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**The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
and
State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)**

**Application Guidance
for
Round 2 .gov Domain Migration Grant**

**GRANT APPLICATION
DUE BY SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**

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All entities wishing to do business with the federal government must have a unique entity identifier (UEI). The UEI number is issued by the system. Instructions for requesting a UEI using Sam.gov can be found at: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>.

If your organization DOES NOT already have a UEI number, please start this process NOW. This is a prerequisite to receiving federal funds.

Introduction

The State of Ohio's CyberOhio Team, with the support of Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA), HSAC-Cyber Full Planning Subcommittee and the HSAC-Cyber Executive Committee, has applied for and has been awarded funds under the SLCGP grant program.

A portion of these funds will be used to provide cybersecurity grant opportunities for Ohio local government entities (LGEs).

Key Elements

Competitive Application Process

Below are some key points of this grant process.

- The total available funding allocated for this grant is **\$200,000**.
 - If you are interested in getting subsidy support for your .dot gov migration, please apply before the deadline. Even though there are limited funds available with this pilot program, LGEs who apply but are not selected for the pilot program will automatically be considered for upcoming grant subsidy programs. Demand for this program will help us more accurately determine future funding requirements and allocate future resources accordingly.
- As required by the SLCGP, Ohio will place a high priority on projects that support rural LGEs.
 - Per 49 U.S.C. 5302 "rural" is any area with a population of less than 50,000 individuals. The prioritized eligible recipients must be LGEs within a rural area (a jurisdiction with a population of less than 50,000 individuals).
 - There are 39 counties in Ohio that meet this definition of rural based on the 2020 US Census. Ohio will prioritize LGEs located in these rural counties.
- All eligible project applications will be scored and ranked by HSAC-Cyber and any additional Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) as deemed necessary. Recommendations will be made to the HSAC-Cyber Executive Committee for final review and approval.
- Eligible applicants are limited to Ohio LGEs.
- Project applications must be submitted the online form by 12:00 PM EST on Monday, September 16th. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed.
- Domain Migration Projects to the ".gov" internet domain will have a maximum federal funding limit of \$9,500 and require the LGE to provide a 20% cost share. LGEs who demonstrate economic hardship may qualify to have the cost share requirement waived.
- Applicants may only submit one Round 2 .gov Migration application document.
- Applicants will be requesting funds to support their .gov migration project.

Federal Funding Priorities

DHS/FEMA requires priority be given to LGEs who are rural. Twenty-five percent (25%) of grant funds are required to be passed through to rural LGEs.

Program Overview

The SLCGP supports migration to the .gov internet domain.

The purpose of this package is to provide:

- The application materials needed to apply for funding under the SLCGP grant program.
- Administrative requirements that must be met by all subrecipients to meet the requirements of federal regulations, mandates, and orders.

SLCGP grant funds may only be used for the purpose set forth in the grant and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds may not be used for matching funds or for other Federal grants/cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, Federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal government or any other government entity.

Funding Priorities

All projects must adhere to the guidelines stated within this guidance and applicable laws and regulations.

Federal Funding Priorities

All SLCGP recipients and **subrecipients are required to participate** in a limited number of free services by CISA. This requirement applies to all subrecipients. For these required services and memberships, note that participation is not required for submission and approval of a grant but is a post-award requirement.

- **Cyber Hygiene Services**

Vulnerability Scanning evaluates external network presence by executing continuous scans of public, static Internet Protocols for accessible services and vulnerabilities. This service provides weekly vulnerability reports and ad-hoc alerts.

To register for this service, email vulnerability@cisa.dhs.gov with the subject line “Requesting Cyber Hygiene Services – SLCGP” to get started. Indicate in the body of your email that you are requesting this service as part of the SLCGP. For more information, visit [CISA’s Cyber Hygiene Information Page](#).

- **Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR)**

The NCSR is a free, anonymous, annual self-assessment designed to measure gaps and capabilities of a SLT’s cybersecurity programs. It is based on the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and is sponsored by DHS and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC).

Eligible entities and their subrecipients are required to complete the NCSR, administered by the MS-ISAC, during the first year of the award/subaward period of performance and annually.

For more information, visit [Nationwide Cybersecurity Review \(cisecurity.org\)](#).

- **Membership in the MS-ISAC and/or Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC):**

Recipients and **subrecipients are strongly encouraged** to become a member of the MS-ISAC and/or EI-ISAC, as applicable. Membership is free. To register for MS-ISAC, please visit <https://learn.cisecurity.org/ms-isac-registration>. For more information, visit [MS-ISAC \(cisecurity.org\)](https://learn.cisecurity.org). To register for EI-ISAC, please visit <https://learn.cisecurity.org/ei-isac-registration>. For more information, visit <https://www.cisa.gov/election-security>.

