



# STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT FUNDING



Fall 2012

Let Dell assist you in identifying a grant to fund your state and local public safety programs and initiatives for Federal Fiscal Year 2013

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# STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT FUNDING

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## INTRODUCTION: FUNDING TECHNOLOGY WITH GRANTS

### **The Real World**

In a society driven by the proliferation of the Internet and an insatiable appetite for instantaneous information, it's probably not a surprise that public safety agencies, schools, hospitals and non-profit organizations adopt an information and technology-driven approach to accomplish their organizational objectives. After all, this is the real world. Public safety agencies need communications equipment, schools must provide student access to computers, and hospitals are trying to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with electronic health records.

### ***Grants Fund Projects... Not Products***

When it comes to grants, the industry mantra is that "grants fund projects... not products." Grant programs are created with the intended purpose of addressing an identified need, often in new, unique and innovative ways. The simple acquisition of technology in and of itself is not sufficient to achieve the funder's far-reaching objectives. Instead, at least in the context of grantseeking, technology should be viewed as an enabler of projects and a key component in advancing the specific goals and objectives of the funding opportunity. As such, a well-rounded project will typically include budget for personnel, training activities, contract services and a variety of other elements, in addition to the technology necessary to carry out the initiative.

The key questions you must ask yourself are "Why do I need this particular product, or piece of technology?" and "How does the technology and overall project advance the objectives of the grant program?" For instance, the Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program provides funds to increase the number of students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers. Part of an ITEST proposal could include distance learning technology that connects students with real-world professionals at NASA. The idea is that providing such immersive experiences will increase students' interest in pursuing STEM careers, and the technology simply enables a school in Oregon to connect with NASA in Florida.

### **Writing Technology into your Proposal**

Understanding how technology can be leveraged in grant-funded projects is only half the battle. Many folks trip up when it comes time to put pen to paper. It may be true that technology is absolutely critical to the overall success of a particular project, however, that does not mean the technology and products associated with the projects should be placed front and center in the proposal. Too often folks will focus on specific technologies and use the product descriptions provided by the vendor. Most funders are more interested in a well-thought out vendor selection process that highlights the specific functionality of the required technology. Certainly, you will need detailed pricing from specific vendors in order to create a budget as well as provide proper justification, but try to avoid allowing the technology to dominate the project narrative. Remember that the grantmaker is providing funding first and foremost to address a particular problem. The narrative should focus on the overall project, how it will meet the objectives of the grant program, and the need you've defined in your proposal.

For grants that focus on innovation, simply leveraging a piece of advanced technological equipment does not in itself make a project innovative. The narrative should explain how the accompanying

changes in workflow, process and overall approach of the project is innovative - not just the technology.

### **Go Get the Money!**

Each year, grants fund hundreds of millions of dollars of technology purchases by public sector recipients. But accessing these programs requires a well-rounded project that provides a proper context for the enabling technology.

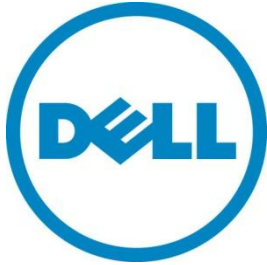
This funding update provides summary information on some of the most technology-friendly grant programs. Although they may have deadlines that only forecasted for now, and months in the future, planning ahead will pay big dividends in the competitiveness and success of your project. We've also included analysis for each grant on how the program supports technology, in case it's not clear from the summary.

Lastly, Dell offers direct support to its education, healthcare, and government customers in identifying and evaluating grant programs through the Dell Grants Support Program (DGSP). It's a free service you can access by talking to your Dell representative or sending a quick e-mail to [DGSP@grantsoffice.com](mailto:DGSP@grantsoffice.com).

Next time you are analyzing the viability of a particular grant program for your technology-enabled project, be sure to keep these resources in mind. Now you have the proper mindset... time to go get the money!

