

Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project?

The purpose of the Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project (REMCDP) is to work with a public health or medical facility to examine communications barriers and identify solutions that enhance existing emergency communications infrastructure to improve the delivery of rural medical care.

2. What are demonstration projects in the context of REMCDP?

Typical demonstration projects develop and test new approaches to solve problems or improve operations. Similarly, REMCDP applicants should propose innovative solutions to improving rural medical communications and approaches to be tested through real-world implementation. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) will work with the chosen REMCDP grant recipient participants to document lessons learned, capture challenges and successes, and share information throughout the emergency communications community.

3. What legislation authorized REMCDP?

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-113), Division F, Title III, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Infrastructure Protection and Information Security provided funding for REMCDP to establish a demonstration project. Specifically, the demonstration project shall leverage existing technologies and engage non-medical professionals to help establish or sustain statewide medical communications systems and utilize existing infrastructures to improve the delivery of rural medical care.

4. Who can apply for REMCDP funding?

Public & State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education can apply for REMCDP funding. The entity applying must operate or have access to an existing statewide emergency communications system that is leveraged to address rural health disparities such as mortality rates and cardiovascular diseases. The applicant must also be an emergency communications center (e.g., trauma center).

5. How much funding is available?

Applicants can apply for up to \$2,000,000 to meet the project objectives.

6. How many applications will be funded?

DHS anticipates that only one (1) grant will be awarded.

7. How do I apply for REMCDP funding?

A comprehensive notice of funding opportunity is posted on <http://www.grants.gov>, which includes all instructions and supporting documents for completing and submitting a REMCDP application.

8. How will applications be evaluated?

The REMCDP review process will involve two review phases. First, all applications will be reviewed to confirm eligibility and completeness. Then, applications meeting those requirements will be reviewed by subject matter experts participating in the merit review panel. The merit review will focus on the overall quality of the proposed project and the completion and thoroughness of the project narratives, budgets, and budget narratives. In addition, DHS will use the criteria below, weighted as indicated based on their importance, to evaluate applications. For additional information on the criteria, please refer to the notice of funding opportunity.

- Innovation (40%);
- Impact on Rural Community Interoperability Communications (20%);
- Stakeholder Engagement (20%); and
- Comprehensive Approach (20%).

9. What are eligible activities for REMCDP?

REMCDP eligible activities include any planning, training, exercises, or equipment purchases associated with the execution of proposed REMCDP projects.

10. When will the REMCDP award be announced?

Applicants have 30 days to complete and submit their applications. Following submission, eligible REMCDP applications will be scored in a comprehensive merit review. At the conclusion of the review process, DHS will select the application to be funded. DHS anticipates awarding REMCDP funding by September 30, 2016.

11. What do I do if I encounter problems submitting an application through Grants.gov at or prior to the application deadline?

Contact the Grants.gov help center at support@grants.gov OR 1-800-518-4726. Get an incident number (trouble ticket number). IMMEDIATELY email that number and a BRIEF description of the problem to the DHS Grants Officer. DHS will investigate the problem and work with you regarding application submission.

Additional resources will be posted on the OEC Website (www.dhs.gov; keyword: OEC).