

FY14

PSAP GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION



VIRGINIA INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES AGENCY
Integrated Services Division



FY14 PSAP GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

HOW TO APPLY/DEADLINE

The grant application is available and accessible from VITA's Integrated Services Program's website

(<http://www.vita.virginia.gov/isp/default.aspx?id=8578>). Upon completion of the application, it is to be submitted to the PSAP Grant Manager, Lisa Nicholson, at lisa.nicholson@vita.virginia.gov. Any supporting documentation must also be submitted along with the application, including mandatory budgets for projects (if applicable).

After submission, the PSAP Grant Manager will assign a Grant ID and send an e-mail notification to the project contact e-mail address listed on the application received.

All funding requests must be submitted using the grant application. Technical assistance is available from VITA's Public Safety Communications (PSC) staff throughout the grant process. The FY14 PSAP Grant Application Cycle starts July 1, 2012 and concludes on October 31, 2012 at 5:00 pm.

ALL APPLICABLE SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ITS ENTIRETY OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE AND NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION.



FY14 PSAP GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT TITLE

Regional GIS Map Repository (MERG2)

GRANT APPLICANT PROFILE/PROJECT CONTACT

PSAP/HOST PSAP NAME: Twin County E-911 Regional Commission

CONTACT TITLE: Regional E911 Coordinator

CONTACT FIRST NAME: Jolena

CONTACT LAST NAME: Young

ADDRESS 1: PO Box 510

ADDRESS 2: 353 N Main St

CITY: Galax

ZIP CODE: VA

CONTACT EMAIL: jyoung@galaxva.com

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 276-236-5122

CONTACT MOBILE NUMBER: 276-233-3231

CONTACT FAX NUMBER: 276-236-2965

REGIONAL COORDINATOR: Tim Addington

HOST PSAP AND PARTICIPATING PSAPS/LOCALITIES

Twin County (Host)	Giles County
Bland County	Pulaski County
Floyd County	Tazewell County
Patrick (Non-Grant Participant)	Wythe/Wytheville (Non-Grant Participant)

GRANT TYPE

Individual PSAP

Consolidation

Regional Initiative

Secondary Consolidation



GRANT PROGRAM TYPE

X Continuity and Consolidation

Enhancement

TIER

Out of Service

Non-Vendor Supported*

Technically Outdated*

X Strengthen

Not Applicable

If technically outdated or non-vendor supported, application MUST include age and/or version of hardware/software.

VERSION:

YEARS of HARDWARE/SOFTWARE:

PROJECT FOCUS PRIMARY MAPPING SUPPORT

If "Other" selected, please specify: ~~IT~~

FINANCIAL DATA

Amount Requested: \$ 316,770

Total Project Cost: \$ 316,770



STATEMENT OF NEED

This statement should reference the relationship to the current funding priorities established by the Grant Committee and include evidence of any financial need, along with additional information on the impact on operational services; consequences of not receiving funding; inclusion of project in a long-term or a strategic plan; and local sustainability:

This is a regional Continuity and Consolidation Program application for funding to primary PSAPs serving the financially handicapped populations of Southwest Virginia. Wythe County and Wytheville are integral partners, but are not direct beneficiaries of these grants funds as they are completing a prior award.

This project is being presented in tiers in case full funding is not available. Tiers include:

1. Create a GIS repository (MERG2) to enable a regional map for back-up/mutual aid for the Bland, Twin County, Wythe/Wytheville regional collaboration.
2. Include remaining southwest counties in the regional MERG/MERG2 GIS repository.
3. Implement optional features so that MERG2 has the same look and feel and functionality as MERG.

The project builds on two regional collaborative efforts.

Firstly, Bland, Twin County and Wythe County are in the process of implementing geo-diverse call-processing equipment as a first step to enable site-redundancy for disaster planning/recovery. A regional map repository is a necessary additional component for creating site redundancy.

