



**Homeland  
Security**

## **Border Interoperability Demonstration Project Announcement of Future Funding Opportunity**

### **Background**

Pursuant to the *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007* (Pub. L. No. 110-53), the Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) is authorized to establish the Border Interoperability Demonstration Project—a one-time competitive grant program that will provide funding to U.S. communities located on the international borders of Canada or Mexico for interoperability emergency communications demonstration projects.

### **Goal and Objectives**

A demonstration project is a unique type of grant program designed to afford grant recipients the opportunity to explore innovative solutions that address specific issues and can be replicated in other communities. The project's goal is to help States and localities explore innovative and effective models of interoperable emergency communications systems and approaches that seek to improve emergency communications along and across U.S. international borders. Successful solutions may be shared with and adapted for use in other U.S. border communities.

Objectives for individual BIDP projects are to:

- Improve day-to-day interoperable emergency communications among local, tribal, State and Federal entities, and international partners along and across international borders;
- Improve interoperable emergency communications among emergency response providers responding to threats and natural disasters on the border; or
- Facilitate interoperable communications among emergency response providers in border communities of varying population densities.

### **Awards**

At least three communities located on the U.S.-Canadian border and at least three communities located on the U.S.-Mexican border will be selected for participation in the demonstration project. The anticipated period of performance for BIDP projects is three years from the date funding is awarded. Eligible activities are expected to include planning, training, exercises, and equipment purchase.

### **Eligibility Information**

Eligible applicants for BIDP funding are the State Administrative Agencies (SAA) of U.S. States bordering Canada or Mexico. The SAA responsibilities include, but are not limited to: applying for BIDP funds; submission of eligible projects for funding; passing through funding to selected communities; management and administration of BIDP funds, if awarded; and participation in information-sharing activities. The SAA may submit more than one project for funding, and more than one community in a State may receive BIDP project funds.

Eligible sub-recipients are local and tribal governments and emergency response providers operating within a county or other jurisdiction contiguous to an international border with Canada or Mexico. In addition to implementing the BIDP project(s) as proposed, sub-recipients' responsibilities include, but are not limited to, preparation of the project narrative and budget for each BIDP project submitted for funding; coordination of the BIDP submission with the SAA; attending OEC-sponsored BIDP workshops, conferences, and training; and sharing information and knowledge gained throughout the BIDP.

*Additional information will be posted on the OEC website ([www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov); keyword: OEC) and in a Funding Opportunity Announcement on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Email any inquiries to [BIDP@dhs.gov](mailto:BIDP@dhs.gov).*