado	\$ 14,336,638	New York	\$ 60,734,783
Connecticut	\$ 12,999,879	North Carolina	\$ 22,130,199
Delaware	\$ 8,196,842	North Dakota	\$ 7,052,490
District of Columbia	\$ 11,857,972	Northern Mariana Islands	\$ 719,236
Florida	\$ 42,888,266	Ohio	\$ 29,377,337
Georgia	\$ 25,311,354	Oklahoma	\$ 11,684,183
Guam	\$ 2,600,678	Oregon	\$ 12,182,532
Hawaii	\$ 8,069,879	Pennsylvania	\$ 34,190,555
Idaho	\$ 7,289,795	Puerto Rico	\$ 9,590,025
Illinois	\$ 36,414,263	Rhode Island	\$ 7,365,694
Indiana	\$ 18,291,735	South Carolina	\$ 13,499,308
Iowa	\$ 10,935,974	South Dakota	\$ 6,549,691
Kansas	\$ 10,667,169	Tennessee	\$ 17,540,752
Kentucky	\$ 15,405,625	Texas	\$ 65,069,247
Louisiana	\$ 19,672,287	U.S. Virgin Islands	\$ 856,907
Maine	\$ 7,567,579	Utah	\$ 10,353,261
Maryland	\$ 22,934,593	Vermont	\$ 4,476,761
Massachusetts	\$ 21,191,988	Virginia	\$ 25,012,521
Michigan	\$ 25,039,781	Washington	\$ 19,180,347
Minnesota	\$ 14,262,071	West Virginia	\$ 8,429,484
Mississippi	\$ 10,989,345	Wisconsin	\$ 15,367,216
Missouri	\$ 17,465,576	Wyoming	\$ 5,952,187
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 968,385,000</b>

# PSIC Tier 1 UASI Allocation

<b>Tier 1 UASI</b>	<b>Tier 1 UASI Funding</b>	<b>Total State Funding</b>
<b>Bay Area, CA</b>	<b>\$14,528,292</b>	<b>\$ 94,034,510</b>
<b>Chicago Area, IL</b>	<b>\$ 16,195,438</b>	<b>\$ 36,414,263</b>
<b>Houston Area, TX</b>	<b>\$ 14,586,128</b>	<b>\$ 65,069,247</b>
<b>Jersey City/Newark Area, NJ</b>	<b>\$ 17,495,751</b>	<b>\$ 30,806,646</b>
<b>Los Angeles/Long Beach Area, CA</b>	<b>\$ 22,278,788</b>	<b>\$ 94,034,510</b>
<b>National Capital Region</b>	<b>\$ 11,857,972</b>	<b>\$ 11,857,972</b>
<b>New York City Area, NY</b>	<b>\$ 34,812,602</b>	<b>\$ 60,734,783</b>