



## **Next Generation Warning System Grant Program - Fiscal Year 2023**

### **Request For Applications**

**Opening date: August 8, 2023**

**Closing date: November 8, 2023**

The Next Generation Warning System Grant Program (“NGWSGP”) Request for Applications window will be open on August 8, 2023, and will close at 5:00 PM EST on November 8, 2023. Subgrants will be awarded on a competitive, rolling basis until grant closing on September 30, 2025. Recipients will be announced in a Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) email and/or press release.

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## NGWSGP Overview

In September 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) awarded the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (“CPB”) the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”)/ Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (“IPAWS”) Next Generation Warning System (“NGWS”) Grant to extend the reach and quality of IPAWS alerts throughout the United States. The NGWS Grant Program (“NGWSGP”) will enable CPB to issue subgrants to public television and radio stations (both “subgrantees” and “subrecipients” of NGWSGP funds) for the purchase and installation of, and training on equipment that will allow IPAWS alerts to be distributed over public radio and television broadcasts. The grant supports the use of advanced technologies that enable additional critical information to be inserted in the broadcast transmission.

The objective of the NGWSGP is to support the public alert and warning system that provides timely and effective warnings using the latest broadcast technology standards, especially in rural, tribal, and underserved communities with limited broadcast services. To support this objective, CPB will award subgrants to fund equipment purchases, installation, and training. This equipment will improve the stations’ resilience and security and improve their ability to transmit emergency alerts and warnings to the public – including people with access and functional needs, people with limited-English proficiency, and people in underserved geographic locations, including tribal and remote rural areas. Public broadcast stations often serve a much larger role in providing critical emergency information in these areas than in those with greater concentrations of broadcasters.

The NGWSGP will support the stations’ adoption of the Common Alerting Protocol (“CAP”) standard which permits a single CAP-compatible message to activate multiple compliant warning systems. Television broadcasters may leverage NGWSGP funding to upgrade to the Advanced Television Systems Committee 3.0 broadcast standard (ATSC 3.0), allowing broadcasts to reach an expanded range of communication devices and to incorporate multimedia in alert and warning messaging. This program will also support investments that improve the resilience and security of public broadcasting networks and systems.

Projects that enable the capability to alert, warn and provide equivalent information to individuals with disabilities, individuals with access and functional needs, and individuals with limited-English proficiency, are priorities within the NGWSGP. The NGWSGP will further support projects that enable alerts and warnings based on geographic location as well as those projects that improve the ability of remote rural areas to receive alerts and warnings. Upgrading to this advanced technology requires investments in technology, training, and support equipment that may create burdens for broadcasters, especially smaller stations in rural and underdeveloped areas. The NGWSGP is intended to ease this burden for qualified public broadcast recipients of grant funding.

The NGWSGP will prioritize acquisition of this potentially life-saving technology by broadcasters serving rural and underserved communities where cost concerns might otherwise discourage or delay adoption of the new technologies. Television and radio broadcasters may apply leverage NGWSGP funding to upgrade to the ATSC 3.0 broadcast standard or HD Radio

technology that will allow them to use modern alert and warning technology to reach a greater audience over multiple types of communication devices and incorporate multimedia in alert and warning messaging.

The NGWSGP makes federal funds available to enable the adoption of emerging digital broadcast technology and standards and furthers the 2020-2024 DHS Strategic Plan Goal 5 (Strengthen Preparedness and Resilience). It also supports the 2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan Goal 1 (Instill Equity as a Foundation of Emergency Management) and Goal 3 (Promote and Sustain a Ready FEMA and a Prepared Nation).

## CPB Background

CPB is a private, non-profit corporation authorized by Congress in 1967 to administer federal appropriations to promote the growth and development of public broadcasting and public telecommunications services.

