

**Q&A for AGF for
Second Round of FFY 2023 State Traffic Safety Information System
Improvements Grant, Section 405(c) Funding**

as of 2/14/23 (please check back for more Q&A)

Q. According to the AGF, radar signs, message boards, and trailers are examples of equipment that will not be funded. I wanted to clarify if this was referring to the equipment being ineligible for funds as stand-alone purchases or ineligible absolutely?

A. Thanks for your interest in this traffic records-specific grant program. This grant program currently doesn't fund such equipment (see page 8 of AGF under More on Equipment/Software Costs for more information), whether as stand-alone purchases or even as purchases as part of a larger project. OGR offers other grant programs that at times do support such purchases, so please keep an eye out for future grant opportunities that could also address your needs. If you have not already done so, please register for OGR's grant notices at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/sign-up-to-receive-notifications-of-grant-opportunities-from-the-office-of-grants-and-research>

Q. Our police department is seeking to replace five mobile tablets for Cruisers, and we wanted to know if in the second round of Traffic Safety Information System grant funds these would be considered an eligible item.

A. Thanks for your interest in this traffic records-specific grant program. This grant program currently doesn't fund such equipment (see page 8 of AGF under More on Equipment/Software Costs for more information). OGR offers other grant programs that at times do support such purchases, so please keep an eye out for future grant opportunities that could also address your needs. If you have not already done so, please register for OGR's grant notices at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/sign-up-to-receive-notifications-of-grant-opportunities-from-the-office-of-grants-and-research>

Q. Our police department is reaching out looking to use the State Traffic Safety Information System Improvements Grant to fund a Speed & Message Trailer with ALPR Camera Technology for traffic calming, surveillance, and traffic data recordings. I want to confirm if this type of equipment would be eligible through this grant.

A. Thanks for your interest in this traffic records-specific grant program. This grant program currently doesn't fund such equipment (see page 8 of AGF under More on Equipment/Software Costs for more information). OGR offers other grant programs that at times do support such purchases, so please keep an eye out for future grant opportunities that could also address your needs. If you have not already done so, please register for OGR's grant notices at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/sign-up-to-receive-notifications-of-grant-opportunities-from-the-office-of-grants-and-research>

Q. What exactly is this grant for? What would a municipality such as ours need to do to be awarded funding? It mentions "Make measurable improvements to performance attributes of state safety data systems." How does a city or town help with this? Regarding letters from partners, who would we partner with and why? Not sure how to proceed or if it's even worth proceeding.

A. The AGF webpage is at www.mass.gov/info-details/state-traffic-safety-information-system-improvements-grant. Attached are the webinar PP slides. These are being posted to the AGF webpage.

The grant is for the purposes bulleted on page 1 of the AGF. You can see examples of prior and current approved projects in the latest version of the Massachusetts Strategic Plan for Traffic Records Improvements available at www.mass.gov/service-details/traffic-records. One should also consult the latest Traffic Records Self-Assessment on the same page.

It can be challenging for a single municipality to successfully apply/receive an award through this grant program by demonstrating it could truly make measurable improvements to one of the six performance attributes of one of the six main state safety data systems that will assist with identifying priorities for federal, state, and local traffic safety programs. It very likely would require an active partnership(s) with another entity(ies) to accomplish the type of project that would be funded by this grant program. Partners might be a state agency, other municipalities, state higher educational institutions, and/or not-for-profit organizations, etc.

Hope this additional information helps. Please pose additional questions if that would assist in your decision to apply.

Q. What is the amount of the grant? What kind of grant is it - reimbursement, 50/50 split, etc.?

A. The maximum available to award through the AGF is \$1.3 million. An applicant could apply for all of it, though historically applicants don't, as their projects don't need that much funding.

To get a better sense of what types of projects have received 405-c funding, suggest you review examples of current and prior 405(c) funded projects available in the FFY 2023 Massachusetts Strategic Plan for Traffic Records Improvement at www.mass.gov/service-details/traffic-records.

For a municipality it would be a reimbursement style grant based on the Standard State Contract.

For a municipality (or any entity NOT directly under the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security) there would be a 20% total project cost match requirement: see page 6 of AGF and the Match slide of webinar PowerPoint, both attached.

Please don't hesitate to ask any further additional question before the deadline for questions of 4 pm on March 7.

Q. I was informed that a local police force does not qualify or most likely will not receive any funding through this grant. Can you please confirm same?

A. Local police departments **do** qualify for the 405c grant program. However it likely could be challenging for a single local police department to present an appropriate project that would ultimately be awarded 405c funding. Especially if there were a notable number of strong applications being considered by the AGF Review Committee and the MA Executive-level Traffic Records Coordinating Committee. A local police department and a local EMS department, both from Boston, have been able to secure 405c funding. Partnering with state, regional, and/or local entities could increase the possibility of success. Please note many 405c projects

conducted by others directly and indirectly benefit local police departments, even though they don't directly get awarded 405c funding.

Please note we may be sharing additional information about this grant program that might affect your department's interest in the program. In the meantime, hopefully the email Q&A option of the AGF (available through 4 pm on 3/7) will assist the department to gather more information to make its decision whether to apply for this funding.

Q. I was unable to make the online meeting for the 2023 state traffic safety initiative. Would software such as IMC records management be allowable under the grant?

A. Thanks for your interest in the Second Round of FFY 23 State Traffic Safety Information System Improvements Grant, 405-c funding. The AGF webpage is at www.mass.gov/info-details/state-traffic-safety-information-system-improvements-grant. If you missed the webinar, please be sure to visit the AGF page to access a recording of the webinar as well as review the related PP slides.

Generally equipment/software is an allowable expense for 405-c funding assuming first it would help meet one of the purposes of the grant funding:

- Make measurable improvements to performance attributes (accessibility, accuracy, completeness, integration, timeliness, or uniformity) of state safety data systems (citation/adjudication, crash, driver, EMS/injury surveillance, roadway, or vehicle) that will assist with identifying priorities for federal, state, and local traffic safety programs;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of such efforts;
- Link state data systems, including traffic records and relevant data systems;
- Improve the compatibility and interoperability of state data systems with national data systems and the data systems of other states; and
- Enhance the state's ability to observe and analyze national trends in crash occurrences, rates, outcomes, and circumstances.

Further the equipment/software must not be a 'stand-alone' purchase.

Additionally NHTSA requires all equipment/software acquired with grant funds to address a project need and be necessary for program implementation.

OGR strongly recommends applicants inquire beforehand whether a proposed equipment/software purchase meets the requirements of the AGF.

Please review the AGF and related documents for other response requirements.

Some inquiries above were edited for purposes of clarity. Please direct any questions about this document to Mr. Brook W. Chipman, Program Manager at OGR at brook.chipman@mass.gov.