

Local Government Safety Capital Grant Program Program Guidelines

Background:

The Local Government Safety Capital Grant Program (the “Program”) was created in Section 701.120 of Am. Sub. H.B. No. 64, 131st G.A. The Program was subsequently amended (to refine the definition of political subdivision) in Am. Sub. H.B. 340. The Program is administered by the Local Government Innovation Council (the “Council” and the facilitated by the Ohio Development Services Agency (the “Agency”). Grants awarded for the Program are made from the Local Government Safety Capital Fund, also created in Section 701.120.

Purpose:

Grants funds are to be used for the purchase of vehicles, equipment, facilities, or systems needed to enhance Public Safety. The focus of the Local Government Safety Capital grants will be police, fire, and EMS-related purchases.

Eligible applicants:

Eligible Applicants include political subdivisions as defined in Sec. 701.120 (C) of Am. Sub. H.B. 340.

"Political subdivision" means a **county, township, municipal corporation, joint emergency medical services district** organized under section 307.052 of the Revised Code, **fire district** organized under section 505.37 of the Revised Code, **joint fire district** organized under section 505.371 of the Revised Code, **fire and ambulance district** organized under section 505.375 of the Revised Code, **joint police district** organized under section 505.482 of the Revised Code, and **joint ambulance district** organized under section 505.71 of the Revised Code.

Political subdivisions that contract for police, fire, and/or EMS services are eligible to apply.

Eligible Projects:

- An Eligible Project will be the purchase of vehicles, equipment, facilities, and/or systems that will be used by police, fire, and/or EMS providers to enhance public safety.
- The purchases must be owned by the Eligible Applicant.
- An Eligible Project may include more than one of these items, up to a total requested grant amount of \$100,000.

Eligible expenses:

- Grant funds may be used for the purchase of vehicles, equipment, facilities, or systems needed to enhance public safety.
- Grant funds are to be used primarily for hard costs associated with these purchases. Up to 5% of the grants funds may be used for soft costs, such as architectural and engineering fees, if needed.
- Grant funds may be used for training equipment/facilities, but not the training itself.
- Grant funds may not be used to pay for user fees or other operational costs.
- Grant funds may not be used to pay for costs incurred prior to the Eligible Applicant receiving approval by the Council.
- Grant funds may not be used as matching funds for other LGIF programs.

Available Funds:

\$10,000,000 is available for both FY16 and FY17. Grants shall be made from the Local Government Safety Capital Fund.

Maximum award:

The Council shall award not more than \$100,000 in total grants to an individual political subdivision per biennium. The Local Government Innovation Council, as defined in [ORC 189.03](#), is the final approver of grant awards.

Applications submitted by a group of political subdivisions which, if awarded, will serve to consolidate emergency services or enhance cooperation between or among the applying jurisdictions to more efficiently deliver emergency services are encouraged. An application submitted by multiple political subdivisions may seek a level of funding which does not exceed the collective total amount of funding which may be awarded to those political subdivisions individually, up to \$500,000.

Application process:

- Applications will be submitted online, and will be in the form determined by the Agency.
- Applicants will be asked to provide information on their jurisdiction, service area, operating budget, and economic need. They will also be required to provide a description and justification of their purchase, including itemized cost estimates from suppliers.
- If grant funds are provided for vehicles or facilities, the applicant must show that there are or will be resources available to service and maintain the vehicles or facilities.
- Prioritization will be given for multi-jurisdictional purchases that demonstrate sharing of services and collaboration.

Scoring Methodology:

Awards will be made based primarily on the following criteria that will be prioritized in the scoring process:

- Collaboration/shared services
- Purchase being recommended by a plan or study
- Greater cash match
- Greater overall need as evidenced by relationship between budget, number of incidents/crime stats, service area, staff, etc. as well as need-related metrics (unemployment and AML/poverty levels in community(ies) served)
- Greater need for specific item as evidenced in narrative and inventory
- Ability to support ongoing costs of purchase over time

Grant Period:

- Grant awards will be effective for one year from the date of Council approval (the "Grant Period"). All costs must be incurred within the Grant Period.
- Grant funds cannot be used to pay for costs incurred prior to the date the application was approved by the Council.

Disbursements:

- Disbursements will be made on a reimbursement basis. The grantee will be required to submit proof of payment indicating the purchase was made before being reimbursed.
- Multiple reimbursement requests throughout the Grant Period are allowed. However, requests for reimbursement must be a minimum of \$10,000, excluding the final request for reimbursement.
- Requests for reimbursement will be accepted up to 60 days after the end of the Grant Period.
- If the grantee has not requested reimbursement of the remaining grants funds within 60 days after the end of the Grant Period, the grantee will be given written notice that the funds will be disencumbered, and the grant will be closed.

Closeout:

- A grant closeout report will be required with the request for final disbursement.
- The closeout report will be in the form determined by the Agency, and will include information including but not limited to the purchase that was made with the grant funds, the total cost, any funds not used, and the impact that the purchase has had or will have on the grantee's operations.

Proposed Timeline for awards:

- Application open: February 16, 2016
- Application deadline: March 21, 2016
- Review period: March - May 2016
- Awards made: May 19, 2016 (Council meeting)

Definitions:

- Eligible Applicant – Political subdivisions as defined in Sec. 701.120 (C) of Am. Sub. H.B. 340. Political subdivisions that contract for police, fire, and/or EMS services are Eligible Applicants.
- Eligible Project – Purchases of vehicles, equipment, facilities, and/or systems that will be used by police, fire, and/or EMS providers to enhance public safety. The purchases must be owned by the Eligible Applicant. The Eligible Project may include more than one of these items, up to a total requested grant amount of \$100,000.
- Public Safety – The welfare and protection of the general public. For the purposes of the Local Government Safety Capital Grant Program, public safety refers specifically to fire, police, and EMS protection.
- System - A group of devices or objects forming a network for communication, travel, or distribution
 - *Examples include telecommunications – computers, software, GIS, upgrades, computer aided dispatch, sensors, smartphones, network hubs, etc.*
- Facility - Real property built, established, or installed to serve a specific function.
 - *Examples include new buildings, additions, garages, etc.*
- Equipment - Necessary items, such as supplies or tools, need for a specific purpose
 - *Examples include clothing/protective gear, radios or other communication devices, video cameras, ropes/tools/hoses, AED, monitors, etc.*
- Vehicle - A device or structure that transports people or objects
 - *Examples include cars, trucks, ambulances, bikes, motorcycles, unmanned aerial systems*