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## DELL SOLUTION-GRANT PROGRAM REFERENCE TABLE



	Rugged Solutions & Mobility	Digital Forensics	Mobile Video Evidence Management	Mobile Computing	Interoperable Communications	Virtual Desktop	Video Surveillance	Infrastructure/SANs
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG)	X				X	X		X
Community Facilities Grant Program	X	X	X			X		X
Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS)	X	X	X			X		X
Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program	X			X	X	X	X	X
Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) Local Program	X			X	X		X	
Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)	X			X	X		X	
State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)	X			X	X		X	X

*These examples are provided for illustrative purposes. The allowable uses of each grant program paired with the focus of your project and application will determine the most fitting technology solutions.*



## ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM (AFG)

**Authority:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

**Summary:** The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services organizations.

**Eligibility:** Eligible applicants for the AFG program are limited to fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations.

**Deadline Information:** Plan for a June/July deadline date in 2013.

**Award Amount Range:** \$1 million to \$2.75 million based on project type and population served.

### Potential Dell Solutions:

- Rugged Solutions & Mobility
- Infrastructure/SANs (remote access to pooled data)
- Virtual Desktop
- Interoperable Communications

### Analysis

Dell's Rugged Solutions such as fully rugged (XFR) laptops and semirugged (ATG) laptops may be leveraged by AFG applicants to ensure that Fire and EMS personnel in the field have access to durable equipment that can support their mobile operations. In addition, the laptops may serve other purposes such as facilitating field-based personnel training and connectivity with other first responders and medical providers. Such a project may include hardware with virtual desktop capabilities for real-time data exchange and access to large amounts of stored data, including building plans, video trainings, and personal health information.

### WHERE TO START:

- Is the applicant a fire department or nonaffiliated EMS organization?*
- Can the applicant provide the necessary matching funds (between 5% and 20% depending on population served)?*
- Is there potential to apply for a regional project with multiple organizations serving more than one local jurisdiction?*

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM

**Authority:** U. S. Department of Agriculture

**Summary:** Community Facilities program grants assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation.

**Eligibility:** Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments in rural towns and areas of up to 20,000 in population.

**Deadline Information:** December 31, 2013; Applications are generally accepted by the USDA regional offices year-round; however, the earlier the application is submitted in the Federal Fiscal Year it can help ensure that the funding is not exhausted at the time of application. Potential applicants should contact their State USDA office for specific application instructions.

**Award Amount Range:** Typical award is up to \$50,000. The amount of grant assistance for project costs depends upon the median household income and the population in the community where the project is located.

### Potential Dell Solutions:

- Rugged Technology
- Mobile Video Evidence Management
- Infrastructure/SANs (remote access to pooled data)
- Virtual Desktop
- Digital Forensics

### Analysis

Rural, frontier and tribal public safety agencies can leverage Community Facilities funding for a wide range of Dell infrastructure and equipment that is essential to their day-to-day duties.

Examples of Dell infrastructure could include everything from standalone desktop computers and mobile data terminals to vital software applications (e.g. Virtual Desktop).

### WHERE TO START:

- Is the applicant located in a rural community?*
- Has the applicant contacted their Rural Development State Office?*
- Is the applicant prepared to provide matching funds of at least 25% of the project costs?*

## COORDINATED TRIBAL ASSISTANCE SOLICITATION (CTAS)

**Authority:** U.S. Department of Justice

**Summary:** CTAS combines DOJ's Tribal government-specific competitive grant programs into one solicitation. Tribal governments may apply for funding under multiple Purpose Areas with one CTAS application. Of the 10 current Purpose Areas, the following represent the best technology application potential:

- Public Safety and Community Policing (COPS) - allowable technology includes computer hardware and software, mobile data terminals, and dispatch and communication systems. Comprehensive
- Tribal Victim Assistance Program (OVC) - allowable technology includes equipment/technology including those necessary to establish information-sharing database.

