911 **acog**
GRANT PROGRAM

911 Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
Applicant Guide | December 2025

911 ACOG GRANT PROGRAM – APPLICANT GUIDE

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The 911 Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) Grant Program provides funding to eligible Emergency Communications Centers (ECCs) for projects that enhance the reliability, interoperability, and sustainability of 911 services. This program supports initiatives that strengthen ECC operations, improve technology, and promote regional collaboration.

Applicants are encouraged to contact 911 ACOG staff with any questions regarding the Grant Program.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Funding for the 911 ACOG Grant Program is made available through current regional allocations and budgeted resources. However, the availability of funds is not guaranteed on an ongoing basis and is subject to future budget approvals, program funding levels, and regional priorities. Applicants are encouraged to apply while funds are available, as subsequent funding cycles may be limited or suspended based on available resources.

Grant awards typically range from $50,000 to $250,000, except for requests related to conference attendance, which are capped at $3,500 per person. Requests below the minimum amount may be considered if the applicant provides strong justification based on demonstrated need and project scope. Requests exceeding the maximum may be approved in cases of critical or emergency need.

MATCHING FUNDS

A cash match from applicants is not required. Applicants that voluntarily contribute funds toward their proposed projects will receive additional consideration in the scoring process. Voluntary cash match is not relevant to conference attendance grant application(s).

ELIGIBILITY

Only primary ECCs located within 911 ACOG member governments that receive 911 service fee refunds from ACOG are eligible to apply. One project grant application per ECC may be submitted per cycle. Eligible applicants must be in good standing with previous 911 ACOG grants**. Exception:** For conference attendance grant applications, an ECC is allowed to submit up to three (3) applications for up to three staff members per grant cycle. An ECC is allowed to submit a project grant application and conference attendance applications within the same grant cycle.

Projects for secondary ECCs are not eligible unless directly tied to a regional benefit.

GRANT PRIORITIES

The 911 ACOG Grant Program may establish one or more funding priorities to guide the evaluation and selection of grant recipients. Grant applications that demonstrate collaboration through

regionalization or the use of shared technologies and infrastructure will receive heavier weighting during the evaluation process. Projects that involve multiple ECCs, promote interoperability, consolidate resources, or improve system efficiency across jurisdictions are strongly encouraged.

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

The following summarizes eligible and ineligible costs under the 911 ACOG Grant Program. Applicants are encouraged to contact 911 ACOG staff with any questions regarding eligible expenses.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

The following are eligible for funding through the 911 ACOG Grant Program.

- **Local Funds Match: Funds from this program may be used as the required matching funds for other 911-related Oklahoma 911 Management Authority (OK911MA) grants.** However, eligibility is limited by the 911 ACOG Grant Program cap, and total funding may not exceed the 20% match required under OK911MA guidelines.
    - While individual radio projects are not eligible for standalone funding under the 911 ACOG Grant Program, applicants requesting 911 ACOG funds to serve as the required local match for pursuing an OK911MA grant may include radio-related components to the extent that they align with OK911MA grant guidance and objectives. All proposed radio-related expenditures must be clearly identified within the project scope.
    - Applicants must include sufficient project scope and cost details to demonstrate how the 911 ACOG grant funds will serve as local matching funds for OK911MA projects.
    - If the applicant's OK911MA grant application is not awarded or otherwise unsuccessful, the 911 ACOG grant award designated as local matching funds shall be considered void, and no funds will be disbursed under this category.

- Consolidation: Consolidation or virtual consolidation of call centers; capital improvement projects (eligible as part of a consolidation only), including new buildings, additions, or renovations of existing buildings.

- Shared Computer-aided Dispatch (CAD): CAD systems that are deployed at a regional level, geographic information system (GIS)-centric, and are shared (used to transfer and communicate 911 caller information between ECCs or the originating ECC to a secondary ECC or standalone dispatch center). The chosen CAD must be Emergency Incident Data Object (EIDO) (i3) capable; a universal hub or data sharing server/cloud services that share data between CAD systems. Custom, one-off, CAD-to-CAD interfaces do not qualify for this category.

- Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP): Tools and/or technology necessary to mitigate any gaps within COOP necessary to mitigate the downtime in the delivery of 911 call processing. (ECCs must submit their current COOP to qualify for this category).

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant Equipment: Furniture/chairs necessary to provide the proper ergonomics to reduce on-the-job injuries related to the stationary sitting common in 24/7 ECCs.

- 911 GIS Services, in alignment with Oklahoma Administrative Code § 145:15-7-3, for data remediation audits or third-party services.

- Conference Attendance: Grant funds may be used to support attendance at major 911 industry conferences that advance professional development and enhance ECC operations.

Eligible expenses include conference registration, travel, lodging, and per diem in accordance with applicable grant and organizational travel policies. Eligible events include NENA[1] National, APCO[2] National, Denise Amber Lee Foundation Conference and Expo, NAVIGATOR Conference (IAED[3]), and state-level public safety communications conferences. Only non-sworn ECC staff are eligible.

