Grant Program Resources

MN DPS-ECN Website

Information regarding the emergency communications grant programs administered by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety – Emergency Communication Networks (MN DPS-ECN) can be found on the 'Grants' page of the MN DPS-ECN website.

- https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/grants/Pages/default.aspx

MN DPS-ECN Staff

The following MN DPS-ECN staff are available to assist with questions or concerns related to the emergency communications grant programs administered by MN DPS-ECN:

Cathy Clark, Deputy Director
E-Mail: cathy.clark@state.mn.us
Office: 651-201-7549

Steve Tait, Regional Interoperability Coordinator
(Central, Southwest, South Central, & Southeast Regions)
E-Mail: steven.tait@state.mn.us
Mobile: 612-221-6636

Marcus Bruning, Regional Interoperability Coordinator
(Northwest, Northeast, & Metropolitan Regions)
E-Mail: marcus.bruning@state.mn.us
Mobile: 218-232-3762

Regional Grant Coordinators

Each of the seven Emergency Communications Board (ECB) and Emergency Services Board (ESB) regions within the state designated a regional grant coordinator. These coordinators serve as a liaison between members of the region and MN DPS-ECN staff for matters related to the application, award, and administration of the various emergency communications grant programs administered by MN DPS-ECN.

Northwest Emergency Communications Board
Sarah Wilcox, Headwaters Regional Development Commission
E-Mail: swilcox@hrdc.org

Metropolitan Emergency Services Board
Tracey Frederick, Metropolitan Emergency Services Board
E-Mail: tfredrick@mn-mesb.org

Northeast Emergency Communications Board
Lindsay VanGuilder, St. Louis County
E-Mail: VanGuilderL@stlouiscountymn.gov

Central Emergency Services Board
Micah Myers, City of St. Cloud
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Southwest Emergency Communications Board
Randy Willis, Minnesota Sheriff's Association
E-Mail: rwillis@mnsheriffs.org

South Central Emergency Communications Board
Dan Davidson, Blue Earth County
E-Mail: Dan.Davidson@blueearthcountymn.gov

Southeast Emergency Communications Board
Judy Indrelie, Olmsted County
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SECB Strategic Plan

The Statewide Emergency Communications Board (SECB) Strategic Plan outlines the goals, strategies, and tactics that are recommended to improve interoperable communication capabilities for Minnesota's emergency responders.

A copy of this document is available at:
- https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/about/Pages/ECN%20Reports.aspx

National Emergency Communications Plan

The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) is published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). This document serves as the Nation's strategic plan to strengthen and enhance emergency communications capabilities. It addresses the current gaps within emergency communications and promotes the innovation and integration of new technologies, while considering their associated risks. In addition, it provides guidance to drive the enhancements of the Nation's emergency communications capabilities.

A copy of this document is available at:
- https://www.cisa.gov/necp

FEMA Preparedness Grants Manual

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed the Preparedness Grants Manual to guide applicants and recipients of federal preparedness grant funding (e.g. SHSP) on how to manage their grants and other resources. Recipients seeking guidance on policies and procedures for managing preparedness grants should reference this manual for further information on both program-specific information as well as overall guidance on rules and regulations that guide the proper management of FEMA grants.

A copy of this document is available at:
- https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/178291

SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants

SAFECOM is managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). In collaboration with CISA, SAFECOM publishes an annual 'Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants' document that provides current information on emergency communications policies, eligible costs, best practices, and technical standards for state, local, tribal, and territorial grant recipients investing federal funds in emergency communications projects.

A copy of this document is available at:
- https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/funding

FEMA Authorized Equipment List

The Authorized Equipment List (AEL) is a list of approved equipment types allowed under FEMA's preparedness grant programs (e.g. SHSP). The list consists of 21 equipment categories divided into categories, sub-categories, and then individual equipment items. NOTE: There are no commercially available products listed; it only consists of equipment types.

Additional information regarding the Authorized Equipment List is available at:
- https://www.fema.gov/authorized-equipment-list

National Preparedness System/National Preparedness Goal

The National Preparedness System provides a mechanism to build, sustain, and deliver core capabilities to achieve the National Preparedness Goal. The goal itself is succinct:

"A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk."

These risks include events such as natural disasters, disease pandemics, chemical spills and other manmade hazards, terrorist attacks and cyber-attacks.

The National Preparedness Goal describes 32 activities, called core capabilities, that address the greatest risks to the nation. These capabilities, organized into five mission areas, are the distinct critical elements necessary to achieve the Goal:

- Prevention: Prevent, avoid, or stop an imminent, threatened, or actual act of terrorism.
- Protection: Protect our citizens, residents, visitors and assets against the greatest threats and hazards in a manner that allows our interests, aspirations, and way of life to thrive.
- Mitigation: Reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters.
- Response: Respond quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of a catastrophic incident.
- Recovery: Recover through a focus on the timely restoration, strengthening and revitalization of infrastructure, housing, and a sustainable economy, as well as the health, social, cultural, historic, and environmental fabric of communities affected by a catastrophic incident.

Additional information regarding the National Preparedness System and the National Preparedness Goal can be found at:

- http://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-system
- https://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-goal

Recipients of state and federal grant funding (e.g. SECB and SHSP) should use the National Preparedness System as a framework for creating a shared local/regional picture of their needs relative to capability gaps - including what threats and hazards are posing the greatest risks, and what core capabilities related to emergency communications are most in need of improvement or sustainment. These findings can be used to prioritize, synchronize, and guide grant funded projects to build and sustain interoperable communication capabilities. These actions are important to make sure that we are focusing our time and resources in the right areas.