CPB is focused on facilitating a public media system that is valued by all Americans and reflects a diversity of ideas, content, talent, and delivery. CPB's core values of innovation, engagement, and diversity guide its strategic approach to program investments system-wide. CPB invests in approximately 1,500 local radio and television stations, their programs, services, and other initiatives to serve and engage the public. CPB funds diverse and innovative programming and other media content that is educational, informative, and cultural. CPB has a mandate to ensure that all Americans have access to public telecommunications services.

## Request for Application (“RFA”) at a Glance

- **Objective** – CPB will award subgrants to eligible, high priority stations (as defined in “Selection Criteria”) to fund equipment purchases, installation, and training that advance the mission of the NGWSGP.
- **Eligibility** – Applicants must meet the definition of a “public broadcast entity” as defined in the [Communications Act of 1934, as amended \(47 U.S.C. §397\(11\)\)](#). If selected as subrecipients, such entities must comply with all CPB and federal requirements.
- **Technical support** – CPB will retain a firm to provide technical advice and assistance to selected stations with limited resources. Applicants may request technical support in their applications, although it will be limited and determined by availability, station needs, and the prioritization criteria.
- **Funds available** – The NGWS grant program anticipates awarding individual subgrants totaling approximately 34 million dollars in federal funding for this award.
- **Contracting** – Funds will be provided through a grant agreement with CPB. Recipients will be considered subrecipients of [the federal FEMA grant](#) and will be held to all federal grant compliance requirements.
- **Prior expenditures** – Costs of equipment and services purchased before execution of a grant agreement are not eligible for grant funding.

- **Environmental and Historic Preservation Review (EHP)** – Applicants must submit a FEMA EHP questionnaire as part of their RFA application.
- **Time frame** – All awarded funds must be expended prior to September 30, 2025.
- **Funding match/Cost share** – No funding match or cost share is required by subrecipients awarded funds under this grant opportunity.

## Funding Objectives and Prioritization

The NGWSGP has the following **objectives**:

- Enhance capacity of local broadcast stations to receive, broadcast, and redistribute emergency alert messages from the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System using IPAWS Specification for Common Alerting Protocol (CAP).
- Implement upgrades to the digital radio and NextGen TV (ATSC 3.0) broadcast standard.
- Enhance technology infrastructure to ensure local public broadcast stations can launch new, enhanced broadcast services, that improve and expand the distribution of public alerts and warnings.
- Expand the delivery and distribution of emergency alert messages from IPAWS to fill gaps in alert and warning delivery to people in underserved areas.

Across the overall objectives, the program has established **priorities** to provide:

- Advanced Technology for Public Broadcast Entities
  - For television stations: ATSC 3.0 or other NGWS technology, equipment and maintenance for stations primarily serving underserved communities.
  - For radio stations: digital broadcast technology, equipment, and maintenance for capabilities that deliver emergency alert messages from IPAWS to people in underserved communities.
- Resilience-related Equipment for Public Broadcast Entities
  - Emergency generators and related resilience equipment for stations primarily serving underserved communities.
- Training for technology and resilience
  - Training in using NGWS and related technology (e.g., ATSC 3.0, HD Radio) to improve the distribution of emergency messages from IPAWS and in techniques to increase station resilience during emergencies.

## Selection Criteria

**The following are the priority funding considerations for this grant:**

***Priority 1: Tribal, minority, and/or rural stations serving underserved communities***

### ***Priority 2: Small stations***

### ***Priority 3: Other television and radio stations***

Within these three priority categories, applications will be further evaluated by the following criteria:

- Uniqueness of the station’s public broadcasting coverage in their geographic area – funds will focus on projects that enable alerts and warnings based on geographic location and service recipients, as well as those projects that improve the ability of remote rural areas to receive alerts and warnings.
- Geographic area special risk factors (e.g., hurricane, tornado, wildfire, and predominant languages as a barrier)
- Age of equipment to be replaced/new equipment to serve resilience purpose.
- Improved public safety/alerting service to be offered.
- Dedicated project management at the station and timeline for completing work.
- Partnerships with local/regional/state emergency management officials, as applicable

