

SFM Frequently Asked Questions

MARCS Grant

Will the grant application be electronic this year?

Yes, the MARCS grant will be electronic through a web portal on the State Fire Marshal's website. The requested information will be similar to previous years. The paper application will still be available on the website for use as a worksheet as applicants are preparing their grant.

What is the maximum price for a radio?

We will allow up to \$3,000 per radio (portable or mobile) for the basic radio. Accessories, installation, programming and user fees are considered additional costs above the \$3,000 limit.

Can we purchase dual band radios?

Dual band radios will not be considered an allowable item for this year's grant. If an applicant wishes to purchase a dual band radio, the applicant must pay for the dual band functionality above the cost of a single band MARCS radio from local funds.

Can private fire companies apply for MARCS radios?

MARCS radio grants will only be awarded to governmental entities. If you are a private company and wish to apply for funding, you must work with a local government entity that you serve to complete an application.

How do we complete a regional or county-wide application?

Applications that request MARCS coverage in an entire county or region will be given priority for funding. It is important to note that each individual agency within the county will need to complete their own application with individual demographics and statistical data. We require each application lists the other county partners and FDIDs, which will result in the individual applications being bundled together upon receipt at the Marshal's Office.

To be considered for a county-wide or regional application, *all* agencies in the county must either be a current MARCS user or be requesting funding for radios. Please be sure to list all other county fire departments that are applying for MARCS funding as well as all agencies that are presently utilizing the MARCS system.

What is the rate for current MARCS user fees?

State legislature renewed the \$10 subsidy per radio per month for local government users.

When will funds actually be sent to us?

Funding will be available once the grant is awarded and accepted by your organization. Funds are available prior to the purchase of equipment. This is NOT a reimbursement grant.

Some vendors provide promotional pricing for radios. How will this affect my grant?

The SFM has notified several vendors of the upcoming grant application period and encouraged radio suppliers to announce any promotional pricing before the application period. This should assist applicants with obtaining best pricing, and should also minimize grant amendments following the grant awards. If pricing is discounted from your previous quote, item(s) can be purchased from the “eligible grant fund expenditures” worksheet, provided you have purchased everything with the same quantity as stated on your original application. Email changes to commercegrants@com.state.oh.us for approval prior to ordering.

How can my fire department prepare for a grant award?

Once a grant has been awarded, local agencies should prepare for purchasing, delivery and installation as soon as possible. Purchase approvals, ordering and scheduling should be done as soon as possible so that grant compliance can be achieved by June 2019. Plans for programming and installation should be carefully coordinated once equipment has been ordered. Award recipients should contact the MARCS office to complete user agreements and contracts as soon as possible following issuance of equipment serial numbers by their radio vendors. Proof of MARCS system activation is a requirement of the grant award.