FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS AND AIRSPACE MONITORING

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Corporate Office

Hidden Level
1014 N Geddes Street
Syracuse, NY 13204

inquiries@hiddenlevel.com

SAFETY THROUGH SENSING™

Overview

With commercial drone use on the rise and the increasing frequency of rogue drone operators flying over public spaces, low-altitude airspace monitoring has become a critical piece of maintaining airspace safety. For most municipalities, a solution to the challenge of low-altitude airspace monitoring is needed to ensure the long-term viability and safety of the National Airspace System. However, newer technology initiatives such as airspace security are often not a predefined budget item with many municipalities and public agencies. Fortunately, there are currently **billions of dollars of federal funding available** to help cover costs for security-related innovations and upgrades.

1

Unprecedented opportunities for federal funding

In an average fiscal year, there are approximately **1,000 different federal grant programs** totaling approximately $400 billion for public agencies to do important things. 2022 is not a typical year. In the past 18 months the federal government has introduced **$6.2 trillion** of new pandemic-related spending. This includes funding from the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA programs, the Department of Justice, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of the Treasury's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

These numbers are staggering. Much of this funding can be used for communities and public agencies to undertake innovative and ambitious public safety–related initiatives they've been wanting to do in the past but have previously been unable to afford.

2

If you are a public agency, you are eligible for security-related federal funding

All public agencies are eligible for federal funding for security-related measures. Whether you're a city, county, state, a law enforcement agency, a port or a tribal government, you're able to get extra dollars through the federal government to undertake public safety–related initiatives.

One additional factor to consider is that unlike typical grant programs, which require federal approval before releasing funds, the decisions for how to allocate funds from the ARPA are community-based and only require reporting to the government after the money has been spent. Also keep in mind that ARPA funds must be spent by December 2024.

3

Making a use case

The most important thing to consider when applying for funding is not *what you're buying,* but rather, *why you're buying* it. This isn't a shopping list—this is about making the strongest possible use case for introducing an innovative new technology solution to an existing public safety challenge.

Think of it from the perspective of *"What problem are you solving?"* Make an effective argument of the different ways that something like Hidden Level's Airspace Monitoring System (AMS) can improve the safety and security of your community. That use case will then lead you to the federal funding streams that are going to be the best fit for your specific needs.

Critical elements of a successful application

When thinking about what resources to put forward when applying for funding, there are several important things to consider that will help you make a compelling case for funding. Don't be afraid to get creative about how to leverage these unique and time-sensitive opportunities:

Local commitment
Having the support of partner agencies within your community or within your state illustrates a high level of commitment to the project.

Innovation
Grants can provide an opportunity to show off and validate the innovation you're doing, and to show how other entities can also benefit from your efforts.

Research partners
Some federal grants require a research partner, but even if there's no requirement, research partners, such as a local university or community college, often have valuable experience putting together effective grant applications.

Letters of support
Members of Congress are always looking for ways to bring money home to constituents. Arm them with draft letters of support to go to federal agencies, talking points and other tools they can use to show support for your efforts.

Data
Many projects you may be applying for—including low-altitude airspace monitoring—may generate data. But if you have access to any relevant existing data, it can help bolster your use case and highlight the need for your solution.

History of past funding
Federal funding begets federal funding. If your community or agency has received federal funding in the past, be sure to mention it in your application. It proves you have a successful track record. And keep in mind—there's no penalty for applying for multiple grants.

The clock is ticking... The sooner you can start the process of applying for federal funds, the better your chances of receiving them. ARPA funds only have until December 2024 to spend. And competitive funds have varying deadlines throughout the year. Be proactive in your strategy.

Taking the first step

One question municipal leaders and strategic planners frequently face is how to start the process of applying for federal funds. Often those in charge of planning for police or fire departments in some communities may not realize that there are federal funds available for which they are eligible. Or perhaps they may not feel empowered to reach out to those in charge of the budget.

If you are interested in applying for federal funding to implement Hidden Level's AMS for your community, our consultant can help demystify the application process and guide you through the different steps involved. From providing language for grant applications, to identifying which funding opportunities are the best match for your situation, to helping to meet deadlines, to providing you with the tools you need to generate support, we can help give you a competitive advantage and achieve your goal of making your community's airspace safer and more secure. Visit **HiddenLevel.com** for more information or reach out to us at **inquiries@hiddenlevel.com** or **(315) 238-5137** to get started.

About Hidden Level's solution

Hidden Level's Airspace Monitoring Service is offered as a cloud-based service with no expensive on-premises equipment or software to be owned or maintained. Hidden Level sensors are strategically installed on existing infrastructure, buildings, rooftops, cell towers, etc. to form a comprehensive low-altitude airspace picture. AMS data easily integrates with many popular security platform providers, and customers can customize the service to only get what they need.