



**FISCAL YEAR 2025-26  
NEXT GENERATION WARNING SYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM  
COMPETITIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

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The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) Branch, has a Competitive Funding Opportunity (CFO) for the Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) Grant Program.

This CFO provides programmatic information and the requirements necessary to prepare and submit a proposal for Cal OES grant funds. If any language in this CFO conflicts with the terms and conditions of the applicable grant program guidance (e.g., federal Notice of Funding Opportunity, California State Supplement, etc.), the grant program guidance document(s) prevail. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the applicable Notices of Funding Opportunity and California State Supplement, which outline the requirements that apply to Cal OES HSEM Branch Grant Subawards.

**A. PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

Proposals are subject to the California Public Records Act, Government Code Section 7920.000, et seq. Do not put any personally identifiable information or private information on this proposal. If you believe that any of the information you are putting on this proposal is exempt from the Public Records Act, please indicate what portions of the proposal and the basis for the exemption. Your statement that the information is not subject to the Public Records Act will not guarantee that the information will not be disclosed.

**B. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Questions concerning this CFO or the proposal process must be submitted by email to [NGWSGrantProgram@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:NGWSGrantProgram@caloes.ca.gov).

Cal OES staff cannot assist the Applicant with the actual preparation of their proposal. Cal OES can only respond to technical questions about the CFO during the period between the publication date and the completion of the CFO process.

C. GRANT SUBAWARD PERFORMANCE PERIOD

August 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028

D. SUBMISSION DEADLINE

May 22, 2026

E. ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility to Compete for Funding

For a proposal to be eligible to compete for funding (i.e., read and rated) the following condition must be met:

- Applicants must be a California-incorporated city, county, special district, or a California federally recognized tribe and must be registered as an Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Alerting Authority.
- Proposals must be emailed to [NGWSGrantProgram@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:NGWSGrantProgram@caloes.ca.gov) and received no later than 5:00 PM (PDT) on Friday, May 22, 2026. Proposals must be attached as PDF documents and contain the Notice of Interest form outlined in Section I. Programmatic Narrative. The proposal PDF file name should include "FY2026 NGWS Grant Program CFO" and the Applicant entity's name. Cal OES cannot access proposals through cloud-based storage services (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.). Emails should identify the name of the CFO in the Subject line. If you have not received a confirmation that your proposal was received within two business days of the date it was submitted, please send an email to [NGWSGrantProgram@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:NGWSGrantProgram@caloes.ca.gov).

**Please Note: proposals that do not meet the above requirements will be disqualified (i.e., ineligible) and not read and rated.**

2. Eligibility for Funding Consideration

For a proposal to be considered it must receive a minimum score of 50% of available points.

Only one proposal per Applicant will be eligible to receive funding. If an Applicant submits more than one proposal, only the highest scoring proposal, meeting the criteria above, will be considered for funding.

### 3. Prerequisites to Receive Funding

**If selected**, all the following must be completed within 60 days of receiving the Intent to Fund notification to be eligible to receive funding, Applicants must:

- Have a Unique Entity Identifier (Unique Entity ID) registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM). Applicants who do not currently have a Unique Entity ID will need to register at SAM.gov to obtain one. **Applicants should start this process immediately to ensure they are able to comply with the requirement to have this completed within the 60-days.**
- **Not** have an exclusion record in the SAM by the beginning of the Grant Subaward performance period. An exclusion record in the SAM indicates that a contractor (agency) is listed in the (federal) government-wide system for debarment and suspension. An agency that is debarred or suspended is excluded from activities involving federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits. [Check SAM status.](#)

## F. FUNDING INFORMATION

The NGWS Grant Program has \$953,958 available for the Grant Subaward performance period.

### 1. Funding Amount

Applicants may apply for up to \$238,490, for the 24-month Grant Subaward performance period.

### 2. Funding Source

Guidance on policies and procedures for managing HSEM Branch Grant Subawards funded through federal fund sources can be found in the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA Preparedness Grants Manual](#)). Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to review and retain a copy of this document to familiarize themselves with program-specific

information as well as overall guidance on the rules and regulations for all fund sources that support this Program.