Secondly, this project builds on the success of MERG. MERG was created to build a GIS repository and a seamless regional data model. It was created to allow members to efficiently share data which before was an arduous task taking many hours of staff time to communicate with all the jurisdictions around them in order to obtain data. Now fully implemented, it has become the model for other localities in Southwest VA to develop a second hub so that more PSAPs will have the benefit of being able to use adjacent PSAP's data in their mapping system for dispatching wireless calls and multi-jurisdiction emergency response. GIS data from each of the localities will be updated into the system daily and appropriate data is outputted back to each PSAP to update their mapping system. Data will be shared between MERG and MERG2 to enable sharing of all region data. MERG2, like MERG, will also have a regional web site that allows members to see the entire region providing a tool for regional emergency planning.

Another great aspect of MERG2 is that VG1N will have access to the member's GIS data. VGIN now uses FTP to download the data from one location rather than contacting each locality to request updated data. As more localities are added to MERG and MERG2 it will save VGIN even more time and expense.



The purchase of equipment and services for this project directly supports the continuity and enhancement of wireless E-911 by providing site and equipment redundancy. This regional NG 9-1-1 enabled CPE project is number 27 in funding priority for the Continuity and Consolidation Program in the 2014 grant cycle. However, the regional collaboration may merit more weight. Although site redundancy is the current vision, this moves one step closer to eliminating technical barriers to possible future consolidation.

The host applicant is Twin County E-911, a primary PSAP serving all the City of Galax and the Counties of Carroll and Grayson. Twin County E-911 serves nearly 1,000 square miles of rugged mountainous terrain along the Blue Ridge in the Southwest corner of the Commonwealth. Our citizens are financially handicapped and under-employed. It may be hard to imagine a place where 31% of the individuals live below poverty level (triple the state average); where unemployment doubles the state rate; and where the median household income is \$22,105 which is nearly two-thirds less than the average Virginia household income of \$61,126. But these hard facts do define us.

By comparison to Twin Counties and Galax, the economic statistics in Bland County are vastly improved, but they still fall far short of state and national figures and clearly express financial need. In Bland County, the median household income is \$42,231, nearly one-third less than the average Virginia household income. Non-applicants Wythe County and Wytheville, who are presently completing a consolidation award, are similarly situated with a median household income of \$38,490, which is one-third less than the average Virginia household income.

Giles, Pulaski, Floyd and Tazewell have similar economic statistics as Bland and Twin Counties.

Likewise, our local governments have not been immune to the financial constraints of their taxpayers and tax base. The applicant localities have suffered by making budget cuts in many areas where it can, including personnel and not filling vacancies. Despite the urgent and compelling need for 911 services, the reality is simply that we cannot afford to do this without grant assistance.

Without grant funding, the PSAPs in this regional project will not be able to address their needs. There is no other source of funding for this project. The applicants, their localities and the citizens they serve are at a crippling financial disadvantage. The PSAPs covering Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Pulaski, and Tazewell Counties and the City of Galax will continue to be behind neighboring PSAP's in mapping capabilities and at risk to provide continuous uninterrupted 9-1-1 service to their communities.



By leveraging MERG design and using an existing server located in Wythe Counties to create a second GIS repository, this project provides participating agencies with access to current surrounding county mapping data. This will vastly improve first responder services to properties bordering boundaries where a mutual aid agency is primary response.

The regional map will also move Bland, Twin County and Wythe/Wytheville closer to site redundancy.

Finally, MERG and MERG2 provide a tool for VGIN to access ~100% of Region IV maps.

Describe how the grant will be maintained and supported in the future, if applicable.

Five years support has been built into the grant request. In addition, a MERG2 Steering Team will be formed and a Memo of Understanding developed to guide the strategic direction and future funding. The Steering Team will be fashioned after that in place for MERG. It is envisioned that similar to MERG each participant will pay an annual maintenance fee for GIS and IT support of approximately \$3,000. The monies will be requested from the local Board of Supervisors or budgeting agents to maintain the MERG system. The grant funding will offset those costs by allowing the localities to only provide maintenance costs and not the burden of the initial hardware and configuration costs.



COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a thorough, concise, and complete description of the project, including an outline of the goals and objectives, implementation strategy, and a work plan.

