**9-1-1 Advisory Council**

**9-1-1 Grant Program Subcommittee**

Program Improvement Recommendations

June 24, 2019

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation #1:** **Applicants should only apply for a project or phase of a project that requires a maximum of two years to complete.**

**Required Action(s):** Include a statement on the application form to notify applicants of the policy and require that the applicant provide a project timeline. Based on the information provided, the department, in consultation with the council, can determine an application’s eligibility, priority and award amount.

**Projected Result(s):** Program funding is not obligated and held idle for long periods of time. Rationing available funding can ensure more projects are funded statewide on an annual basis.

**Recommendation #2:** **Applicants should submit one application for each individual project and a maximum of three applications annually. If multiple applications are submitted the applicant must provide a prioritization.**

**Required Action(s)**: Include a statement on the application form to notify applicants of the policy and require that applicants provide a prioritization if needed. Based on the information provided, the department, in consultation with the council, can determine an application’s eligibility, priority and award amount.

**Projected Result(s):** Potential reduction in the number of projects funded per applicant. Funding too many projects with one applicant could overwhelm the resources of the applicant, resulting in program funding being obligated and held idle for long periods of time. Rationing available funding ensures that more applicants receive funding statewide on an annual basis.

**Recommendation #3: Applicants should be required to provide a detailed cost estimate for the proposed project.**

**Required Action(s)**: Include a statement on the application form to notify applicants of the policy and require that applicants provide a detailed cost estimate. Based on the information provided, the department, in consultation with the council, can determine an application’s eligibility, priority and award amount.

**Projected Result(s):** Increase an applicant’s due diligence in developing the amount of funding required, which could result in a reduction in the amount of funding requested and awarded per project/application. Awarding more funding than what is required can result in program funding being obligated and held idle for long periods of time. Increasing due diligence can ensure more projects are funded statewide on an annual basis.

**Recommendation #4: Applicants should be required to provide a description of the lifecycle for equipment, hardware and software that is being proposed to be replaced.**

**Required Action(s)**: Include a statement on the application form to notify applicants of the policy and require that applicants provide a description of the lifecycle(s) as required. Based on the information provided, the department, in consultation with the council, can determine an application’s eligibility, priority and award amount.

**Projected Result(s):** Increasing due diligence and identification of need will increase the effectiveness of awarded funding. Awarding funding for the replacement of equipment that is not at “end of life or support” can result in program funding not being available for other critical projects. Increasing due diligence can ensure more critical projects are identified and funded on an annual basis.

**Recommendation #5: Applicants should only submit applications for projects that require less than 33% of the total amount of funding available.**

**Required Action(s)**: Include a statement on the application form to notify applicants of the policy. Based on the information provided, the department, in consultation with the council, can determine an application’s eligibility, priority and award amount.

**Projected Result(s):** Reducing the total amount of funding awarded to one individual project would ration available funding and ensure more projects are funded statewide on an annual basis.

**Recommendation #6**: **Local and tribal government applicants should provide a detailed description of “working with a private telecommunications provider” to aide in the assignment of an application’s statutory preference (10-4-306(3)). The description should include “how” and “why” the parties are collaborating.**

**Required Action(s)**: Include a statement on the application form to notify applicants of the policy. Based on the information provided, the department, in consultation with the council, will determine each application’s statutory preference.

**Projected Result(s):** Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the application review and funding award processes.

**Recommendation #7**: **The application scoring criteria in ARM 2.13.407(2) should be changed from a numerical score to a “yes/no”.**

**Required Action(s)**: Amend ARM 2.13.407(2). Include a statement on the application form to notify applicants of the policy. The department, in consultation with the council, can utilize the scoring criteria to determine an application’s eligibility, priority and award amount.

**Projected Result(s):** Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the application review and funding award processes.