



New Grant Opportunity: ARMER Equipment Grant

**Public Safety Communications Conference
May 6-9, 2024**



Introduction





Agenda

- 1. Background:**
 - 1. Legislative appropriation.**
 - 2. Outreach.**
- 2. What do I need to do to apply?**
- 3. Deadlines and schedule.**
- 4. Questions.**





2023 Minnesota Session Laws, Ch. 52, Art. 2, Sec. 3, Subd. 9(e)

Statewide Public Safety Radio Communication System Equipment Grants

\$2,000,000 each year from the general fund is for grants to local units of government, federally recognized Tribal entities, and state agencies participating in the statewide Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) public safety radio communication system established under Minnesota Statutes, section 403.36, subdivision 1e. The grants must be used to purchase or upgrade portable radios, mobile radios, and related equipment that is interoperable with the ARMER system. Each local government unit may receive only one grant. The grant is contingent upon a match of at least five percent from nonstate funds. The director of the Department of Public Safety Emergency Communication Networks division, in consultation with the Statewide Emergency Communications Board, must administer the grant program. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026. This is a onetime appropriation.



Key conditions

- Amount: \$4 million.
 - Source: General fund.
 - Eligible: Local units of government, Tribes, state agencies.
 - Use:
 - Participation on system established in Minnesota Statutes 403.
 - Purchase or upgrade radios and related equipment.
 - Interoperable with ARMER system.
 - Match: 5% from nonstate funds.
 - Timeline: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026.
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Outreach

- Grant Planning Group established Jan. 2024
 - Stakeholder-driven approach
 - SECB
 - State agency (non-ECN)
 - Subject-matter experts
 - Other interested parties
 - Determined eligible expenses, conditions for RFP
 - Input at local and statewide levels
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What do I need to apply?

- RFP & Application Forms to be posted to ECN website
 - <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/grants/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Includes Grant Manual and other resources
 - Join email distribution list for notifications
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RFP Documents

1. Grant Request for Proposals (RFP)
2. Attachment A: Application Form (Word)
3. Attachment B: Budget Worksheet & Inventory (Excel)

Applicants should review these resources thoroughly before applying!



Useful RFP Information

- Administered through competitive process
 - Grant period anticipated Oct. 1, 2024 to Mar. 31, 2026
 - Question/answer period included in RFP
 - Response to RFP does not obligate ECN to an award
 - Selected recipients must register in E-Grants
 - Reimbursement only
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Eligible Entities

Applicants must be

- Individual units of government
- Federally recognized Tribal entities
- State agencies on the ARMER system

Provide:

- **Main contact**
- **Entity legal name**
- **SWIFT ID**



Allowable Expenditures

Allowable

- Priority 1: Radios and radio accessories
- Priority 2: Expanding capabilities (encryption, UL-approved, etc.)

Proposal categories

- New equipment – added capabilities
- Replace equipment – maintain capabilities
- Replace equipment – failed/failing
- New equipment – redundant with existing
- Other (please describe)

Provide:

- **Categorize proposal**
- **Describe other funding sources (if applicable)**



Budget Workbook

Budget Workbook – Grant Proposal

- Equipment costs under grant
- Other costs (if applicable)

Budget Workbook – Existing Inventory

- Estimate to best ability
- Comparison between existing and proposed state

Provide:

- **Grant request vs. match (5% required) & evidence of match**
- **Quantify request and compare to existing; complete budget workbook**



Narrative Sections

Funding

- Support for local match requirement
- Describe other funding sources (if applicable)
- Indicate whether partial award would be acceptable

Description of Need

- Describe gaps to be met (mapping, staffing/operational, capabilities)
- Compare proposal to local, state, or federal requirements

Project Planning

- Maintenance/deployment plan
 - Lead grantee and any organizations receiving sub-awards
 - Description of collaboration with local system administrator
 - Assurance for interoperability with existing system
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Supporting Documentation

Required

- Budget
Workbook/Inventory
- Proof of local match
- Sub-award information (if applicable)