The Program is supported through the following fund:

- Cal OES's fund source code for this federal fund is NGWS.
- There is no match requirement for the Program.

## G. PROGRAMMATIC INFORMATION

### 1. Program Overview and Objective

The purpose of the NGWS Grant Program is to enhance public safety in California by implementing alert and warning solutions that deliver timely emergency information to the public and help protect critical infrastructure. This effort supports a reliable, resilient, and consistent capability for local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal public safety officials to effectively communicate public warnings and emergency information.

FEMA's IPAWS is the national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public. Local radio and television stations, along with cable television, wireless carrier, direct broadcast satellite, other distribution providers and pathways disseminated the public safety messages they receive from IPAWS.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-143) charged FEMA with upgrading and reinforcing the nation's public alert and warning system to withstand disruptive events and adapt to advancements in technology and methods of communicating. This grant supports projects that aide in creating and maintaining a resilient public alert and warning system that provides timely and effective warnings. The IPAWS public alert and warning system is built on the Common Alerting Protocol standard (CAP) that permits a single CAP compatible message to activate multiple compliant warning systems.

The Next Generation Warning System will help support a reliable, resilient, and consistent capability for local, state, territorial, tribal, and

federal public safety officials to deliver timely public warning and emergency information.

This Program will identify capability gaps and implement solutions for alert and warning to deliver timely warning and emergency information to the public and to protect critical infrastructure. There are rapid changes in technology, cybersecurity threats, and public preferences for consuming content, subrecipients will work with Cal OES to explore available, flexible, innovative, and forward-looking capabilities to disseminate emergency alerts and warnings across existing and new distribution pathways, including streaming services, sirens, giant-voice systems, satellites, internet-connected devices, and other solutions.

Subrecipients shall comply with applicable Federal Communications Commission's rules, includes, 47 Code of Federal Regulations Part 11, FEMA IPAWS best-practices, and telecommunications prohibitions set forth in Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

## 2. Programmatic Components

### a. Managing Subgranted Funds to Local Entities

The Subrecipient may subgrant funds (via Second-Tier Subawards) to local entities, special districts and tribal governments for services directly related to advancing public alert and warning capabilities.

A Second-Tier Subaward is a formal agreement that includes the exchange of money between the Subrecipient and a participating local entity, special district or tribal government to further the goals of the Grant Subaward.

### b. Allowable Project Types

FEMA has limited the allowable project activities to the following:

- Installation of IPAWS-compatible sirens and/or "giant-voice" systems.

- Coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to enhance signals and availability for NOAA Weather Radios.
- Integration and deployment of emergency alert datacasting technologies.
- Deployment of systems and technologies that enable the dissemination of advanced visual and audio alerts, such as to digital billboards, signage, and kiosks.
- Integration of IPAWS alerts across internet of things devices.
- Integration of satellite-based alert and warning technologies, automated message origination and distribution capabilities, and other emerging capabilities.
- Development of alert and warning state and local field testing, training, and exercise programming in collaboration with FEMA and federal, state, and local alert and warning partners.
- Deployment of capabilities to increase alert and warning coverage to rural areas and other locations across the state with limited communications access.

c. Indirect Costs (Facilities and Administrative Costs)

Indirect costs are **NOT** allowed.

d. Management and Administration (M&A)

Subrecipients may utilize up to 5 percent of funds for activities directly related to implementing the Program Funding levels. These costs must be negotiated on a per-project basis with the appropriate awarding office and should include an itemized listing of specific costs associated with M&A.

M&A are not overhead costs but are necessary direct costs incurred in the direct support of the federal award or as a consequence of it, such as travel, meeting-related expenses, and salaries of full/part time staff in direct support of the program. As such, M&A costs can be itemized in financial reports.

e. Allowable Activities

Funding will support activities/costs directly related to advancing public alert and warning capabilities, including projects that support local and regional alert and warning capabilities, and may include projects that span multiple jurisdictions. Allowable activities/costs include, but are not limited to:

- Enhanced training in alert origination, message quality, and geotargeting
- Scenario-based field testing and exercises
- Development of curricula, templates, and playbooks
- Train-the-trainer programs for local alert originators
- Post-training reviews and improvement planning
- Readiness dashboards for local jurisdictions, special districts, or tribal governments

f. Out-of-State Travel

Out-of-state travel is only allowed in exceptional situations and must be approved by Cal OES prior to incurring expenses.

g. Food and Beverages

The cost of food and/or beverages at Grant Subaward-sponsored conferences, meetings, or office functions is not allowed.