LOCAL PROGRAM-SPECIFIC EXCLUSIONS

Notwithstanding the general eligibility framework, the following expense categories are explicitly ineligible under this grant program:

- Ongoing expenses, such as personnel (e.g., salaries or benefits), rent, utilities, etc.
- Next Generation 911 (NG911) deployment projects.
- Radio infrastructure or radio-related projects, including consoles and towers.
- Capital improvements or building construction, unless strictly related to consolidation.
- Call-handling Equipment (CHE): All costs related to the purchase, upgrade, maintenance, or subscription of CHE systems are ineligible for reimbursement or funding, as these are already covered by 911 ACOG.
- Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network (ESInet) and Next Generation Core Services (NGCS) Components: Any costs associated with the acquisition, implementation, upgrade, or ongoing support of ESInet or NGCS components are likewise excluded from eligibility, as these are already covered by 911 ACOG.

Note: Capital improvements refer to substantial, long-term investments in physical assets that enhance the capacity, functionality, or lifespan of infrastructure or equipment. In the context of public safety or 911 systems, example capital improvements include construction or major renovation of an ECC and deployment of building-wide backup generators. Capital improvement projects are expressly ineligible unless related to consolidation.

INELIGIBLE ITEMS

The following are not eligible for funding through the 911 ACOG Grant Program.

- Costs to operate 911 systems
- In field radios/subscriber units (mobile and portable radios)
- Radio infrastructure, including repeaters, combiners, towers, radio tower buildings, etc.
- Construction/capital improvement projects not related to consolidation
- Building operating costs including rent and utilities
- Purchase of vehicles; vehicle maintenance costs
- Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (OLETS)/National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
- General administrative costs including salaries and wages
- Purchases or purchase agreements entered prior to grant award

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[1] National Emergency Number Association
[2] Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, International
[3] International Academies of Emergency Dispatch

- Costs associated with any college or university degree, such as tuition, fees, etc.
- Costs associated with prizes; fundraising events/expenses
- Grant writer fees
- Fines/penalties/taxes; offsetting of debt; legal or audit fees; lobbying expenses
- Food/refreshments
- Decoding equipment used by field responders
- Cybersecurity vulnerability assessments, which are completed by the OK911MA Cybersecurity Specialist upon request

GRANT CYCLES AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Grant cycles are announced annually on the ACOG website and through direct communications to ECCs. Each cycle will remain open for a minimum of 60 days after announcement. Attendance at a Grant Workshop (virtual or in-person) is mandatory for applicants. During the workshop, staff will review the grant management system and application process, explain funding priorities and eligible expenses, and answer questions.

Applications must be submitted through the Foundant system and include:

1. Applicant Information (ECC name, primary and secondary contact, etc.)
2. Project Details – Description, timeline, and milestones
3. Budget Summary – Total cost, amount requested, and any voluntary matching funds
4. Sustainability Plan – Applicable to capital projects only. How the project will be maintained after funding
5. Attachments – Vendor quotes, documentation, and supporting local government approval and/or letters as required

If applying for local matching funds, reference the OK911MA project name, purpose, and funding breakdown to show alignment.

SUSTAINABILITY SUMMARY

Projects involving capital improvements must demonstrate a plan for long-term sustainability. A short narrative is sufficient, describing how equipment or facilities will be maintained, who is responsible, and how replacement or upgrades will be managed in the future.

REVIEW AND AWARD

Applications are reviewed by ACOG 911 staff and the Grant Selection Committee using a standardized scoring rubric. Scoring considers project need, feasibility, sustainability, collaboration, and alignment with 911 priorities.

BONUS POINTS

- Voluntary matching funds (up to 5 pts)
- Regional or multi-ECC collaboration (up to 4 pts)
- Innovative or scalable approaches (up to 4 pts)

GRANT AGREEMENTS

To formalize the terms and conditions of an award, each grantee must execute an Interlocal Grant Agreement with 911 ACOG following the award of funds.

REIMBURSEMENT AND REPORTING

Grants are reimbursement-based. Grantees must first pay eligible costs, then request reimbursement by submitting:

- Reimbursement Request Form
- Paid invoices or receipts
- Documentation linking costs to approved activities

Grantees are encouraged to utilize an invoice requirements checklist with each vendor to promote consistency and compliance with reporting and reimbursement requirements. Each invoice submitted for reimbursement should include, at a minimum, the grant contract number, grantee name and address, and an itemized bill of sale. An example checklist is available upon request from 911 ACOG.

Quarterly progress reports are required for most projects. Reports should summarize expenditures, milestones, and any challenges.

GRANT CLOSEOUT

Closeout begins upon the earlier completion of the project as defined in the grant agreement or expiration of the grant performance period. Grantees must submit a final performance report summarizing project activities and outcomes, a final financial report, proof of completion (e.g., photographs, system acceptance letters), social media and/or media releases acknowledging 911 ACOG as the grantor, and an inventory of grant-funded assets.