The goals of the project are to:

1. Create a second Region IV Repository fashioned after MERG. Depending on funding level, this repository will host 3-7 additional Region IV localities resulting in ~100 percent of Region 4 PSAPs map data connected together using VPN and ArcGIS Server Replication.
2. Create a technologically safe and efficient environment for map data to be exchanged between the repository and local sites daily
3. Edge match surrounding county data
4. Create a mapping between local data and repository data for minimal impact to local maps
5. Establish tools to enhance the user interface for the GIS repository (optional)

Phase/Task	Assigned	End Date
<u>Initiation</u>		
Document Project Concept	J Young	9/30/2012
Meet with Vendor to Review Project Concept	J Young	9/30/2012
Obtain Budgetary Estimates	J Young	9/30/2012
Obtain Participation letters from participating localiti	J Young	10/19/2012
File PSAP grant application	J Young	10/31/2012
Receive grant funding decisions	J Young	1/31/2013
<u>Design and Planning</u>		
Document detail requirements	Team	6/30/2013
Define Critical Success Factors	Team	6/30/2013
Develop detail design	Team	6/30/2013
Review design with stakeholders	Team	6/30/2013
ID components to be purchased based on final design	Team	6/30/2013
Develop test and training plans	Team	6/30/2013
<u>Acquisition</u>		
Draft RFP	Team	7/30/2013
Document for Sole Source Procurement	J Young	7/30/2013
Obtain Quotes	Team	8/30/2013
Sign Contract(s)	J Young	9/15/2013
Issue Purchase Orders	J Young	9/15/2013
Request Grant Fund Draw Down	J Young	3/31/2014



Implementation		
Determine delivery and installation dates	Team	9/15/2013
Schedule GIS edgematch & modelling activities	Team	9/15/2013
Develop implementation plan	Team	9/15/2013
Review implementation plan with stakeholders	Team	9/15/2013
Excute implementation against plan	Team	12/31/2012
Train users	Team	12/31/2012
Testing/Completion		
Execute the test plan	Team	1/31/2014
Validate system performance	Team	1/31/2014
Develop a fail-back strategy	Team	1/31/2014
Go Live	Team	1/31/2014
Measure and report on critical success factors	Team	3/31/2014

Note: Implementation and Testing/Completion Timelines may change based on development of implementation plan.

FOR CONTINUITY AND CONSOLIDATION OR ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS:

PROJECT TIMELINE – Select each applicable phase of the project and indicate the estimated completion date. Sample activities for each phase can be found in the PSAP Grant Program Guidelines as well as on the addendum to this form.

PROJECT PHASE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
X INITIATION (Project approved by appropriate stakeholders)	01 / 31 / 13
X DESIGN/PLANNING (Project, system, or solution requirements are developed)	06 / 30 / 13
X ACQUISITION (Selected system or solution is procured)	09 / 15 / 13
X IMPLEMENTATION (Selected system or solution is configured and installed)	12 / 31 / 13
X TESTING/COMPLETION (Selected system or solution is tested and put in production)	03 / 31 / 14



Identify the longevity or sustainability of the project.

As noted in the statement of need, the funding request includes 5 years maintenance. In addition, a MERG2 Steering Team will be formed and a Memo of Understanding developed to guide the strategic direction and future funding. The Steering Team will be fashioned after that in place for MERG. Additionally, it is envisioned that similar to MERG each participant will pay an annual maintenance fee for GIS and IT support of approximately \$3,000, and \$100-\$200 toward the server maintenance.

However, even if/when MERG and MERG2 were to become obsolete, the need to access regional and statewide data will still exist --- even more so with NG911. The GIS edge matching and the structure for collaborative working would be necessary for any regional/statewide mapping repository.

Describe how this project supports the Virginia Statewide Comprehensive 9-1-1 Plan.

