



**ODP Information Bulletin
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TO: All State Administrative Agency Heads
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
All State Homeland Security Directors

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Director

SUBJECT: SAFECOM Grant Guidance

In an effort to ensure interoperability through the various layers of Federal, State and Local government, the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) has adopted the following statement about grant guidance, developed by SAFECOM. SAFECOM's mission is to serve as the umbrella program within the Federal Government to help public safety agencies improve public safety response through more effective and efficient interoperable wireless communications. The statement below is a clarification of earlier guidance, as it applies to ODP grantees:

The intent of grant guidance is to ensure that the communications equipment being procured will lead to improved multi-disciplinary and/or multi-jurisdictional interoperable public safety communications. The grant guidance provides a list of questions (attached) to be answered in order to demonstrate how the applicants proposed project would enhance interoperability. The guidance also encourages that – where appropriate – applicants purchase equipment that meets standards that have been developed and adopted by the public safety communications community – ANSI/TIA/EIAA-102 Phase 1 (project 25) suite of standards. This recommendation is intended for government owned or leased land mobile public safety radio equipment, and its purpose is to make sure that such equipment or systems are capable of interoperating with other public safety land mobile equipment or systems. It is not intended to apply to commercial services that offer other types of interoperability solutions and does not exclude any application if it demonstrates that the system or equipment being proposed will lead to enhanced interoperability. The grant guidance does not propose to preclude funding of non-Project 25 equipment when there are compelling reasons for using other solutions. Absent these compelling reasons, ODP intends that Project 25 equipment will be preferred for digital systems to which the standard applies.

SAFECOM has also issued specific guidelines (attached) for the minimum specifications for an interconnect device.

Questions related to this information bulletin may be directed to your ODP Preparedness Officer or the ODP Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at (800) 368-6498.

Attachment ([grant guidance](#), [specific guidelines](#))