

NC 911 Board Grant Policy

PSAP grants are authorized by G.S. 143B-1407(c) and require a PSAP Grant Agreement with the 911 Board. Funding reconsiderations may be considered by the NC 911 Board pursuant to GS 143B-1406(a)(4) and the Board's policies regarding funding reconsiderations.

A) Grant Priorities

The Board may establish one or more priorities to be utilized in evaluating and awarding grants. Priorities shall be established not less than sixty (60) days in advance of advertising grant availability. The Grant Committee shall establish weightings for priorities, if any, established by the Board. The Staff shall identify those weightings in the notice of grant opportunities. Unless otherwise provided by law, the Board may identify a sum or a percentage of revenues to fund grants together with funding priorities. The Grant Committee shall recommend an allocation of available funds for grants after evaluating grant applications.

B) Grant Cycles

The Board may establish one or more grant cycles in each fiscal year. The earliest may occur following notice of the 911 Board's proposed funding in December of each year. In establishing a grant cycle, the Board shall advertise grant availability, and operate the grant program in a manner that leverages local government budgetary processes and available funds. In the first quarter of the Board's fiscal year, the Board may allocate funds for grants as authorized by GS 143B-1405(c) (from CMRS allocations) and GS 143B-1406(b) (from PSAP allocations).

Grant cycles will be advertised as required by GS 143B-1407 and the Board's Rules. Applications shall be due no later than 90 days from the first day of the grant cycle, unless otherwise established by the Board.

Board staff will conduct a grant application process workshop which may be attended in person, subject to available meeting space, or electronically. Staff will review the application form, the priorities established by the Board, conduct a question and answer session, and identify submission requirements such as interlocal agreements, or similar activities pertinent to the grant process. Staff may seek clarification of any cost, price or element presented by an applicant. Clarifications, if any, will be made in writing.

C) Grant Review and Evaluation

The Board's staff will review all grant applications prior to evaluation. Staff shall confer with grant committee regarding need for subject matter experts (SMEs) and take action to secure such services or other action as directed by the Executive Director. Staff shall advise the Grant Committee regarding funding reconsiderations and grant funding, any impact upon a grant applicant's future funding arising from the applicant's request, communications between staff and an applicant to clarify a grant application, past grants awarded, and such other matters as relevant to the grant program.

Grant applicants shall appear before the Grant Committee, or the Board, at a date and time scheduled for oral presentations.

The Grant Committee will consider the applications and evaluate each application after applicants' oral presentations. Evaluation criteria shall include requirements of GS 143B-1407, weighted priorities established by the Board and other criteria as necessary or proper. Following review and evaluation by the Grant Committee, staff shall prepare an action item for reporting out committee's deliberations including fiscal reviews, SME reports/advice, rationale for recommendation, and such other information as directed by the Grant Committee. PSAPs may not seek a grant when the PSAP has more than one active grant. Provided, however, that the Grant Committee may consider a grant application regardless of the foregoing if the PSAP has been unable to complete a grant due to force majeure conditions.

Items or costs identified on the Approved Use of Funds List for funding through the PSAP monthly distributions are not eligible for grant funding.

Grantees submitting applications for costs that were previously submitted but not funded may not receive priority scoring. Projects comprising multiple phases or otherwise segregated and submitted in multiple grant cycles may not receive priority scoring.

An applicant may not file more than one grant application in a grant cycle.

Grant funds shall not be used to purchase or provide goods or services to secondary PSAPs in excess of the secondary PSAP funding policy.

D) Grant Agreements

Grant agreements must be executed by the grantees and returned to the Executive Director with any necessary interlocal agreements or other necessary documentation within ninety (90) days of presentation to the grantee.

E) Grant Funding Modifications

Grantees seeking additional funding through their grant agreements must submit an application in a grant cycle. In the event a grantee submits a request for additional funding as an amendment to a grant agreement, the Board and the Executive Director shall refer the request to the Grant Committee. The 911 Board Staff will review all requests. The Staff may request such other and further information as deemed necessary to fully consider the request. PSAPs shall provide such information as requested pursuant to GS 143B-1406(f).

Grant applications presenting, or including, a funding reconsideration request shall be referred to the Executive Director and the Funding Committee.

F) Grant Termination, Suspension, Close out

PSAP representatives shall attend 911 Board meetings to present their requests, provide additional information, clarification, and support their requests. The Funding Committee

shall act without delay in any action taken and shall make a recommendation to the 911 Board for action no later than the Board's May meeting.

The Executive Director will provide periodic reports on grantees' progress and funding. Upon closing out a grant, any remaining funds allocated to the grant shall revert to the grant fund.

G) Grant Committee Membership

The Board Chair may appoint two or more Board members, and other persons as the Chair determines upon recommendation of a Board member or the Executive Director. The Executive Director may, upon request of the Grant Committee or at the direction of the Board Chair, identify one or more subject matter experts to assist the Grant Committee with review and evaluation of grant applications. In the absence of a Grant Committee, grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated by all members of the 911 Board