Applications will also be evaluated based on the anticipated impact of proposed projects and their fulfillment of the NGWSP objectives, including:

- Advanced Technology for Public Broadcast Entities
  - For television stations: ATSC 3.0 or other NGWS technology, equipment, and maintenance for stations primarily serving underserved communities.
  - For radio stations: digital broadcast technology, equipment, and maintenance for capabilities that deliver emergency alert messages from IPAWS to people in underserved communities.
- Projects that would increase the number of stations capable of broadcasting IPAWS alerts.
- Resilience-related Equipment for Public Broadcast Entities
  - Emergency generators and related resilience equipment for stations primarily serving underserved communities.

## **Eligible Scope, Allowable Costs, and Funding Restrictions**

Eligible scope includes projects for capital equipment and training that advance the objectives and priorities of the NGWSGP.

### **Eligible equipment scope/allowable costs can include:**

- Advanced technology to enable IPAWS alerting capability. For television stations, this includes ATSC 3.0 and related technologies, equipment, and maintenance, and for radio stations it includes digital broadcast technology, equipment, and maintenance.
- Common Alert Protocol (CAP) compliant EAS boxes.

- Resilience-related equipment to enable operation during disasters, including emergency generators. All equipment in a station’s Airchain that would advance the objectives and priorities of the NGWSGP.

**Non-allowable costs will include, but are not limited to:**

- Vehicles.
- Funding of staff positions.
- General cosmetic and structural station upgrades and maintenance unrelated to technologies and equipment described in “Funding Objectives and Prioritization”.
- Any cost incurred prior to award, and prior to CPB approval.

**Funding restrictions**

- All costs charged to grants must comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements at 2 C.F.R. §200, unless otherwise indicated in the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. This includes, among other requirements, that costs must be incurred, and products and services must be delivered, within the period of performance of the award. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.403(h)
- All costs charged to grants must comply with the applicable NGWSGP statutes, policies, requirements as well as with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. If CPB identifies costs that are inconsistent with any such requirements they may be disallowed and recovered by CPB.
- The awardee and sub-awardees shall follow requirements set forth in 2 C.F.R. §200.313, 2 C.F.R. §200.439 and related guidance related to allowable costs and management requirements for equipment purchased. These include requirements to maintain records and conduct inventories until equipment is disposed of.
- Grant funds may not be used for matching funds for other federal grants/cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, federal funds may not be used to sue the federal government or any other government entity.
- Subrecipients of FEMA federal financial assistance are subject to the prohibitions described in [section 889 of the John McCain National Defense Authorization Act](#). Beginning August 13, 2020, the statute – as it applies to FEMA recipients, subrecipients, and their contractors and subcontractors – prohibits obligating or expending federal award funds on certain telecommunications and video surveillance products and contracting with certain entities for national security reasons.

**Application Requirements**

Stations applying for NGWSGP grants must describe their equipment needs, technical support needs, and prioritization criteria and other information as provided in CPB’s NGWSGP Grant Application.

Applications must be submitted through CPB’s Grants Management System (GMS) which will serve as the hub for information related to NGWSGP applications, awards, and the administration of subgrants. **To submit applications, stations must first request access to the GMS system at [ngws@cpb.org](mailto:ngws@cpb.org).**

**All applications must include the following details:**

- A completed grant application form, signed and in PDF format featuring descriptions of the following:
  - The entity’s eligibility and characteristics meeting the prioritization criteria.
  - The type of new emergency equipment requested, including an installation and training plan with total funding requested.
  - The project’s projected impact on public safety, alerting, and resiliency and proposed timeline (equipment must be installed by 9/30/25)
  - If possible, a coverage map demonstrating current broadcast area and potential expansion if the project is funded.
  - The existing relationship with local/state/regional emergency management officials and a plan to expand such relationships.
- A technical application which includes:
  - An equipment form in Excel format with a project and budget narrative, listing the new equipment to be purchased, including installation, integration, delivery, training, tax, etc.
  - Proof of pricing: an informational quote or pricing sheets for informational purposes only (to gauge reasonableness of pricing) and not part of the equipment solicitation.
- An EHP compliance and exemption form
- Conflict of Interest Form