Optional

- Vendor quote/standard pricing list
 - Capital improvement plan
 - Strategic plan/strategic budget
 - Equipment maintenance plan
 - Emergency services mapping
 - Other – Determined by applicant
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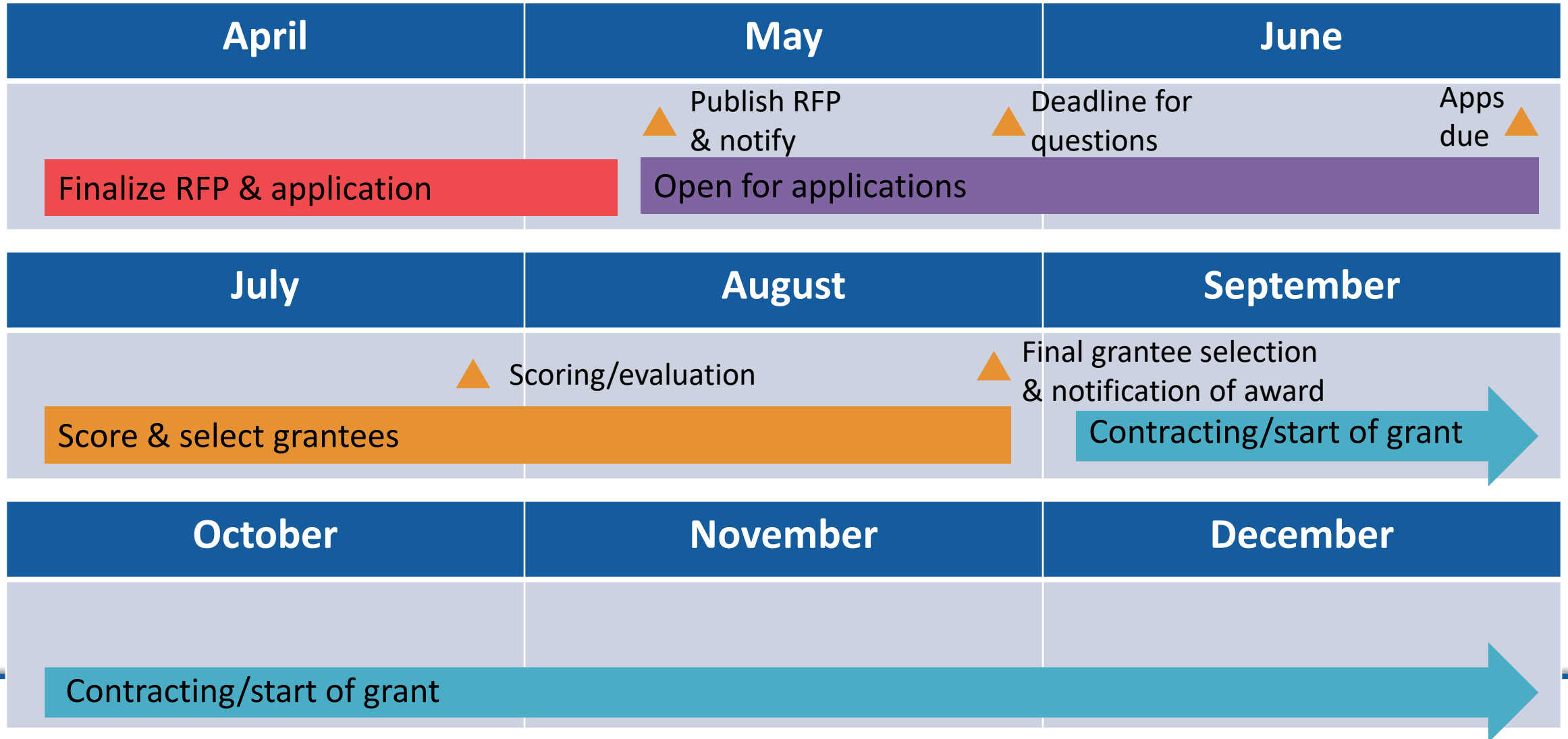
Scoring/Evaluation Criteria

Score (out of 100):

- Budget/funding information (25 points possible)
 - Inventory and operational need (50 points possible)
 - Coordination planning (15 points possible)
 - Supporting documentation (10 points possible)
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Schedule (2024)





Contact & Resources

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ECN Grants Webpage and ECN Grant Manual:

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

Sign-up to receive notifications on this grant!



Questions?

