

**Q&A for AGF for
FFY 2022 State Traffic Safety Information System Improvements Grant,
Section 405(c) Funding**

as of 11/30/21

Q. I am looking into applying for the State Traffic Safety Information System Improvements Grant, but I am having difficulties figuring out what I could actually apply for? Am I allowed to apply for anything that would improve citation, crash, driver, EMS/Injury surveillance, roadway or vehicle or is it restricted to improvements to just the software/tracking data bases?

For instance would I be allowed to try and request new laptops for our cruisers so that MACCS works better or so we can have MACCS in all of our cruisers? Would I be able to request funding to get traffic cameras in town? Can I request funding for other safety items such as flashing school zone signs in town?

Basically can you translate what I can apply for in law enforcement terms? I don't know if I am just over thinking it or what, but I've read the application and paperwork several times and I am still confused.

A. The allowable uses of Section 405c funding detailed in this Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) are not limited to software improvements for the related data bases.

As noted in the AGF, any request to use these grant funds for equipment/software purchases must address a project need and be necessary for project implementation. No equipment purchase can be a 'stand-alone' one, but rather must be part of a broader project. See AGF and application for other response requirements.

In your example, it would be necessary to show how the proposed project would improve one or more performance attributes of the citation and/or crash systems (shown through a minimum of one appropriate measurable benchmark and performance measure) and meet at least one unmet related recommendation from the Commonwealth's 2019 Traffic Records Assessment. Additionally it would be required to show how the proposed laptop purchase aligns with MACCS and what other supporting efforts (405-c grant-funded or otherwise) would be undertaken to assist the impact of the project. The latter would be essential to show the project wasn't a stand-alone purchase. See AGF and application for other response requirements.

Security cameras were listed (page 7) in the AGF as an unallowable purchase under this grant program, and we would consider traffic cameras to be unallowable as well under this limitation. Likewise we would include flashing school zone signs as unallowable. Please

continue to monitor other grant funding opportunities from the Office of Grants and Research to possibly support these community needs.

Q. Regarding our current funding, how are you measuring the 30% complete requirement for applying for new funds?

A. As for the AGF requirement for a current grant award to be 30% or more complete at time of application for a new grant award, it will be determined to be met by how much funding is actually spent or at least committed in a PO(s) under the current award. And grant awards that must be split into two or more for the purposes of grant agreements in different federal fiscal years are considered to be one award.

Q. I read in the AGF that whatever is proposed, it must be “in alignment with MACCS.” Can you provide any more information or guidance?

A. There is no specific guidance regarding this AGF requirement. The determination as to whether a project related to the citation and/or crash systems does or doesn't align with MACCS is made during the review of a project first by the AGF Review Committee, then the Executive-level Traffic Records Coordinating Committee, and ultimately the Executive Director of the Office of Grants and Research, Secretary of Public Safety and Security, and the Governor's Office. For more on the project review process see the Application Review Process section on pages 8-9 of the AGF.

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. Additional Q&A that becomes available by the deadline for questions of 5:00 pm, 12/10/21 will be added to this document and made available on or about 12/13/21 at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/traffic-safety-grants>.