Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Katie Savage | Secretary

State and Local
Cybersecurity Grant Program

Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Maryland SLCGP FAQs

1. **I submitted a project for SLCGP funds, how do I know which funding year I have submitted for?**

If your application was submitted by June 17th, 2024, you have submitted for FFY 2022 SLCGP funds. If your application was submitted by October 3rd, 2024, you have submitted for FFY 2023 SLCGP funds. Please follow the guidelines and instructions for the appropriate funding year for accurate information.

2. **When will the application cycle begin for FFY 2024?**

The Maryland State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Planning Committee is still awaiting a decision from FEMA for FFY 2024 funding. Once this decision is made, the Committee will send out more information on the FFY 2024 application cycle.

3. **The Committee has created a list of best practices for Maryland Project Categories 1 & 2. What are the definitions for these best practices?**

The definitions of the best practices are as follows:

- **Asset Discovery/Management** - the capability of mapping and understanding of assets on your network(s). Including understanding which assets or hosts are most critical to protect. Then continually checking those assets for known or potential vulnerabilities and resolving them.
- **Multi-Factor Authentication** - a system that requires more than one distinct authentication factor for successful identification and authentication.
- **End-Point Detection and Response (EDR)** - the capability through tools, personnel or resources, to continuously monitor endpoint activity (e.g. computers, servers, mobile devices) in real time, and to identify and respond to cyber threats or attacks or unauthorized devices, applications and activities and enhance threat detection, response and investigative capabilities.
- **Email Gateway** - an email solution that sits inline on emails' path from the public Internet to the organization's email server. This solution is designed to inspect emails for malicious content and block that content before reaching the organization's system.

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- **Security Awareness Training** - training used to help users and employees understand the role they play in helping to combat information security compromises.
- **Firewalls** - a service or tool that filters data traffic on your network or coming into your network with the purpose of blocking cyber threats.
- **Enhanced logging** - a process that encrypts the logs for safe transport to the support administrators. Enhanced logging also provides advanced information in the event log to help administrators troubleshoot issues they may encounter with specific devices (such as USB or video components).
- **Data encryption** - a process/program that translates data into another form, or code, so that only people with access to a secret key (formally called a decryption key) or password can read it. This can be applied to data at rest and/or in transit.
- **End of use processes of software and hardware** - stopping the use of unsupported/end of life software and hardware that are accessible from the Internet.
- **Prohibit use of known/fixed/default passwords and credentials** - taking actions to prohibit employees' ability to use known/fixed/manufacturer passwords and credentials.
- **Ensure ability to reconstitute systems (backups)** - testing your organization's ability to correctly reconstitute backups at the determined recovery point objective within your planned recovery time objective.
- **Migration to .gov domain** - the migration of all email addresses and websites to a safe and secure .gov domain.

4. **Do applicants have to use the provided budget narrative and project proposal templates for the application?**

Yes, applicants are required to use the provided templates for their application. If the applicant feels the application is missing additional information that they think would be beneficial, they can submit additional attachments with their application.

5. **Will there be an extension process available for applicants that will not be able to meet the project application submission deadline?**

The Committee will generally not accept applications after the deadline. However, the committee may extend the application deadline upon request for any applicant who can demonstrate justifications for extending the deadline. Reasons for extensions include but are not limited to: technical difficulties preventing the

submission of the application by the deadline, other exigent concerns, and/or emergency circumstance(s)

6. Are the funding amounts listed in the funding notice the amount we should expect for the entirety of the grant?

The funding amounts in the NOFO are for the specified grant year only, with a 48-month period of performance ("Year 1"). Updated allocation amounts can be found in the FEMA SLCGP Information Bulletin (IB) 479. Additional funding will be available in FFY 2024, and FFY 2025. Each FFY will have its own funding notice, allocation amounts, and application period.

7. What are the eligible jurisdictions for SLCGP funding?
The eligible applicants are Maryland "Local governments"[1] which include:

8. A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; or
9. Rural as defined by FEMA which is, a rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity. Per the Homeland Security Act of 2002, a "rural area" is defined in 49 U.S.C. § 5302 as an area encompassing a population of less than 50,000 people that has not been designated in the most recent decennial census as an "urbanized area" by the Secretary of Commerce. Based on this information, Maryland has 8 rural jurisdictions out of 24 total jurisdictions: Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, and Worcester.
10. Rural as defined by the Committee which is, any Maryland "Local Government" that can provide adequate evidence of their rural status such as a planning and zoning designation or mapping. Evidence should be submitted with the application package.

11. Why are there two definitions of "Rural" for the FFY23 application?
The committee recognizes that the FEMA definition of Rural for SLCGP funding does not take into consideration all smaller Maryland localities eligible to apply for SLCGP funds as a priority for funding. Therefore, the Committee has added a Rural definition that allows smaller localities to submit evidence that they should be prioritized for funds under the "Rural" eligibility category. Evidence can include a planning and zoning designation or mapping that states this locality is rural.

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[1] "Local governments" defined in 6 U.S.C. § 101(13).

If you are already considered a "Rural Jurisdiction" under the FEMA definition, you do not need to submit proof. The evidence requirement is only for local governments outside Maryland's 8 Rural jurisdictions that would like to be considered for priority funding under the Committee's extended Rural classification.