

OLR Backgrounder: Body Cameras, Dashboard Cameras, and Other Police Recording Equipment

By: George Miles, Associate Attorney
August 19, 2020 | 2020-R-0173

Issue

This report summarizes state law concerning body-worn recording equipment (i.e., body cameras), dashboard cameras, and electronic defense weapon recording equipment.

Summary

Current state statutes generally require police officers to use body cameras while interacting with the public in their law enforcement capacity if they are sworn members of (1) the State Police; (2) one of, currently, nine public university or college special police forces; or (3) one of, currently, 38 municipal police departments that have received certain state reimbursement grants for body camera purchases. Sworn members of all other municipal police departments, of which there are currently 56, are expressly permitted to use body cameras ([CGS § 29-6d\(c\)](#), as amended by [PA 19-11](#)). (State law regulates the use of body cameras by members of all other state and tribal law enforcement units that are currently absent from CGS § 29-6d, but it does not currently expressly authorize or prohibit their use.) In total, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities estimates that at least 47 cities and towns currently have police with body cameras and an additional 80 small towns are patrolled by state troopers with body cameras (see this [July 22, 2020, publication](#)).

By January 1, 2021, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) must equip every State Police uniformed trooper with a body camera and every Connecticut State Police marked vehicle with a dashboard camera (Governor Lamont's [Executive Order No. 8](#)). Beginning July 1, 2022, a new law (1) expands the state statutes' body camera requirement to all sworn

members of state, municipal, and tribal law enforcement units and members of those units who perform police duties and (2) obligates each of those units to require the use of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder in each police patrol vehicle used by any of the officers it employs ([CGS § 29-6d](#), as amended by [PA 20-1, July Special Session](#) (JSS)).

State law requires, among other things, that police basic and review training programs conducted or administered by the State Police, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), and municipal police departments include training on using body cameras and retaining the records they create ([CGS § 7-294s](#)). It also (1) prescribes how body cameras must be worn, (2) requires officers to regularly inspect and report on the condition of the body cameras, (3) prohibits altering or sharing camera recordings except as required by state or federal law, and (4) makes some specific recordings confidential. Several existing body camera requirements will apply to dashboard cameras with a remote recorder starting on July 1, 2022 ([CGS § 29-6d](#), as amended by [PA 19-11](#), [PA 19-90](#), and [PA 20-1, JSS](#)).

The DESPP commissioner and POST are responsible for producing, and revising as necessary, (1) minimal technical specifications for body cameras, dashboard cameras with a remote recorder, and digital data storage devices or services used to retain the cameras' recordings; (2) guidelines on camera use and data retention; and (3) minimum standards and practices regarding the use of body cameras ([CGS §§ 29-6d\(b\) & \(j\)](#), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#), and [7-294ee\(a\)](#)).

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) must administer (1) up to \$12 million in grants to DESPP and municipalities for purchasing certain body cameras, dashboard cameras with a remote recorder, electronic defense weapon recording equipment, and digital data storage devices or services and (2) an up to \$4 million grant program to aid similar purchases by municipalities ([PA 15-1, June Special Session](#), as amended by [PA 20-1](#), [CGS § 7-277b](#), as amended by [PA 19-11](#) and [PA 20-1](#), and [PA 20-1, JSS](#)).

Relatedly, the legislature established the Body-Worn Recording Equipment Task Force and the Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force to study and make recommendations on, among other things, the use of body cameras by police ([PA 17-225](#), as amended by [PA 18-187](#), and [PA 19-90](#), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)). As of the date of this report and according to the Body-Worn Recording Equipment Task Force's administrator, it has never met or submitted a report. The [Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force](#) has met several times and published a draft report (see the [June 30, 2020, version](#)). Among that report's preliminary priorities and recommendations is to mandate body-worn cameras in all departments.

Current DESPP-POST Administrative Materials

Minimal Technical Specifications

By law, the DESPP commissioner and POST must jointly evaluate and approve minimal technical specifications of (1) body cameras for police officers to wear and (2) digital storage devices or services for law enforcement agencies to use to retain cameras' recorded data. They must also make the specifications available to law enforcement agencies and may revise them as necessary ([CGS § 29-6d\(b\)](#)). The current version of the specifications, dated December 21, 2015, is available [here](#). It provides detailed requirements on, among other things, minimum video resolution, battery run-time, and cloud storage security standards.