Applicants who are not currently CPB-qualified recipients of a CPB Community Service Grant (CSG) must include the following risk assessment documents:

- Audited financial statements for FY 2021, FY 2022 and/or Annual Financial Report
- Current capital equipment inventory, preferably if audited.
- List of current officers, staff and governing board members
- Organization Chart
- Proof of nonprofit status and IRS exemption.
- Current proof of insurance (as applicable), per 2 CFR 200.308(e)

Current CSG recipients who have already submitted this information do not need to submit it with their applications.

### Application Timeline and Deadlines

RFA Opens	Tuesday, August 8, 2023
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RFA Closes	Wednesday, November 8, 2023
Awards Issued	Awards will be issued, pending availability, on a rolling basis until grant closing on September 30, 2025. Award recipients will be announced publicly by CPB email and/or press release.
Deadline for equipment installation	Tuesday, September 30, 2025

### Procurement Guidelines

The NGWSGP is a federal grant with extensive federal procurement requirements. The NGWSGP is subject to the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §200, including procedures which CPB has adopted in its NGWSGP Procurement Policy. All procurement activities undertaken by subrecipients must comply with those rules, including documentation of the procurement process used and the basis for all procurement decisions. Subrecipients without fully compliant procurement policies should follow CPB’s NGWSGP Procurement Policy which is available via our website [www.cpb.org](http://www.cpb.org) or by email at [ngws@CPB.org](mailto:ngws@CPB.org) upon request.

### Grant Reporting, Compliance, and Other Requirements

The terms and conditions of the grant agreement will define the subgrantee’s reporting requirements. Reporting responsibilities include periodic performance reports and financial status reports before reimbursement of any invoice submitted to CPB for payment through GMS. Subrecipients must also satisfy reporting requirements in accordance with 2 CFR part 170 for information on sub-awards and executive total compensation, as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-282).

Entities awarded subgrants must complete the following:

- Attendance at a webinar or kickoff meeting with CPB staff by subgrantee staff members, preferably senior leadership and broadcasting technical personnel, on the project management, procurement, and other requirements of the grant.
- FEMA-provided or equivalent training in IPAWS and EAS alerting and training on procured equipment for at least one full-time technical station staff member.
- Submission of a coverage area map of current emergency alerting that identifies new areas of alerting coverage post equipment installations.
- Two interim narrative reports (at the one- and two-year points) that describe the project’s status and demonstrate completion of required project activities as well as a final report that details the full completion of work/activities required under this grant. Final reports will be due no later than 90 days after the project or grant period end date.



- A detailed financial report of project expenses with the submission of any request for reimbursement.

## Conditions of Application

Applications shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the applicant's plan to meet the requirements of the NGWSGP. Neither multiple nor alternate applications will be accepted. An applicant should give specific attention to the clear identification of those portions of its application that it considers confidential, proprietary commercial information or trade secrets. CPB cannot ensure the confidentiality of information in applications because of possible disclosure in the event of an audit.

If selected for a grant award, an applicant shall be deemed to have accepted the terms of this RFA. Any exceptions to this RFA must be clearly identified in the application. An application that takes exception to these terms may be rejected.

As part of the RFA review process, CPB may share materials, data, and other information and analyses (collectively, "Information") with applicants. As a condition of receiving such Information, applicants responding to this RFA shall agree to protect, preserve, and maintain all such Information on a strictly confidential basis and to promptly return to CPB upon its request all tangible copies of such Information in your possession.