This project supports both goals of the Virginia Statewide Comprehensive 9-1-1 Plan and seeks to fulfill an important initiative. There are only two goals in the Virginia Statewide Comprehensive 9-1-1 Plan. The first goal is provide a standard level of 9-1-1 emergency dispatch services to the public. *When achieved, this goal will provide consistent 9-1-1 emergency dispatch services to anyone residing in or passing through the Commonwealth, at any time of day, and during any event. Consistent service means that all 9-1-1 centers can receive, process, and dispatch "calls" in a dependable and repeatable manner.* As noted in the Statement of Need, a regional map will facilitate up to date information for surrounding counties enhancing mutual aid across boundaries. It is also a building block for disaster planning to ensure seamless service for system or site failures.

The second goal of the Virginia Statewide Comprehensive 9-1-1 Plan is to position 9-1-1 centers to continuously meet the public's expectations. *When achieved, this goal will allow Virginia to keep up with the rapid pace of technology innovation and therefore the constant changes in customers' expectations.* However, again as reflected in the statement of our need for this project, our localities are behind the curve of most PSAP's with access to regional maps enabling the ability to switch sites seamlessly.

A crucial element of 911 PSAP operations is to ensure the GIS map data, ALI database, and MSAG are maintained properly for accurate 9-1-1 call plotting. This project will provide the nine (9) PSAPs with industry standard hardware and software necessary to keep the GIS data in the dispatch center up-to-date. This project will be used to provide continuity of operations in the MERG2 PSAPs by providing a standard level of emergency response service to the public by providing dispatch with the surrounding jurisdictions mapping data.



REGIONAL INITIATIVE (if applicable)

The relationship of the initiative to the participating PSAPs:

Twin County will be fiscal agent for the project.

This initiative builds on the regional alliance between Bland and Twin County as participating PSAP's, and Wythe/Wytheville as non-grant participants.

Wythe/Wytheville as non-grant participants has agreed to the use of their mapping server for the MERG2 repository.

Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Tazewell are surrounding counties for Bland, and Twin County. There data is needed to facilitate a complete Virginia map for Bland and Twin County. Additionally, by participating, these jurisdictions get the benefit of up-to-date surrounding county data for the participants of MERG and MERG2. It also gives them a tool to share data as other GIS Repositories are developed.

As a surrounding county, Patrick County is being included as a non-grant partner to provide a complete Region IV map repository.

Washington and Smyth Counties are non-grant partners to champion the linking of MERG and MERG2 with the MERG Steering Team.

Intended collaborative efforts:

The participants will share in the development and maintenance of a new regional technology infrastructure to enable daily GIS repository updates of edge matched mapping data. Localities will participate on a MERG2 Steering Team to manage operating framework and strategic direction.

This allows VGIN to download the data from one location rather than contacting all fifteen (15) localities individually.

MERG has a regional web site that allows members to see the entire region providing a tool for regional emergency planning There are also plans to add the VDEM Viper application to the regional website allowing current up to date map data for eighty-five (85) percent of Region IV to be viewed as a layer on the VIPER.

With the MERG Virtual Private Network (VPN), the foundation has been and will be set for future applications such as radio over IP and the ability to view all the active 911 calls, CAD incidents, and AVL in one web application.



Resource sharing:

Wythe/Wytheville will be used to create the regional GIS repository to be used by all the participants and VGIN. The repository may also be linked with other GIS repositories.

How does the initiative impact the operational or strategic plans of the participating agencies:

This project will enable all participants and VGIN to improve operational efficiency and timeliness in exchanging map data.

This project will enable Bland and Twin County to put in place another regional tool toward a Strategic Goal to enable off-site redundancy.

