



**Homeland
Security**

**Border Interoperability Demonstration Project
Information Bulletin #1
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TO: Eligible State Administrative Agency Heads
Eligible State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
Eligible State Homeland Security Directors
Eligible Statewide Interoperability Coordinators
Eligible State Emergency Management Agency Directors
Eligible Tribal Nation Points of Contact

FROM: Chris Essid
Director
Office of Emergency Communications

SUBJECT: Border Interoperability Demonstration Project Funding Opportunity
Announcement

Today the Office of Emergency Communications within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the availability of a new interoperable emergency communications funding opportunity, the Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BIDP). This bulletin provides details on BIDP. The official Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is now available online at <http://www.grants.gov>.

The purpose of BIDP is to explore innovative and effective models of interoperable emergency communications systems and approaches that improve emergency communications along and across the U.S. border, and that can be shared with and adapted to other U.S. border communities. BIDP was established by the *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007* (Pub. L. No. 110-53). The Act authorizes DHS to select no fewer than six communities (at least three along the U.S.-Canadian border and at least three along the U.S.-Mexican border) for participation in the demonstration project.

Eligible applicants for BIDP funding are State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) of U.S. States bordering Canada or Mexico. 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. Sub-recipients may not directly apply for BIDP funding; the SAA is responsible for applying for the funding on behalf of the eligible sub-recipients.

BIDP applications and projects should be a collaborative effort between States and eligible sub-recipients. SAAs and sub-recipients are jointly responsible for developing the project concept, as well as ensuring project eligibility and alignment with the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans and other emergency communications plans.

The SAA must submit completed applications for BIDP on <http://www.grants.gov> **no later than 5:00PM EDT, April 26, 2010**. SAAs are strongly encouraged to institute an “interim deadline” which allows ample time to review eligible sub-recipients’ proposed projects prior to formal submission to DHS.

Applicants in need of Grants.gov support should contact the Grants.gov customer support hotline at (800) 518-4726. If applicants have any questions regarding deadlines, application submission, or other administrative questions, they should contact Joan Keiser, Director of DHS Grants and Financial Assistance Division, at joan.keiser@dhs.gov.

Note: The BIDP funding opportunity is **competitive**. Therefore, OEC will not be able to assist prospective applicants with any aspect of their application or pre-application coordination.

Additional questions may be directed to BIDP@hq.dhs.gov.

Table 1. Eligible U.S. Border Community States

States with International Land and Water Boundaries	
International Boundaries with Canada (13)	International Boundaries with Mexico (4)
Alaska - 1,538 miles	Arizona - 373 miles
Idaho - 45 miles	California - 140 miles
Maine - 611 miles	New Mexico - 180 miles
Michigan - 721 miles	Texas - 1,241 miles
Minnesota - 547 miles	
Montana - 545 miles	
New Hampshire - 58 miles	
New York - 445 miles	
North Dakota - 310 miles	
Ohio - 146 miles	
Pennsylvania - 42 miles	
Vermont - 90 miles	
Washington - 427 miles	

Sources: Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, U.S. International Borders: Brief Facts (November 9, 2006) at: <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS21729.pdf>.