CPB is not responsible for loss or damage to materials submitted with or in support of an application. Any submission to CPB shall become the property of CPB (not including any intellectual property rights contained in such submission). CPB is not required to return any submitted materials to any applicant. CPB is not responsible for any violation of copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret, or other rights that may result from disclosure made by response to this RFA.

Solicitation by CPB of applications does not constitute an agreement by CPB to extend funding to any party for the project under consideration. CPB may, in its sole discretion, elect not to pursue this project in any manner.

By submitting an application, each applicant grants to CPB the right to duplicate, use, disclose, and distribute all the materials submitted for purposes of evaluation, review, and research. In addition, each applicant guarantees that the applicant has full and complete rights to all of the information and materials included in the application. Each applicant also guarantees that all such materials are not defamatory and do not infringe upon or violate the privacy rights, copyrights, or other proprietary rights of any third party.

## Conditions of Agreement

Applicants selected for subgrants will be required to sign a binding agreement. Until both parties have signed an agreement, no express or implied commitment has been made to provide financial support. Applicants are not authorized to commence work until the agreement is fully

executed. If applicants opt to commence work, they do so at their own risk, and expenses incurred prior to the term of the agreement will not be reimbursed. No oral or written statement other than the signed, written agreement will govern or modify the relationship.

As a condition of agreement, applicants must guarantee, among other things, that any work they undertake on behalf of CPB is not defamatory and will not violate or infringe upon the privacy rights, copyrights, or other proprietary rights of any third party. Applicants must also agree to indemnify CPB against any loss resulting from breach of any of their obligations under the agreement.

Those receiving funds from CPB must be able to comply with a number of requirements that will be included in the grant agreement. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- (1) A demonstration of adequate financial resources to complete the grant project and to deliver reports and comply with other requirements of the grant agreement.
- (2) Maintenance, for three years following receipt of relevant funds, of all financial records of the project shall be accessible to CPB, and to the U.S. Comptroller General and others for examination and audit purposes. Applicants will additionally ensure that any of its subcontractors or consultants under shall also maintain such records for the periods specified and under the same terms.
- (3) Maintenance, for three years after approval of a final financial report, of a complete file of all subcontracts and other agreements, licenses, clearances, and other documents related to the work undertaken, copies of which shall be made available to CPB on request.
- (4) Submission to CPB of a copy of any U.S. Comptroller General final audit report in connection with the project.
- (5) Compliance with equal employment opportunity and nondiscrimination laws and policies.
- (6) Offerors will be required to provide documentation as to actual costs.
- (7) Compliance with all funding requirements, as presented in the CPB Sub-recipient policy and all applicable federal regulation, including 2 C.F.R. § 200, and requirements issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and Governmental Accounting Standards Board.
- (8) All research and materials created, developed, compiled, or produced pursuant to, or as a result of this project (including but not limited to all reports) will be considered ordered and commissioned by CPB as works made for hire under the copyright laws, and made in the course of services rendered. If, for any reason, the proposed research and materials to be provided are not considered works made for hire under the copyright laws, then the Offeror will be required to assign all right, title and interest in and to such research and materials to CPB. Offerors further agree that neither they, nor any of their subcontractors, will have any copyrights or other intellectual property rights whatsoever

in any research and/or materials created, developed, compiled, or produced by them or by any subcontractor, or by any third party participating in the preparation of research or materials for this project.

(9) The agreement will be governed by construed in accordance with the laws of the District of Columbia without regard to its conflict of law provisions. Other material terms and provisions will be set forth in the documents provided to the Offeror that successfully completes the selection process. CPB will have complete rights to the reports created as deliverables for this project. CPB will not be responsible for any costs incurred by an Offeror in preparing and submitting an application, or in performing any other activities relative to this solicitation.

The selection of sub-recipient and the award of all contracts pursuant to this RFA shall be at CPB's sole discretion. Its decisions shall be final and not subject to protest or challenges in any administrative or judicial proceeding or otherwise.

By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the requirements of this RFA and the terms and conditions of the award and grant agreement, should they receive an award.