



Homeland Security and Emergency Services

2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program (CIGP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*(New and/or Updated FAQ's are Highlighted in Red;
Please Check the DHSES Website Frequently for Updates)*

I. Due Date and Application Instructions

1. **Question: What is the application due date for the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program?**

Answer: Applications are due to NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services – Grants Program Administration (DHSES-GPA) by **5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2022**. Applications submitted past this date will be disqualified. No extensions will be given.

2. **Question: How do I submit my application for the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program?**

Answer: Applications must be submitted via DHSES Grants Program Administration's E-Grants system. If you are not registered to use the E-Grants system, your agency will need to register and be assigned a username and password. Please refer to: <https://www.dhses.ny.gov/targeted-grants> or detailed instructions.

3. **Question: What must be submitted to consider the application complete?****Answer:**

Applications must be submitted via E-Grants and include the Risk Assessment and Capability Evaluation template as an attachment.

4. **Question: Would your agency be able to provide me with a sample of a previous grant application? (i.e., Critical Infrastructure Sites, Mass Gathering/Special Events Sites)?**

Answer: We cannot provide specific language or sample applications during an open competitive process. Our advice is to read the RFA carefully and submit as complete an application as possible for the best chance of success.

II. Eligibility and Objectives

1. Question: Is a community college an eligible applicant?

Answer: No, only units of local government are eligible to apply.

2. Question: Can a unit of local government submit more than one application?

Answer: No, a unit of local government may submit only one application under the FY2020 CIGP. Multiple applications are unallowable, and only one application for either a government owned critical infrastructure or a government owned mass gathering/special event site will be accepted.

3. Question: Can school districts submit an application directly?

Answer: No, a unit of local government is the only eligible applicant under this Request for Applications (RFA). School districts may coordinate with a unit of local government as a critical infrastructure site.

4. Question: Are projects that were funded under a prior year's CIGP grant eligible under the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program for funding for continued build-out or sustainment?

Answer: Yes, as long as it meets the eligibility requirements, DHSES encourages the completion and/or sustainment of projects previously funded under prior grant year's funding.

5. Question: Are cyber security projects eligible for funding under the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program?

Answer: No, cyber security projects are not an eligible project funding type.

6. Question: Who is eligible to apply for the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program?

Answer: Only units of local government located in New York City or one of the following targeted counties: Albany, Broome, Dutchess, Erie, Herkimer, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Suffolk, Tioga, Wayne, Westchester, and Yates.

7. Question: What is a unit of local government?

Answer: For the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program, a unit of local government includes counties, cities, towns and/or villages.

8. Question: Can local first responders submit an application directly?

Answer: No, a unit of local government is the only eligible applicant under this Request for Applications (RFA). First responders must coordinate with the unit of local government on an application.

9. Question: What is a government owned critical infrastructure site?

Answer: Examples of government owned critical infrastructure sites include, but are not limited to, government office buildings (city/town halls), emergency services (emergency operations centers, 911 centers, police or fire stations), water systems (water treatment facilities, water distribution, wastewater treatments) or government owned stadiums.

10. Question: What is a government owned mass gathering/special event site?

Answer: A government owned mass gathering/special event site is government property, where events such as, but not limited to, major community festivals, races, concerts, or games are held. These events must be reoccurring (but not necessarily the same event) and located or held on government owned or leased property that has definable geographic boundaries. The event or location must pose special security concerns, such as population surges and other factors that require additional law enforcement or emergency resources.

11. Question: Are Fire Districts eligible to submit for the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program?

Answer: No. Only a unit of local government, defined as county, city, town, or village, can submit an application under the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program.

Fire Districts may participate in the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program as a partnering agency, as the application must be coordinated with at least two (2) agencies with prevention and/or protection responsibilities at the selected critical infrastructure sites. The agencies must be law enforcement, fire departments, emergency management, or public works agencies.

12. Question: Are standalone EMS agencies eligible to apply under this grant program?

Answer: No. Only units of local government are eligible to apply for the FY2020 CIGP. These include counties, cities, towns or villages. In addition, the application must be coordinated with at least two agencies with prevention and/or protection responsibilities at the selected site or special event site. These agencies must be law enforcement, fire department, emergency management or public works agencies. EMS agencies do not fit this criterion.

