



STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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## Notice of Grant Opportunity for Dispatch Center Consolidation Request for Applications (RFA)

February 7, 2019

The Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) Emergency Services Communication Bureau (Bureau) is soliciting grant applications to support the consolidation of dispatch centers into existing Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).

### 1. Background

On June 29, 2018, the Governor signed L.D. 1671, An Act To Create a Grant Program To Assist with Dispatch Center Consolidation (Act).<sup>1</sup> The Act states that to support the consolidation of dispatch centers into existing PSAPs, the Commission's Emergency Services Communication Bureau may provide up to \$1,000,000 from funds collected from the statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge and the statewide prepaid wireless telecommunications service E-9-1-1 surcharge to provide grants to dispatch centers for nonrecurring costs associated with the consolidation of the dispatch centers into PSAPs.

Chapter 4 of the Bureau's Rules - Requirements for the Dispatch Consolidation Grant Program - establishes the application process for the distribution of grants for nonrecurring costs incurred by dispatch centers for consolidation into PSAPs. A copy of the rule is attached and can also be found on the Bureau's website: <https://www.maine.gov/maine911/laws-rules/rules>.

The Bureau's Request for Grant Applications (RFA) is open through March 29, 2019.

### 2. Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for this grant program, an applicant must be a dispatch center located in Maine and must submit a completed grant application. Consolidation costs incurred after June 29, 2018 are eligible for grant funds. Applications may include services related to all towns that are (or were) dispatched through the applying dispatch center that will be (or were) consolidated into the PSAP as these towns are not able to apply on their own.

### 3. Eligible Expenses

The following are allowable nonrecurring dispatch consolidation costs that would be eligible for grant funds: moving of existing emergency telecommunications system; costs associated with providing for additional functional capacity at the regional PSAP; changes to existing radio systems of the affected parties that are required by the move; emergency telecommunications equipment required by the regional PSAP to facilitate the incorporation of another municipality; a study or plan

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<sup>1</sup> P.L. 2017, ch. 428.

for consolidation into an existing PSAP; and Incidental construction or remodeling costs of the PSAP to accommodate the consolidation.

The Commission may also, in its discretion, determine that additional types of non-recurring costs are eligible for grant funds.

#### **4. Application Process**

Applicants must provide a complete Standard Application Form. Applicants must provide sufficient supporting documentation with the application to allow the Commission to verify that the information provided in the Application Form is accurate.

Electronic filing Instructions are attached and will also be posted at <http://www.maine.gov/maine911/psap-training/Consolidation-Grant>.

Commission staff will then review all applications and may ask for supplemental and/or clarifying information from applicants. The Commission expects to make decisions on complete applications by INSERT DATE. Grants will be limited by the availability of funds and subject to approval by the Bureau. No application will be approved unless the Bureau determines that the application is complete and the applicant is eligible.

Before receiving grant funds, the applicant shall provide supporting documentation for actual costs incurred related to the consolidation and documentation that the consolidation was completed.

The Bureau may reopen application submissions should available funds remain.

#### **5. Grant Documents and Information; Contact Person**

The RFA and related materials are available at: <http://www.maine.gov/maine911/psap-training/Consolidation-Grant>. Any changes and supplements to these materials will be posted at the same link.

The Contact Person is:

Maria Jacques  
Emergency Services Communication Bureau  
maria.jacques@maine.gov  
207-287-6083

#### **6. General**

##### **A. Clarification or Supplemental Material**

Applications must be submitted in accordance with this RFA or as otherwise specified by the Commission. The Commission reserves the right to seek clarification and request additional information, documentation and other material related to the applications.

##### **B. Application Costs**

All costs associated with developing and submitting an application in response to this RFA and providing oral or written clarification of its contents are borne by the applicant.

**C. Rights of the Commission**

The Commission may accept or reject any application based on its assessment of whether the application meets the requirements of the RFA. The Commission shall not be responsible or liable in any manner for risks, costs, expenses, or other damages incurred by any applicant or other entity involved, directly or indirectly, with this RFA.

**D. State Held Harmless**

The State of Maine, its officers, agents, and employees, including the Commission, the Bureau, Commissioners, and the employees or agents of the Commission and the Bureau shall be held harmless from any and all claims, costs, expenses, injuries, liabilities, losses and damages of every kind and description resulting from or arising out of this RFA.

**E. Warranty**

The information contained in the RFA and associated materials is prepared to assist applicants and does not purport to contain all of the information that may be relevant to applicants. The Commission and the Bureau make no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information. The Commission, the Bureau, their staffs and their agents shall not have any liability for any representations expressed or implied in, or any omissions from, the RFA or information obtained.

**Attachments:**

Dispatch Consolidation Grant Application

Instructions for Submitting Applications

Bureau Chapter 4: Requirements for the Dispatch Center Consolidation Grant Program