Some other Purpose Areas allow for computer hardware/software, telephones, and other technology-based office equipment.

**Eligibility:** Only federally-recognized Indian Tribal governments, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, may apply. This includes Alaska Native villages and Tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally-recognized Indian Tribes.

**Deadline Information:** Plan for a March/April deadline in 2013.

**Award Amount Range:** Award amounts are based on purpose area; awards can range from \$75,000 to over \$4 million but will generally range from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

### Potential Dell Solutions:

- Rugged Solutions & Mobility
- Mobile Video Evidence Management
- Virtual Desktop
- Digital Forensics
- Infrastructure/SANs (remote access to pooled data)

### WHERE TO START:

- Is the applicant a federally-recognized Indian Tribal Government?*
- Has the applicant registered with Grants.gov?*
- Has the applicant coordinated with other entities within the tribe to submit one application?*

### Analysis

The CTAS program is designed to meet the most pressing needs of tribal law enforcement. Due to this multifaceted nature of the CTAS program tribal law enforcement organizations can propose a wide array of Dell equipment, solutions, and software within a single CTAS application.

Basic, necessary equipment such as mobile computing and rugged technology can be procured through the Public Safety and Community Policing Purpose Area, as well as more advanced technologies like digital forensic solutions. Additional Purpose Areas which span from courts to corrections to victims outreach programs can support various pieces of information technology equipment (E-Government, Administrative Computing, etc.) necessary to carry out the projects proposed within the Purpose Areas.





## JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANTS (JAG) LOCAL PROGRAM

**Authority:** U.S. Department of Justice

**Summary:** The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG funds can be used to support state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice entities.

**Eligibility:** Within each state and territory there are units of local government designated by the DOJ as eligible to apply for a pre-determined allocation amount. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of an eligible unit of local government or other officer designated by the CEO must submit the application for JAG funds.

**Deadline Information:** Plan for an April/May deadline in 2013.

**Award Amount Range:** Determination of a local unit of government's award allocations is based on their proportion of the state's three-year violent crime average.

### Analysis

Justice Assistance Grant funding is the premier funding opportunity for law enforcement and public safety entities and can fund a wide array of information technology solutions depending on the agency's or organization's particular needs. Mobile Computing, Rugged Technology, and Interoperable Communications solutions can be employed by police in the field in course of their daily duties.

Courts, corrections, and agencies tasked with law enforcement and public safety missions can leverage JAG funding as well. The funding can be applied towards necessary technologies for operational efficiency, justice information sharing, and security via Video Surveillance.



### Potential Dell Solutions:

- Rugged Technology
- Mobile Computing
- Video Surveillance
- Interoperable Communications

### WHERE TO START:

- Is the applicant listed on the JAG Allocations List provided each year by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) ([www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov))?*
- Is the applicant registered in OJP's Grants Management System (GMS)?*
- Can the applicant make the contents of the application available for governing body review at least 30 days before the deadline?*

## OPERATION STONEGARDEN (OPSG)

**Authority:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**Summary:** OPSG funds are intended to enhance cooperation and coordination among local, tribal, territorial, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in a joint mission to secure the United States' borders along routes of ingress from international borders to include travel corridors in States bordering Mexico and Canada, as well as states and territories with international water borders.

**Eligibility:** The SAA is the only entity eligible to apply to FEMA for OPSG funds. Local units of government at the county level and federally-recognized tribal governments in the states bordering Canada (including Alaska), southern states bordering Mexico, and states and territories with International water borders may apply for OPSG funds through their SAA.

**Deadline Information:** Plan for an April/May deadline in 2013. Each state may have their own process for pass-through funding and potential applicants should contact their SAA to inquire.

**Award Amount Range:** Competitive awards are made based on risk-based prioritization using a border risk methodology measuring threat, vulnerability, miles of border, and other border-specific law enforcement intelligence.

