

HF Communications Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
When is the deadline to apply for the High Frequency Communications Equipment (FH) Program?	The deadline to apply for the FH Program is April 5, 2022.
Can I submit a modification to my grant application?	Modifications are allowed once you have been selected and you have received an award letter. Once the awards are announced Cal OES will be holding a webinar on technical processing for grant awards and explain how to submit for a modification.
Am I able to select a vendor that provides high frequency communication?	Yes, you are able to select any high frequency vendor that follows the requirements of the request for application.
Is this grant for HF equipment covering Amateur/Ham HF bands, or is it strictly for Commercial/Govt 1.6-30MHz HF equipment?	The Grant is to purchase HF equipment to interoperate with the State of California. Because the State not only uses Amateur Radio (HAM) but also SHARES and STACOM which requires a radio with Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) and be type accepted.
If it covers amateur radio: We already have an HF station at the Sheriff's Office, but the equipment is 25+ years old and desperately needs to be replaced. We use this equipment on occasion to check into the weekly CalOES amateur radio net on 40 meters. Will the grant be able to fund the replacement of such equipment?	We would encourage the purchase of equipment fully interoperable with current CalOES Radio nets to include not only Amateur Radio Spectrum but also SHARES and STACOM that require an ALE capable and be Type Accepted.
If the grant is strictly for commercial HF, are counties being included into the SHARES HF program? Or are there specific HF frequencies that we'll need to get FCC licensing for?	The Grant is to purchase HF radios which CalOES uses not only on the California Emergency Services Net held weekly on 40, 80, and 160 Meters Amateur Radio Frequencies but also SHARES and STACOM which are outside the Radio Amateur bands. SHARES channels are assigned at NO Cost to agencies which CalOES and many local governments use across the State. CalOES also has the STACOM system Operational Area are eligible to use under State held Part 90 Licenses, both SHARES and STACOM use ALE Signaling and only compatible radios would be interoperable on these systems.

Question	Answer
<p>Our County ICT (IT & Communications) maintains our county radio and communications networks. So we are trying to figure out if they can apply on behalf of the County's alerting agencies? We don't want to be a go between and don't understand the technicalities to put an application together.</p>	<p>The Alerting agency would have to apply for the Grant however the equipment can be maintained by the County ICT.</p>
<p>I'm seeking more information on the HF communications systems grant. Is it safe to assume the grant would pay for equipment that functions on the ham radio HF bands?</p>	<p>The funding will allow California's Alerting Authorities, Emergency Operation Centers (EOC), or County Sheriff's Office to procure and install high frequency (HF) communications equipment. Because the State not only uses Amateur Radio (HAM) but also SHARES and STACOM which requires a radio with Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) and be type accepted.</p>
<p>We are interested in applying for funding under the High Frequency Radio grant. Being isolated on the east side of the Sierras, with what we have seen is weak at best telecommunications locally during disasters, this seems like a great back stop for us. I am wondering if there is someone we can discuss this with further? Quite honestly, \$60,000 seems like a lot of money for a radio system if I am understanding what is required and I want to make sure we realize what is required. If this is strictly a base station setup we would be in good shape to accomplish that and maybe for less.</p>	<p>The Grant is to purchase HF equipment to interoperate with the State of California and can be found on the NASPO Contract for a lot less than the money allotted of \$60,000. A list of equipment previously coordinated and purchased by CalOES, and Other Agencies can be provided to assist those agencies interested in this grant. along the NASPO item number to provide a turn-key fully interoperable HF system. CalOES and other State Agencies such as CalTRANS not only use Amateur Radio (HAM) but also SHARES Voice and WINLINK, also the STACOM (State of California Part 90 licensed system) which requires radios equipped with Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) capabilities and be type accepted.</p>
<p>Would this grant cover the OASIS System?</p>	<p>The OASIS product is separate than the HF grant being offered.</p>
<p>What is the original source of these funds?</p>	<p>The High Frequency Communications Grant is funded by the State General Fund.</p>
<p>What is the fund code and program code?</p>	<p>The fund code is 21 PSC1, and the program code is FH.</p>
<p>The RFA provides definitions of operating and equipment costs. However, it does not include a definition or any examples of personnel costs. Are personnel costs eligible to be covered by the grant funds?</p>	<p>More information regarding Personnel Costs can be found in section 3.065 (p. 26) of The Subrecipient Handbook. Also, please note that it is stated in the RFA that, "The Subrecipient will be responsible for maintaining any High Frequency Communications equipment procured using these funds, including ongoing maintenance, as well as any updates for equipment. The Subrecipient will also be responsible for ongoing training for users on the system and performing operational testing".</p>

Question	Answer
Would VHF, UHF, 700mhz/800mhz radios qualify under this grant?	<p>The Grant is specifically for High Frequency (High Frequency is recognized as 1.5-30MHz) radio spectrum as a means to provide reliable communications with the State of California without the need for infrastructure such as a Repeater site or microwave backbone. The equipment identified as VHF, UHF, 700/800MHz is not eligible for this grant. This grant is targeted at EOC's, Sheriff's Departments, and agencies recognized by FEMA as "Alert and Warning" agencies using High Frequency Radio. The County of Los Angeles has joined CalOES and others as we utilize the CISN DHS SHARES radio system and CalOES STACOM system using Automatic Link Establish (ALE). Our tests have experienced the greatest success using SHARES ALE which is the direction we intend to continue building out.</p>