H. PROGRAM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Progress Reports serve as a record for the implementation of the Grant Subaward.

1. Cal OES Monthly Progress Reports

There are 23 monthly Progress Reports required for the Program. See the chart below for the reporting periods and due dates.

Report	Report Period	Due Date
1st Report	August 1, 2026 – August 31, 2026	September 15, 2026
2nd Report	September 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026	October 15, 2026
3rd Report	October 1, 2026 – October 31, 2026	November 15, 2026
4th Report	November 1, 2026 – November 30, 2026	December 15, 2026
5th Report	December 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	January 15, 2027
6th Report	January 1, 2027 – January 31, 2027	February 15, 2027
7th Report	February 1, 2027 – February 28, 2027	March 15, 2027
8th Report	March 1, 2027 – March 31, 2027	April 15, 2027
9th Report	April 1, 2027 – April 30, 2027	May 15, 2027
10th Report	May 1, 2027 – May 31, 2027	June 15, 2027
11th Report	June 1, 2027 – June 30, 2027	July 15, 2027
12th Report	July 1, 2027 – July 31, 2027	August 15, 2027
13th Report	August 1, 2027 – August 31, 2027	September 15, 2027
14th Report	September 1, 2027 – September 30, 2027	October 15, 2027
15th Report	October 1, 2027 – October 31, 2027	November 15, 2027
16th Report	November 1, 2027 – November 30, 2027	December 15, 2027
17th Report	December 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027	January 15, 2028
18th Report	January 1, 2028 – January 31, 2028	February 15, 2028
19th Report	February 1, 2028 – February 28, 2028	March 15, 2028
20th Report	March 1, 2028 – March 31, 2028	April 15, 2028
21st Report	April 1, 2028 – April 30, 2028	May 15, 2028
22nd Report	May 1, 2028 – May 31, 2028	June 15, 2028
Final Report	June 1, 2028 – June 30, 2028	July 15, 2028

a. Cal OES Quarterly Progress Reports

There are eight Progress Reports required for the Program. Progress Reports will be on a quarter basis beginning August 1, 2026. See the chart below for reporting periods and due dates.

Report	Report Period	Due Date
1st Report	August 1, 2026 – September 31, 2026	October 30, 2026
2nd Report	October 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	January 30, 2027
3rd Report	January 1, 2027 – March 31, 2027	April 30, 2027
4th Report	April 1, 2027 – June 30, 2027	July 30, 2027
5th Report	July 1, 2027 – September 30, 2027	October 30, 2027
6th Report	October 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027	January 30, 2028
7th Report	January 1, 2028 – March 31, 2028	April 30, 2028
Final Report	April 1, 2028 – June 30, 2028	July 1, 2028

## 2. PROGRAMMATIC NARRATIVE

Applicants must use the forms provided on the Cal OES website. Applicants may not alter the formatting of any forms, including the Notice of Interest (NOI). If a space or character limitation is specified under each NOI question, strict adherence to the space limitation is required. Information included beyond the space limitation and/or unrequested attachments will not be considered in the rating process.

Applicants must respond to each question in the NOI form. The Applicant's response to each question will be evaluated as part of the rating process. Applicants should develop a thorough project proposal that takes into consideration planning and implementation of the entire process for the proposed project from conception to completion of all activities using the requested funding.

Proposals must be aligned to one or more of the project activities types listed in Section G(2)(b) of this CFO.

## 3. SELECTION OF PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING

### 1. Proposal Rating

Eligible proposals submitted via email as specified in Section E. Eligibility, above, by the due date are generally evaluated by a three-member team. Each question is assigned a point value and the Applicant's response to each question is evaluated on the following criteria:

**ABSENT:** The response does not address the specific question, or a response was not provided.

**Points Possible: 0**

**UNSATISFACTORY:** The response does not completely address the question. The information presented does not provide a good understanding of the Applicant's intent, does not give the detailed information requested by the CFO, and/or does not adequately support the proposal or the intent of the Program.