CONSOLIDATION (Primary or Secondary) - (if applicable)

How would a consolidation take place and provide improved service:

N/A

How should it be organized and staffed:

N/A



What services should it perform:

N/A

How should policies be made and changed:

N/A

How should it be funded:

N/A

What communication changes or improvements should be made in order to better support operations:

N/A



BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE

List the planned expenditures to be made with grant funds. (NOTE: In lieu of a line item breakdown, an itemized cost schedule or detailed vendor prepared quote may be submitted as an attachment.) Briefly explain the reason for each requested budget item and provide the basis for its cost:

This project is being presented in tiers in case full funding is not available. Tiers include:		
1. Create a GIS repository (MERC2) to enable a regional map for back-up/mutual aid		
2. Include remaining southwest counties in the regional MERG/MERC2 GIS		
3. Implement optional features so that MERC2 has the same look and feel and		
1 - GIS Repository Server Hub Costs		
ArcInfo license for Server from Esri		\$8,910
ArcEditor license support from Esri (5 years)		\$12,360
SQL License		\$3,000
Individual Site Cost - Bland		\$25,200
Individual Site Cost - Twin County		\$25,200
Subtotal		\$74,670
2 - Include Remaining Southwest Counties		
Individual Site Cost - Floyd		\$25,200
Individual Site Cost - Giles		\$25,200
Individual Site Cost - Pulaski		\$25,200
Individual Site Cost - Tazewell		\$25,200
Individual Site Cost - Patrick (non-grant participant)		\$25,200
Subtotal		\$126,000
3 - User Interface for GIS Repository		
ArcGIS Server software from Esri		\$18,000
ArcGIS Server support from Esri (5 years)		\$20,600
Worldview Regional Web site and Web Portal		\$44,450
Worldview setup costs		\$9,700
Worldview on-going support (5 years)		\$23,350
Subtotal		\$116,100
Project Total		\$316,770



EVALUATION

How will the project be evaluated and measured for achievement and success:

Our performance measures will begin with proper purchases of equipment and services to achieve a new regional GIS Repository and exchange technology infrastructure. Procurement will be in accordance with all federal, state and local procurement standards. After installation of the equipment and implementation of the services, each PSAP will be able to update the GIS repository and local maps as determined by a detailed evaluation plan. Each PSAP will record these performance measures and report them to the host applicant for inclusion on the final report.

-- Intentionally Blank --

Jolena Young

From: Brandon Moore <moore@king-moore.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:05 PM
To: jyoung@GalaxVa.com
Subject: CostEstimateforMERG_II.xls
Attachments: CostEstimateforMERG_II.xls

Jolena, here are the costs for MERG II that I calculate. When you want to discuss just let me know.

Thanks,
Brandon

MERG II - Per County Costs

Server (provided by the County)	\$0
Network Switch (HP ProCurve 24port gigabit switch)	\$1,200
Fortinet 50B firewall (dual port WAN, 3 port LAN, IPSEC and SSL VPN) (3 year warranty)	\$1,800
Cables/rack/etc.	\$200
IT Labor	\$4,000
GIS Labor	\$3,000
IT support 5 years (\$1,500/year)	\$7,500
GIS support 5 years (\$1,500/year)	\$7,500
total per locality	\$25,200
# of localities	8
Total	\$201,600

MERG II - Server Hub Costs

ArcGIS Server software from Esri	\$18,000 opt
ArcGIS Server support from Esri (5 years)	\$20,600 opt
ArcInfo license for Server from Esri	\$8,910
ArcEditor license support from Esri (5 years)	\$12,360
SQL License	\$3,000
Worldview Regional Web site and Web Portal	\$44,450 opt
Worldview setup costs	\$9,700 opt
Worldview on-going support (5 years)	\$23,350 opt
	\$140,370

Grand Total \$341,970
 \$225,870 total without options



Communications Division
Tazewell County 911 Center
315 School Street, Suite 9
Tazewell, VA 24651
Office: (276) 988-0645 / Fax: (276) 988-5012



Memo

To: Dorothy Spears-Dean and Wireless Board Grant Committee
From: Derrick S. Ruble, Director of 911 & Emergency Communications
Date: 10/21/2012
Re: FY14 Regional Grant Application

Tazewell County 911 is supportive of participating in a regional grant submission with Bland, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Patrick, and Twin County PSAP's for the planning, design and implementation of a second Region IV GIS Repository (hereafter referred to as MERG2).

This project will directly improve each of the participating PSAP's ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along county borders. MERG, which was developed with Wireless PSAP Grant funding, has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.