State Funding Priorities

Participation in [Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement \(O-PCI\)](#) **is encouraged** but is not mandatory. Ideally, LGEs will enroll in O-PCI and complete the initial assessment within one year of receiving their grant subsidy.

- **O-PCI Overview**

The State of Ohio has created the O-PCI ecosystem for Ohio LGEs to educate, train, exercise, mentor, and improve in an integrated and persistent cycle supported with continual assessment. The O-PCI model is designed to position LGEs within Ohio to build and sustain the capacity to anticipate, adapt, withstand and, when necessary, recover from cyber aggression.

Funding Guidelines

Allowable Costs

Recipients must comply with all the requirements in 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards).

Grant recipients and subrecipients may only use federal funds or funds applied to a cost share for the purposes set forth in this notice and the terms and conditions of the award, and those costs must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award.

Grant funds may not be used for matching funds for other federal grants/cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, federal funds may not be used to sue the federal government or any other government entity.

Application Process

To apply for the Round 2 SLCGP grant program, please download the Round 2 SLCGP Project Application Guidance and the Round 2 SLCGP Project Application Spreadsheet from the [CyberOhio Assisting Local Government Entities webpage](#).

NOTE: .gov migrations are expected to support LGEs such as counties, municipalities (cities and villages), townships, special districts, etc. School districts are not expected to adopt a .gov domain.

LGEs will be required to submit the following information with their application for .gov migrations:

- A project narrative containing a description of the migration including the scope of the effort.
- This grant will reimburse migration costs up to \$9,500 and requires a 20% cost-share.
- Go to get.gov for information on how to request a .gov domain name.

Eligible Applicants

For the Round 2 SLCGP Application Process, eligible applicants include Ohio LGEs. “Local government” is defined in 6 U.S.C. § 101(13) as:

- a. A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government;
- b. An Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization; and
- c. A rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.

Ineligible subrecipient entities include non-profit organizations and private corporations.

A public educational institution (e.g., elementary school, secondary school, or institution of higher education) is generally eligible to receive assistance under SLCGP if it is an agency or instrumentality of a state or local government under state and/or local law. In contrast, a private educational institution would not be eligible to receive SLCGP assistance because it is not an agency or instrumentality of a state or local government. “Assistance” means either funding, non-funding assistance (i.e., items, services, capabilities, or activities), or a combination of both. The eligibility of charter schools depends on the function of the charter school – it will be eligible if, and only if, it is an agency or an instrumentality of the state or local government. This will be a determination for the State Administrative Agency (SAA) to make (and to justify, if necessary), based on state or local law. The SAA for an SLCGP grant award is responsible for demonstrating the eligibility of each entity receiving assistance and should consult with FEMA if there is uncertainty regarding eligibility for a particular entity.

Project Requirements

Projects for migrating to the .gov internet domain will have a maximum funding cap of \$9,500 to help cover migration costs. The SLCGP calls for LGEs to meet a 20% match requirement. However, LGEs who demonstrate economic hardship may apply for a FEMA waiver of the 20% match if they demonstrate hardship.

The performance period for this grant is December 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. Approved projects must be completed within this timeframe.

Cost Share or Match

Eligible entities must meet a 20% cost share requirement for the FY 2022 SLCGP. The recipient contribution can be cash (hard match) or third-party in-kind (soft match). Eligible applicants must agree to make available non-federal funds to carry out an SLCGP award in an amount not less than 20% of the total project costs (federal award amount plus cost share amount).

Cost Share Waiver

The Secretary of Homeland Security (or designee) may waive or modify the non-federal share for an individual entity if the entity demonstrates economic hardship. The Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended, requires Round 2 SLCGP recipients to provide a non-federal cost share of 20% if they are applying as a single entity (6 U.S.C. § 665g(m)(1)). However, DHS is not able to provide additional funds even if it does grant a cost share waiver. The federal funding will remain at the same amount as indicated by the statutory formula. Click [here](#) for more information on applying for a FEMA economic hardship waiver.

Application Format and Submission

All project applications must be received via the online form by 12:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, September

16. Please adhere to the following requirements:

- Complete and submit your application via the [online form](#). Submission of the application in any other format will not be reviewed.
- **The form must be completed in one session.** The form will not timeout, but if you leave the form (e.g., close the browser window) prior to submission, any data entered will be lost.

Note: You can download a PDF of the sample form from the [CyberOhio](#) website. It is recommended that you use this PDF as a working document to ensure you have all the information required before you start completing the form.

Note: In the PDF version of the form, selections have been made throughout the form to display conditional questions (e.g., questions that are triggered by the answer to a previous question). When you fill out the form online, some questions represented in the PDF may not display in the form based on your LGE's answers to previous questions.

Note: All applications *MUST* be submitted via the online form. Do NOT attempt to submit the application by sending a completed version of the PDF.