**Points Possible: 1-5**

**SATISFACTORY:** The response addresses the question and provides a good understanding of Applicant's intent. The response adequately supports the proposal and the intent of the Program.

**Points Possible: 6-10**

**ABOVE AVERAGE:** The response is adequate and provides a clear and detailed understanding of the Applicant's intent. The response presents a persuasive argument that supports the proposal and the intent of the Program.

**Points Possible: 11-15**

**EXCELLENT:** The response is outstanding, with clear, detailed, and relevant information. The response presents a compelling argument that supports the proposal and the intent of the Program.

**Points Possible: 16-20**

The rater scores are averaged and ranked numerically. Proposals are only evaluated numerically; no notes are taken during the evaluation.

## 2. Funding Decision

Final funding decisions are made by the Director of Cal OES. Funding decisions are based on the following:

- The ranked score of the proposal.
- Consideration of priorities or geographical distribution specific to this CFO.
- Prior negative administrative and programmatic performance, if applicable.

Applicants previously funded by Cal OES will be reviewed for poor past compliance, including fiscal management, progress and annual reports, audit reports, and other relevant documentation or information. This review may result in one or more of the following actions:

- The Applicant may not be selected for funding.
- The amount of funding may be reduced.
- Grant Subaward conditions may be added to the Grant Subaward.

### 3. Notification Process

All Applicants will be notified in writing, via electronic communication, the results of the rating process. The notification will be sent to the Authorized Agent and the Primary Point of Contact identified on the NOI submitted with the proposal.

Applicants will receive one of the following notifications:

- Intent to Fund if selected for funding.
- Denial if not selected for funding, including the Applicant's scores and information regarding the appeal process.
- Ineligibility:
  - If the proposal did not meet Eligibility to Compete for Funding, including information regarding the appeal process; or
  - If the proposal scored less than the required 50% of points possible, including the Applicant's scores and information regarding the appeal process.

Cal OES can only respond to technical questions about the CFO during the period between the publication date and completion of the CFO process. Requests for records must be made through a [Public Records Act request](#).

## 4. FINALIZING THE GRANT SUBAWARD

### 1. Grant Subaward Application

Once selected for funding, Cal OES may require revisions and/or additional documentation to finalize the submission of the Grant Subaward Application. The Grants Analyst identified in the Applicant's Intent to Fund notification can provide technical assistance in completing these components.

2. Grant Subaward Approval

The Applicant is not authorized to incur costs against the Grant Subaward until the application is approved. Once the Grant Subaward is approved, a request for payment may be submitted.

a. Grant Subaward Conditions

Cal OES may add conditions to execute the Grant Subaward. If conditions are added, these will be discussed with the Subrecipient and will become part of the Grant Subaward.

**Grant Subaward Conditions may include holds on funding amounts included in the budget for items of cost that require prior approval from Cal OES and/or DHS/FEMA.**

b. Grant Subaward Amounts

When the amount of funds available is limited, Cal OES may reduce the amount of the Grant Subaward from the amount requested by the Applicant. In addition, Cal OES reserves the right to negotiate budgetary changes with the Applicant prior to executing the Grant Subaward. If either of these actions is required, Cal OES will notify the Applicant prior to executing the Grant Subaward.

3. Standard Grant Subaward Funding Authority

Expenditures incurred prior to authorization are made at the Subrecipient's own risk and may be disallowed. Cal OES employees are not able to authorize an Applicant to incur expenses or financial obligations prior to the execution of a Grant Subaward. However, once the Grant Subaward is finalized the Subrecipient may claim reimbursement of expenses incurred on, or after, the start of the Grant Subaward performance period.

If, during the Grant Subaward performance period, the state and/or federal funds appropriated for the purposes of the Grant Subaward are reduced or eliminated by the California Legislature or the United States Government, or in the event revenues are not collected at the level appropriated, Cal OES may immediately terminate or reduce the Grant Subaward by written notice to the Subrecipient.

Cal OES Grant Subawards are subject to applicable restrictions, limitations, or conditions enacted by the California Legislature and/or the United States Government, after the execution of the Grant Subaward.