Guidelines

Under state law, the DESPP commissioner and POST must jointly issue guidelines on using body cameras, retaining their data, and storing the data safely and securely. They may update and reissue the guidelines as necessary and submit them to the Judiciary and Public Safety and Security committees ([CGS § 29-6d\(j\)](#)). The current version of the guidelines, published as POST General Notice 15-05 and dated November 23, 2015, is available in Pdf form [here](#) and in Word form [here](#). It establishes, among other things, use procedures, supervisory personnel responsibilities, and file access directions as well as incorporating several provisions from CGS § 29-6d.

Minimum Standards and Practices

By law, POST and the DESPP commissioner or his designee must jointly develop, adopt, and revise, as necessary, minimum standards and practices for administering and managing law enforcement. They must be based on standards established by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) and include standards and practices regarding, among other things, body camera use. POST must publish the minimum standards and practices on its website and distribute them to all state, municipal, and tribal law enforcement units ([CGS § 7-294ee\(a\)](#)).

The current version of these standards and practices, published within POST General Notice 20-04 and dated June 12, 2020, is available [here](#). Regarding body cameras, they require law enforcement units that use them to have a policy that meets or exceeds the guidelines described above in POST General Notice 15-05.

Current Body Camera Law – CGS § 29-6d

Police Officers Subject to the Statute

Required Users

CGS § 29-6d generally requires, with specific exceptions detailed below, that three sets of sworn police officers use body cameras while interacting with the public in their law enforcement capacities. First, are those in the State Police. Second, are those in public university and college special police forces. Specifically, those at UConn, Central Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Western Connecticut State University, and certain regional community technical college campuses (the forces at the community colleges are not automatically established by statute but instead subject to the Board of Regents for Higher Education’s approval) ([CGS §§ 29-6d\(c\)\(1\)](#), as amended by [PA 19-11](#), and [10a-156b](#)). As of the date of this report and according to the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, police forces have been approved at four of the twelve community colleges: Capital Community College, Gateway Community College, Manchester Community College, and Naugatuck Valley Community College.

The third set of officers are generally those in municipal police departments that have received a reimbursement grant from OPM for body cameras ([CGS § 29-6d\(c\)\(1\)](#), as amended by [PA 19-11](#)). Based on this [OPM webpage](#), out of 94 municipalities with police departments, 38 have received grants, specifically:

Bloomfield	Fairfield	Monroe	Old Saybrook	Vernon
Branford	Glastonbury	Naugatuck	Orange	Watertown
Bridgeport	Groton Town	New Haven	Plainfield	Wethersfield
Cheshire	Hamden	Newtown	Putnam	Wilton
Coventry	Hartford	North Branford	Redding	Wolcott
Darien	Ledyard	North Haven	Southbury	Woodbridge
East Haven	Middlebury	Norwalk	Stratford	
Easton	Milford	Norwich	Torrington	

There is a limitation on this requirement for officers of municipalities that only received a grant based on body camera purchases made from January 1, 2012, through June 30, 2016, because state law does not require those municipalities to have purchased a sufficient quantity of cameras. Which, if any, of the 38 grant recipient municipalities made those types of purchases are not readily identified based on OPM’s online publications. The limitation for officers of those municipalities is that they are required to use a body camera to the extent their department supplies one to them ([CGS § 29-6d\(c\)\(1\)\(D\)](#), as amended by [PA 19-11](#)).

Authorized Users

Sworn members of all other municipal police departments are permitted to use body cameras as directed by their departments provided it is in accordance with state law ([CGS § 29-6d\(c\)\(2\)](#)).

Terms of Use

Training

State law generally prohibits the police officers from using body cameras until they receive training from the State Police, POST, or a municipal police department on using the cameras and retaining the data they create. Officers' respective agencies must ensure that they receive training at least annually, including training on the proper care and maintenance of cameras. Police basic and review training programs conducted or administered by the State Police, POST, and municipal police departments must include training on using body cameras and retaining the records they create ([CGS §§ 29-6d\(h\)](#) and [7-294s](#)).