TO: Dorothy Spears-Dean and Wireless Board Grant Committee

FROM: Eric Workman, County Administrator, County of Bland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Workman", is written over the "FROM:" line.

DATE: October 29, 2012

REF: FY14 Regional Grant Application

COUNTY
of
BLAND

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

Lace M. Ashbury, IV
Chairman
Seddon Election District

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Vice Chairman
Sharon Election District

Karen H. Hodock
Rocky Gap Election District

Randy Johnson
Mechanicsburg Election District

*Eric R. Workman, Sr.,
County Administrator*

P.O. Box 510
Bland, Virginia 24315

Telephone 276 688 4622
Toll free 800 519 3468
Fax 276 688 9758

Email:
eworkman@bland.org
www.bland.org

Bland County is supportive of participating in a regional grant submission with Bland, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Patrick, Pulaski, Tazewell and Twin County PSAP's for the planning, design and implementation of a second Region IV GIS repository (hereafter referred to as MERG2). This project will directly improve each of the participating PSAP's ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along county borders. MERG, which was developed with Wireless PSAP Grant funding, has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.

Floyd County Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 218

Floyd, Virginia

24091

TO: Dorothy Spears-Dean and Wireless Board Grant Committee

FROM: Daniel J. Campbell DC

DATE: October 25, 2012

REF: FY14 Regional Grant Application

Floyd County is supportive of participating in a regional grant submission with Bland, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Patrick, Pulaski, Tazewell and Twin County PSAP's for the planning, design and implementation of a second Region IV GIS repository (hereafter referred to as MERG2). This project will directly improve each of the participating PSAP's ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along county borders. MERG, which was developed with Wireless PSAP Grant funding, has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.

TO: Dorothy Spears-Dean and Wireless Board Grant Committee

FROM: Peter Huber, County Administrator
{ Pulaski }



DATE: October 25, 2012

REF: FY14 Regional Grant Application

County is supportive of participating in a regional grant submission with Bland, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Patrick, Pulaski, Tazewell and Twin County PSAP's for the planning, design and implementation of a second Region IV GIS repository (hereafter referred to as MERG2). This project will directly improve each of the participating PSAP's ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along county borders. MERG, which was developed with Wireless PSAP Grant funding, has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.

Jolena Young

From: John Davis <jdavis@gilessheriff.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 12:11 AM
To: John Spangler; Lorin Hanshew; Bobby Clark; cwthomas@franklincountyva.org; jyoung@galaxva.com; Bryan Reed; Mickie Martin; Derrick Ruble
Cc: Timothy (VITA) Addington; Ikey Davidson; Albert Newberry
Subject: RE: VITA FY2014 Regional Grant

Yes Giles County is interested in this MERG project!

Thanks,

John Davis
911 Supervisor
Giles County Sheriff's Office
701 Mt Lake Ave
Pearisburg, VA 24134
Email: jdavis@gilessheriff.org
Phone: 540-921-4562
Cell: 540-599-4511
Fax: 540-921-0154

From: John Spangler [<mailto:jspangler@pulaskicounty.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 8:26 AM
To: Lorin Hanshew; Bobby Clark; cwthomas@franklincountyva.org; jyoung@galaxva.com; Bryan Reed; John Davis; Mickie Martin; Derrick Ruble
Cc: Timothy (VITA) Addington; Ikey Davidson; Albert Newberry
Subject: RE: VITA FY2014 Regional Grant

Pulaski County would like to be included in the MERG project.
There was an attempt a few years back to include more counties in the MERG project but the grant funding dried up! Pulaski County was part of that effort at that time.

John W. Spangler
52 W. Main Street, Suite 350
Pulaski, VA 24301
(540) 980-7714
(540) 230-3885 Mobile

>>> Eric Workman <eworkman@bland.org> 10/1/2012 2:07 PM >>>

Attachment 2 - Participation Memos continued

Bland County is interested.

Eric R. Workman, Ed. D.

