

April 7, 2014

Ebony Simmons
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
U.S. Department of Commerce
100 Bureau Drive, MS 1650
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1650

Dear Ms. Simmons,

I am writing to request your consideration of a waiver of the 20% non-federal share proportionality requirement for the Illinois State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) broadband planning grant. Illinois continues to experience significant financial challenges. While maintaining adequate staff and programmatic expertise necessary to successfully execute the demands of the SLIGP grant, due to the current fiscal state of Illinois and the current use of eligible funds for existing public safety programs, the state has virtually no available funding to use for hard matching purposes.

At this time, the State of Illinois intends to meet the required 20% non-federal share as mandated by federal statute. However, our cost share is not currently in parity with our federal drawdown. Our current drawdown is \$41,773.32 and we have documented \$0 in non-federal cost share. The state plans to provide in-kind non-federal cost share with the bulk being in the personal services and time used for meetings and conferences for planning activities that will be fully implemented in the fourth quarter, April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014. Due to this, additional time to collect data regarding governance and initial meetings for in-kind matching purposes for the non-federal share of this grant is necessary.

The state recently received information from FirstNet and NIST/NTIA on matching documentation and will begin to put together data collected from conference calls and presentations conducted regarding FirstNet and National Public Safety Broadband during the fourth quarter. It is noted that we have made progress towards implementation of our quarterly expenditure plan. The fourth quarter activities should bring us more in line with the parity issues relating to match.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jonathon Monken
Director

