



Next Generation Warning System Grant Program - Fiscal Year 2023 Request For Applications

Opening Date: June 28, 2024

Deadline to Request GMS Access: September 5, 2024, at 5:00 PM EST

Closing Date: September 12, 2024, at 5:00 PM EST

This Next Generation Warning System Grant Program Request for Applications window will open June 28, 2024 and close at 5:00 PM EST on September 12, 2024. Subgrants will be awarded on a competitive, rolling basis until the grant closing on September 30, 2026. Recipients will be contacted directly by email and announced in a Corporation for Public Broadcasting email and/or press release.

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NGWSGP Overview

In September 2023, 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 the purchase and installation of equipment that improves the stations’ resilience and security and improves the stations’ 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. Additionally, the subgrants will include funding for training on emergency alerting and advanced technologies for station staff members.

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 and those that improve remote rural areas’ ability to receive them. Upgrading to this advanced technology requires investments in broadcasting infrastructure, 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 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 utilize NGWSGP

funding to upgrade to the ATSC 3.0 broadcast standard or HD Radio technology that will allow them to use the latest alert and warning technologies 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 Overview

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, 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 NGWSGP anticipates awarding individual subgrants totaling approximately \$48 million dollars in federal funding.
- **Contracting** – Funds will be provided to recipients through a grant agreement with CPB. Recipients will be considered subrecipients of [the FY23 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 with CPB are not eligible for NGWS grant funding.
- **Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Form** – An EHP review is required prior to an award.
- **Time frame** – All awarded funds must be expended prior to September 30, 2026.
- **Funding match/Cost share** – No funding match or cost share is required by subrecipients
- **Reimbursement Grant** – Funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis.

Funding Objectives and Prioritization

The objectives of the NGWSGP as indicated in FEMA’s Notice of Funding Opportunity follow:

- 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 NEXTGEN TV ATSC3 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; and
- 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 priorities of the NGWSGP are specified below:

- Advanced Technology for Public Broadcast Entities Spending for upgrading television and radio stations: ATSC 3.0 or other NGWSGP technology for television and digital radio 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: Spending for emergency generators and related resilience equipment for stations primarily serving underserved communities.
- Training for Technology and Resilience: Spending for education and training in relevant technologies 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 the NGWSGP:

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

Priority 2: *Small stations and/or those that are a unique public media broadcaster in their coverage area.*

Priority 3: *Other television and radio stations.*

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

- 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 NGWSGP Funding Objectives and Prioritization listed above.

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 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 air chain that would advance the objectives and priorities of the NGWSGP.
- An equipment list of approved items can be found at <https://cpb.org/NGWS/resources>. The list will continue to be updated regularly and is not exhaustive.
- Certain indirect costs may be eligible for recoupment in a Next Generation Warning System Grant, if applicable.

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 grant costs must comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements established in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 2 (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 grant costs must comply with the applicable NGWSGP statutes, policies, requirements as well as with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement, including indirect costs. If CPB identifies costs that are inconsistent with any such requirements they may be disallowed and recovered by CPB. CPB reserves the right to request substantiation of any grantee’s indirect cost rate, including the appropriate application of costs to direct costs. Indirect costs will only be allowed once CPB staff receives and verifies that the rate and calculation comply with the applicable federal cost principles
- The awardee and sub-awardees shall follow requirements set forth in 2 C.F.R. §200.313, 2 C.F.R. §200.439 and associated 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, the grant 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.
- Grant projects must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. 118-58), which requires that all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in federally-funded “infrastructure projects” be produced in the United States.

Application Requirements

Stations applying for NGWSGP grants must describe their equipment needs, technical support needs, establish prioritization criteria, and identify the 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**, not later than September 5, 2024, 5:00PM ET, a week in advance of the closing deadline.

All applications must include the following details for the initial review:

- A completed grant *application form* featuring descriptions of the following:
 - The entity's eligibility and characteristics meeting the prioritization criteria.
 - A project proposal, including the type of new emergency equipment requested (with an installation and training plan) with total funding requested. In addition to an equipment narrative and scope description, the proposal should include the project's projected impact on public safety, alerting, and resiliency and proposed timeline (project must be completed by 9/30/26.)
 - *A coverage map* demonstrating current broadcast area and potential expansion if the project is funded.
- A technical application which includes:
 - An *NGWS equipment form* in Excel format, listing the new equipment to be purchased, including installation, integration, delivery, training, tax, etc. Site location details must also be included in the embedded chart provided.
 - *Proof of pricing*: an informational quote or pricing sheets for informational purposes only (to gauge reasonableness of pricing) and not part of the equipment procurement. The quotes must be labeled with the matching item number from the equipment form.
- The materials above should be submitted as 2 files: a **PDF file** including the application, proofs of pricing, a coverage map, and an **Excel** equipment form

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

- Audited financial statements for FY 2022, FY 2023 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)

Following the initial application submission, applicants may be asked for additional supplemental materials as part of a full technical review, such as the following:

- A schematic/signal flow document
- A completed FEMA Environmental and Historical Preservation form with required photos.
- Proof of age of equipment, with photos as relevant
- Budget narrative to accompany the equipment form
- Any additional information that is needed for technical determination.

Application Timeline and Deadlines

RFA Opens	June 28, 2024
GMS Access Request Deadline	September 5, 2024 by 5:00PM EST
RFA Closes	September 12, 2024 at 5:00PM EST
Awards Issued	Awards will be issued, pending availability, on a rolling basis until grant closing on September 30, 2026. Award recipients will be contacted directly by email and announced publicly by CPB email and/or press release.
Deadline for Project Completion	September 30, 2026

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 at <https://cpb.org/NGWS/resources> under Project Management Center.

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). Additionally, the subrecipient

must develop and implement policies and procedures to help ensure they follow the eligibility requirements outlined in the subrecipient's specific grant award and terms and conditions.

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.
- Quarterly narrative reports throughout the project 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 period of performance outline in any agreement or grant period end date.
- Submission of a detailed financial report of project expenses with each request for reimbursement of project costs.
- All applicants must have a unique entity identifier (UEI) to receive an award. The UEI number is issued by the federal government at SAM.gov. Requests for a UEI using Sam.gov can be completed online: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>.
- If it receives a subaward greater than or equal to \$30,000, it is subject to the FFATA the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA). To ensure compliance with this requirement, within one (1) month of execution of the subaward, information about the subrecipient must be provided to CPB to complete the report and, afterwards, for each year of the grant term.

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. This includes taking all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible, per 2 CFR § 200.321
- (6) All necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible, per 2 CFR § 200.321.
- (7) Offerors will be required to provide documentation as to actual costs.
- (8) Compliance with all funding requirements, as presented in the CPB subrecipient monitoring 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) The agreement will be governed by and 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.