



## NIST Public Safety Innovation Accelerator Program – **Follow-on Funding for Technical and Business Assistance and Demonstration Projects with Public Safety Agencies**

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Frequently Asked Questions

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### **1. How do I apply?**

Applicants must submit their applications materials via [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). The application package is available at [www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) under Funding Opportunity Number 2020-NIST-PSIAP-TABA-01.

For further information or questions regarding submitting electronic applications on Grants.gov, contact:

Grants.gov

Phone: 800-518-4726

Email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

### **2. What are the application submission deadlines?**

Applications will be considered on a continuing/rolling basis as they are received. To ensure consideration, applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 31, 2022. However, NIST may amend the NOFO at any time to announce a closing date for the competition.

### **3. How does the application process work?**

All applications received in response to this NOFO will be reviewed on a rolling basis in accordance with the review and selection processes set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Detailed information about the application review process can be found in Section V., Application Review Information, of the NOFO.

### **4. Can I submit multiple applications?**

NIST will only consider one application per applicant, for a single technology

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innovation, at a time. Applicants may only request funding for either (1) technical and business assistance or (2) a demonstration project, in a single application.

Entities with multiple eligible technology innovation awards may submit multiple applications, but only one application per technology innovation will be considered at a time.

After the applicant has completed their proposed technical and business assistance or demonstration project (or been notified that their initial application will not be funded), they may reapply to the NOFO for the other funding opportunity (i.e., the same technology innovation may not receive two technical and business assistance awards or two demonstration project awards, but may receive one of each type).

#### **5. What type of work will be performed under the award?**

PSCR is seeking to enter into grants and cooperative agreements with entities that have already received federal awards or subawards for a public-safety focused communication technology innovation to conduct activities that will either: (1) more rapidly advance their prototypes through needed technical and business assistance or (2) involve a demonstration project with a partnering public safety agency, to provide additional testing and research.

#### **6. Who is eligible to apply for this award?**

Applications are open to entities that have been awarded a grant or cooperative agreement (including Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer awards originally made in the form of a procurement contract), or received an award as part of a prize challenge, from a federal agency for a public-safety focused communication technology innovation.

#### **7. What are the anticipated funding amounts under this program?**

NIST PSCR anticipates funding individual projects in the \$5,000 - \$25,000 per range for Rapid Prototype Advancement through Needed Technical and Business Assistance and \$50,000 - \$200,000 per range for Demonstration Project with Partnering Public Safety Agency. All projects have a maximum one-year project performance period.

#### **8. We are already working with NIST under a CRADA (Cooperative Research and Development Agreement). Are we eligible to apply for this grant?**

Potentially: Being a CRADA partner does not, in itself, preclude you from applying to this competition, but conflicts are possible. For example, a CRADA is not considered a funded award or subaward by a federal entity. Therefore, you would need to qualify utilizing a different award or subaward. Additionally, an entity cannot receive NIST funds for the same activities being performed under the CRADA. If you are a current CRADA partner and considering applying, please contact us directly to discuss your specific situation.

### **9. Are non-US entities eligible for this opportunity?**

Yes, so long as they meet the other eligibility requirements, and have received an award or subaward from a U.S. federal entity for a public-safety focused communication technology innovation.

### **10. When will NIST announce the award recipient?**

Applications will be considered on a continuing/rolling basis as they are received. Award recipients will be notified at the conclusion of the review and selection process, which may be approximately 90 days after the application is submitted.

### **11. What's the "unique entity identifier number"?**

Applicants will need a "D-U-N-S" number, which is a free, unique identifier provided by Dun and Bradstreet. Applicants will also need to obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Service.

Note, if your organization does not have these numbers, it may take some time to acquire them. Please see the [Organization Applicant Registration](#) page on the Applicants tab on Grants.gov.

### **12. Do references and citations count towards the page limit?**

Yes, the page limits include all tables, charts, graphs, figures, maps, photos, graphics, and citations. Resumes and CVs do not count toward page limits.

### **13. What if my institution will be collecting data about people, subjects, or participants during our proposed project?**

Protection of human subjects is a priority of PSCR's research and development programs. If you receive funding for a project that potentially includes research involving human subjects, or data or recordings involving human subjects (including software testing), the NIST Research Protection Office (RPO) must perform a review of your proposal as described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. You may be asked to provide details about your proposed human subjects research; supporting documents such as consent forms; survey instruments; and IRB documentation. Before research involving human subjects may commence, it must be explicitly authorized by the NIST Grants Officer in the form of a Special Award Condition.

NIST uses the [Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects](#), codified by the Department of Commerce at 15 C.F.R. Part 27, to define its criteria for research involving human subjects. Please see Section VI.2.h. of the NOFO for more information.

**14. Are federally funded research and development centers (FFRDC) eligible to apply?**

Potentially, should the FFRDC meet the stated eligibility requirements as an entity that has been awarded a grant or cooperative agreement (including Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer awards originally made in the form of a procurement contract), or received an award as part of a prize challenge, from a federal agency ("entities with a previous award") for a public-safety focused communication technology innovation. – However, because of the funding instruments used to manage FFRDCs, FFRDCs may not be eligible to apply, and interested FFRDCs should discuss this further with their Contracting Officer.

**15. Where can I find information about past PSCR awards?**

To learn more about research and development projects funded by PSCR, visit <https://www.nist.gov/ctl/pscr/funding-opportunities/past-funding-opportunities>.

**16. Can you review our technical proposal and provide comments to ensure it meets the objectives in the NOFO?**

No. Applicants should refer to Section I., Program Description, of the 2020-NIST-PSIAP-TABA-01 NOFO for details about the program goals and objectives.

**17. Can I submit proposals for new R&D topics related to communication technology for public safety?**

No, this NOFO is specifically to provide assistance to entities with previously funded communication technology for public safety to propose activities that will either: (1) more rapidly advance their prototypes through needed technical and business assistance or (2) a demonstration project with a partnering public safety agency, to provide additional testing and research.

**18. Can organizations partner together to apply for this award?**

Yes, partnering is permitted, but there must be a primary applicant organization that meets the eligibility requirements, which, if awarded, will be the entity legally responsible for the award.

**19. How many awards will be made?**

NIST anticipates making several awards under this program.

**20. Should my team submit letters of commitment?**

Letters of commitment are required as part of the application for entities seeking the *Demonstration Project with Partnering Public Safety Agency* funding opportunity.