Note: Your application will contain sensitive information about your LGE's computer security environment. Pursuant to §149.433 of the Ohio Revised Code, your application and any supporting documents are exempt from public disclosure.

- Please use the following naming convention if submitted supporting documentation:
 - R2 SLCGP DotGovMig Narrative-LGE Name
 - R2 SLCGP DotGovMig Budget-LGE Name

Round 2 SLCGP Project Application Document Instructions

Please use the following information as a basic instructional guide in completing the *Round 2 SLCGP Project Application Document*:

Note: Once you start filling out the application online, do not close your browser window until you have submitted the application.

Form Page 1: Round 2 SLCGP Organizational Information

Provide the LGE information requested in this section.

Form Page 2: Round 2 SLCGP Contact Information

Provide the contact information requested in this section.

Form Page 3: LGE Information

Provide the information requested in this section.

Form Page 4: Participation Requirements and Opportunities

Select Yes or No for the questions posed in this section.

Form Page 5: Metrics

Select Yes or No for the questions posed in this section.

Form Page 6: .gov Migration Project Information

NOTE: .gov migrations are expected to support LGEs such as counties, municipalities (cities and villages), townships, special districts, etc. School districts are not expected to adopt a .gov domain.

- Provide the information requested in this section.
- Do not forget to upload any supporting documents related to your project.
- Funding Request Amount should be 80% of the Total Cost of the Project (unless you are applying for a FEMA economic hardship waiver) and cannot exceed \$9,500.

Form Page 7: Finish Line

- At the end of the form, each LGE will be asked to provide an email address where the CyberOhio Team can request any additional supporting documentation or information required.
- When requesting additional information, the CyberOhio Team will send requests using a secure email system. Using this system, you will be able to create a username and password, and send any additional information needed in a secure manner.
- **Please DO NOT submit detailed security related documents via regular email, as it is not a secure method for transmitting sensitive information.**

Application Resources

[CyberOhio Assisting Local Government Entities page](#)

[Online .gov Migration Application Form](#)

[CISA's Cyber Hygiene Information Page](#)

[FEMA Economic Hardship Waiver Information Bulletin](#)

[get.gov](#)

[Moving to .gov](#)

<https://www.cisa.gov/election-security>

<https://learn.cisecurity.org/ei-isac-registration>

<https://learn.cisecurity.org/ms-isac-registration>

<https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>

[MS-ISAC \(cisecurity.org\)](#)

[Nationwide Cybersecurity Review \(cisecurity.org\)](#)

[OARnet](#)

[Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement \(O-PCI\)](#)

[Transitioning to the .gov Domain](#)

Points of Contact

For Grant Application questions and technical assistance, please contact:

CyberOhio Team

Carolyn Jordan, SLCGP Program Manager

cyberohio@governor.ohio.gov

cjordan@dps.ohio.gov

Appendix A – Round 2 Funding for .gov Domain Migrations

With SLCGP funds, Ohio has established a sub-grant process and has set aside over \$200,000 to be used as subsidies to help cover the migration costs to .gov domains.

Note: If you are interested in getting subsidy support for your .dot gov migration, please apply before the deadline. Even though there are limited funds available LGEs who apply but are not selected for this Round, may automatically be considered for upcoming grant programs. Demand for this program will help us more accurately determine future funding requirements and allocate future resources accordingly.

The get.gov website contains all the information needed to plan and migrate to a .gov internet domain. CISA also recently published resource materials on [transitioning to a .gov domain](#).

This project will provide local entity subsidies of up to \$9,500 to help cover these migration costs. The grant calls for locals to meet a 20% cost share requirement. However, locals who demonstrate economic hardship may receive a cost share waiver from FEMA.

To take advantage of this subsidy program, grantees will be required to sign up for CISA Cyber Hygiene Services and complete the MS-ISAC annual Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR). Grantees will also be encouraged to sign up to participate in MS-ISAC and the [Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement \(O-PCI\)](#) program.

Obtaining a .gov Internet Domain

CISA owns the .gov top-level domain and offers free domain name registration to LGEs.

- You will find all the information you need to get started at get.gov
- Pay special attention to the section [Moving to .gov](#). They have provided a checklist of things to consider as you plan your .gov migration.
- CISA does NOT offer DNS services. After registering your domain name with CISA you will need to contract with a 3rd party for DNS services.
 - In Ohio, [OARnet](#) is a provider of DNS services for LGEs.
 - Other 3rd party providers can be identified by doing an internet search for DNS service providers.
 - Average costs for DNS services include a one-time set up fee of approx. \$250 and an ongoing annual cost of approx. \$150.

Purchasing DNS Services through OARnet

OARnet DNS Services Contact:

Letha Butcher

lbutcher@oar.net

614-292-9545