County Administrator

County of Bland, Virginia

PO Box 510

Bland, VA 24315

Office 276-688-4622

Fax 276-688-9758

From: Jolena Young [mailto:jyoung@galaxva.com]

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 1:35 PM

To: jdavis@gilessheriff.org; cwthomas@franklincountyva.org; 'Derrick Ruble'; jspangler@pulaskicounty.org; Mickie Martin; bleed@gilescounty.org; 'Bobby Clark'; Lorin Hanshew; Eric Workman

Cc: Addington, Timothy (VITA); Ikey Davidson; Albert Newberry

Subject: VITA FY2014 Regional Grant

As way of introduction, I am the Regional Coordinator for Galax, Carroll and Grayson. I am working with Wythe/Wytheville and Bland on a regional grant concept, and Tim Addington suggested I reach out to each of you to determine if you would be interested in participating in a FY2014 Regional Grant. The Grant would be to create a second MERG Hub for the eastern part of SW Virginia. If you are not familiar, MERG is a mapping repository of locality maps that is updated nightly. The major benefit of course is ready access to current Surrounding County data. Activities included in the grant would include at a high level:

- 1) Purchase of ARC server software to set-up a sub-region hub in Wythe/Wytheville
- 2) Mapping local layers to MERG format
- 3) Edge matching boundaries and roads between counties
- 4) Set-up of firewall and 'local server' for daily update

Please respond with one of the following:

• **Not interested – Already Participating in a FY2014 Regional Grant application**

• **Not interested**

• **Yes I am interested in further information**

Tim – Is there anything you would like to add?

Jolena Young

Twin County Regional 911 Coordinator

Attachment 3 - Non-Participating Grant Memo confirming Wythe County's support to use their existing server for a regional repository.



Memorandum:

To: Dorothy Spears-Dean and Wireless Board Grant Committee
From: R. Cellell Dalton, County Administrator 
Re: FY 14 Regional Grant
Date: October 30, 2012

MERG, which was developed with Wireless PSAP Grant funding, has been a great success for the six counties involved in it. Wythe/Wytheville 9-1-1 is supportive of allowing their server to be utilized in a regional grant submission with Bland, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Patrick, Pulaski, Tazewell and Twin County PSAP's for the planning, design and implementation of a second Region IV GIS repository (hereafter referred to as MERG2). This project will directly improve each of the participating PSAP's ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along county borders. Wythe/Wytheville will be a non-grant participant.

MERG was created to build a GIS repository and a seamless regional data model. It was created to allow members to efficiently share data which before was an arduous task taking many hours of staff time to communicate with all the jurisdictions around them in order to obtain data. Now fully implemented, it has become the model for other localities in Southwest VA to develop a second hub so that more PSAPs will have the benefit of being able to use adjacent PSAP's data in their mapping system for dispatching wireless calls and multi-jurisdiction emergency response. GIS data from each of the localities will be updated into the system daily and appropriate data is outputted back to each PSAP to update their mapping system. Additionally, data will be shared between MERG and MERG2 to enable sharing of all region data. MERG2, like MERG, will also have a regional web site that allows members to see the entire region providing a tool for regional emergency planning.

MERG was designed to encourage other surrounding jurisdictions to join by creating sophisticated models and scripting on the ESRI platform that allow various data structures and formats to be replicated into the MERG data model. Therefore, the system does not require members to modify the structure, naming conventions, or format of their existing GIS data. This encourages localities to join MERG/MERG2 as there is no impact to their current GIS processes already in place. It also serves as a backup system for their data.

Another great aspect of MERG2 is that VG1N will have access to the member's GIS data. VG1N now uses FTP to download the data from one location rather than contacting each locality to request updated data. As more localities are added to MERG and MERG2 it will save VG1N even more time and expense.

With the funding being requested, a second hub and six more PSAPs will be added to the MERG2 which will provide a near complete region IV data repository. The funding being requested will provide the needed hardware and software needed to join the MERG2 VPN. It will also provide the services needed to add each localities data to the data model and updating process based on each localities data structure. Localities will also be working together as the original MERG partners did to find a common agreement on jurisdictional boundaries and edge matching of data layers.

Thank you very much for considering this request.