### Potential Dell Solutions:

- Rugged Technology • Mobile Computing • Video Surveillance • Interoperable Communications

### Analysis

Operation Stonegarden (OSGP) is funding designed to ensure international security by providing funding to law enforcement agencies to advance projects and initiatives that focus on creating a more secure border. All states that have an international border (land or maritime) are eligible to apply for OSGP.

Due to the wide range of border issues each eligible state faces, specific technologies and solutions will fluctuate significantly from applicant to applicant. However, common solutions utilized by agencies tasked with border security are solutions that promote interoperable communications, justice information sharing (Mobile Computing and Rugged Technology) and of course, video surveillance for security and situational awareness.

### WHERE TO START:

- Is the applicant located in a state bordering Canada, Mexico, or International water borders?*
- Is the applicant a local unit of government at the county level or a federally-recognized tribal government?*
- Will the project increase operational capabilities of law enforcement and promote a layered, coordinated approach to law enforcement?*

## STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM (SHSP)

**Authority:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**Summary:** SHSP supports the implementation of state Homeland Security Strategies to address the identified planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

**Eligibility:** The State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only entity eligible to apply to FEMA for SHSP funds on behalf of public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments within the State.

**Deadline Information:** Plan for an April/May deadline in 2013. Each state may have their own process for pass-through funding and potential applicants should contact their SAA to inquire.

**Award Amount Range:** State awards are based on formula. Allocations to local governments and agencies will be determined by the State.

### Analysis

The State Homeland Security Program is a multi pronged program that touches on all aspects of security from prevention to response to recovery from terrorist and natural events. Due to the somewhat unrestricted nature of this funding applications can cover a myriad of potential projects and associated equipment and infrastructure. Typical uses of SHSP funding include (but are not limited to):

- Large scale multi jurisdictional interoperable communications projects
- Rugged technology and mobile computing for officers and agents to facilitate justice information sharing and situational awareness
- Video surveillance for high threat, high value, key infrastructure and critical assets

### Potential Dell Solutions:

- Rugged Technology
- Mobile Computing
- Video Surveillance
- Interoperable Communications
- Infrastructure/SANs

### WHERE TO START:

- Is the applicant a local unit of government?*
- Has the applicant contacted their State Administrative Agency regarding application details?*
- Does the project support terrorism preparedness by building or enhancing prevention, response, and/or recovery capabilities?*





GRANTS OFFICE

## DELL GRANTS SUPPORT PROGRAM HELPS YOU NAVIGATE THE FUNDING LANDSCAPE

Dell has teamed up with Grants Office to help you identify the grant programs that fit with your technology objectives.

Dell Grants Support Program (DGSP) puts you in touch with expert grants development consultants who will work with you to:

- evaluate your needs
- research the best funding opportunities for your project
- answer any questions you have about the programs and their requirements.

*To access these resources today, contact your Dell representative or e-mail [DGSP@grantsoffice.com](mailto:DGSP@grantsoffice.com), and a friendly DGSP representative will respond promptly.*

DGSP puts you one step closer to funding your technology-rich project and transforming your organization.

DGSP provides research and consultation resources to healthcare, education, and government customers with no cost or obligation. If you need them, Grants Office proposal development and grant administration services are also available for a fee.

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This information was provided by Grants Office, LLC, a grants consulting firm, based on its understanding of grant programs and funding guidelines available as of the date this report was generated. It represents Grants Office's interpretation of the programs and is not intended to replace official guidance provided by the funder. Changes to grant programs and deadlines are common and should be expected. Therefore, although every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein, we cannot guarantee that it will always be current, accurate or complete. We strongly recommend that you check the official guidance and your Grants Office UPstream™ Online Knowledge Base account frequently to keep up-to-date with changes and modifications to program information and to manage your grant-seeking activities. If you already have an UPstream account, you may access it by visiting [www.grantsoffice.com](http://www.grantsoffice.com).