13. Question: Is there eligibility for reimbursement through this grant for items that are purchased in advance of the grant award?

Answer: Expenses that occur prior to the start date of the grant period of performance cannot be reimbursed.

III. Partnering Agencies

1. Question: Whom does the application need to be coordinated with?

Answer: The application must be coordinated with at least two (2) agencies with prevention and/or protection responsibilities at the selected critical infrastructure sites. The agencies must be law enforcement, fire department, emergency management, or public works agencies.

IV. Allowable Costs

- 1. Question: Are Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) trailers an allowable expense under the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program?**

Answer: No, vehicles and trailers are not allowable costs under the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program.

For a comprehensive listing of allowable and unallowable costs, see Exhibit A.

- 2. Question: Re: Exhibit A – Allowable Cost Matrix. Is a portable surveillance system an allowable cost?**

Answer: Equipment must (a) be contained on the Authorized Equipment List (AEL); (b) marked for applicability to the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP); and (c) fall under one of the more restrictive allowable categories identified within this Request for Applications (see RFA Exhibit A) in order to be considered eligible under the Critical Infrastructure Grant Program. The AEL is presented in a number of sections and each item in the AEL is marked for applicability to appropriate grant programs, to get started, cross reference RFA Exhibit A with the appropriate section of the AEL (i.e., 03 – CBRNE Operational Search and Rescue Equipment, 13 – Terrorism Incident Prevention Equipment or 14 – Physical Security Enhancement Equipment). The AEL can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/authorized-equipment-list>

- 3. Question: Can an applicant submit for equipment that is not listed in the Authorized Equipment List? Would a submission that addresses target hardening from natural disasters and accidental hazards (fire) fit within the program?**

Answer: No. All equipment requested under the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program must be listed on the Authorized Equipment List and only those categories in Exhibit A in the Request for Applications are allowable (see question #2 above). One of the main objectives of the grant program is to complete a capability assessment to identify equipment, training and/or exercise needs to prevent and protect against attacks at the critical infrastructure site. A project solely addressing natural hazards and accidental fires would not be allowable.

- 4. Question: Is salary, overtime or backfill overtime an allowable cost to design, develop, conduct and evaluate training exercise(s)?**

Answer: As per the “Exhibit A: Allowable and Unallowable Cost Matrix”, organizational, management and administrative, construction, and personnel costs are not allowable under the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program to include overtime and backfill costs associated with training and exercises.

5. Question: Are there any restrictions on training equipment & supplies?

Answer: Equipment under the FY2020 CIGP must (a) be contained on the Authorized Equipment List (AEL); (b) marked for applicability to the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP); and (c) fall under one of the more restrictive allowable categories identified within this Request for Applications (see RFA Exhibit A) in order to be considered eligible under the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program. The Authorized Equipment List (AEL) can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/authorized-equipment-list>. The AEL is organized in a number of sub-categories and each item on the AEL that is allowable is outlined in the RFA Exhibit A. You can cross reference RFA Exhibit A with the appropriate section of the AEL (i.e., 03 – CBRNE Operational Search and Rescue Equipment, 13 – Terrorism Incident Prevention Equipment or 14 – Physical Security Enhancement Equipment) to determine allowability.

v. Other

1. Question: Is the word “attacks” in the RFA specifically for malicious intent or does it also apply to natural disaster scenarios?

Answer: Attacks, under this program refer to an intentional attack or an attempt by an adversary.

2. Question: I cannot find the capability evaluation; can I use the one from previous fiscal years?

Answer: No, the Risk Assessment and Capability Evaluation document has been updated for the FY2020 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program. The Capability Evaluation questions may be found in Exhibit B of the RFA.

3. Question: I have additional questions that are not addressed in this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document, who can I contact?

Answer: Questions should be directed in writing to the following email address: Grant.Info@dhSES.ny.gov. This FAQs bulletin will be updated regularly based on questions that are submitted. Please check the DHSES website (<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov>) frequently for updates.