Body Camera Technical Specifications

The police officers must generally use body cameras that conform to the above DESPP-POST minimal technical specifications but may use non-conforming cameras if they were purchased by their agencies before January 1, 2016 ([CGS § 29-6d\(c\)\(4\)](#)).

Regular Inspection

By law, the police officers must (1) inspect and test their body cameras before each shift to verify proper functioning; (2) notify their supervisors of problems found during inspection; and (3) inform supervisors, as soon as practicable, about lost, damaged, or malfunctioning cameras. When notified about lost, damaged, or malfunctioning cameras, supervisors must ensure they are inspected and repaired or replaced, as necessary ([CGS § 29-6d\(i\)](#)).

Body Placement

When using a body camera, each police officer must wear it on his or her outer-most garment and above the midline of the torso ([CGS § 29-6d\(c\)\(3\)](#)).

Guidelines

Under [CGS § 29-6d\(j\)](#), the police officers are required to follow the DESPP-POST guidelines on using body cameras (i.e., [POST General Notice 15-05](#)). These guidelines incorporate several CGS § 29-6d provisions, including on body camera placement and inspection.

Restrictions

By law, the police officers are prohibited from using body cameras to intentionally record the following occurrences or situations, unless an agreement between the officer's agency and the federal government provides otherwise:

1. communications with State Police, municipal police department, or public university or college special police force personnel unless recorded within the performance of the officers' duties;
2. encounters with undercover officers or informants;
3. officers on break or engaged in personal activities;
4. people undergoing medical or psychological evaluations, procedures, or treatments;
5. people, other than criminal suspects, in a hospital or medical facility; or
6. in a mental health facility unless responding to a call involving a criminal suspect in the facility ([CGS § 29-6d\(g\)\(1\)](#)).

Management of Recordings

Handling in General

State Police, municipal police department, and public university or college special police force employees are prohibited from editing, erasing, copying, sharing, altering, or distributing any body camera recording or its data except as required by state or federal law ([CGS § 29-6d\(d\)](#)).

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Exemptions

By law, certain body camera recordings are exempted from disclosure under Connecticut's FOIA and must be confidential. Specifically, recordings:

1. involving any of the six occurrences or situations described above that police officers are generally prohibited from intentionally recording;
2. of incident scenes involving victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, homicide, suicide, or a fatal accident if disclosure could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; or
3. of a minor.

However, recordings of a minor must be disclosed if:

1. the minor and his or her parent or guardian consent to disclosure;

2. the minor or his or her parent or guardian alleges police misconduct, and the person representing the accused officer in an investigation requests disclosure solely to prepare a defense; or
3. a person is charged with a crime and his or her counsel requests disclosure solely to aid in the person's defense, provided the record's discovery as evidence is otherwise allowed ([CGS § 29-6d\(g\)\(2\)](#)).

Review in General

The police officers may review recordings from their body cameras to assist in preparing a report or in the performance of their duties ([CGS § 29-6d\(e\)](#)).

Review Based on Use of Force or Discipline

When giving a formal statement about the use of force or when he or she is the subject of a disciplinary investigation where a body camera recording is part of the review, each police officer has a right to review (1) the recording, together with his or her attorney or labor representative, and (2) recordings from other body cameras capturing his or her image or voice during the incident.

These recordings must be disclosed to the public upon request, not later than (1) 48 hours after an officer has reviewed it or (2) 96 hours after the recorded incident if the officer does not review the recording, whichever is earlier, provided the law does not otherwise prevent the recordings disclosure (see specifically the FOIA exemptions described above) ([CGS § 29-6d\(f\)](#), as amended by [PA 19-90](#)).

Both DESPP and the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) maintain webpages that publish legally releasable multimedia of incidents involving the use of force by police officers, including body camera recordings (see this [DESPP webpage](#) and this [DCJ webpage](#)).

Guidelines

Under [CGS § 29-6d\(j\)](#), the police officers are required to follow the DESPP-POST guidelines on retaining body camera data and storing the data safely and securely (i.e., [POST General Notice 15-05](#)). The officers' agencies and any other employees within those agencies with access to camera data must follow the guidelines as well. The guidelines incorporate several CGS § 29-6d provisions, including on officer review of recordings.

Current Body Camera Law – Other Related Law

All state, municipal, and tribal law enforcement units must, until December 31, 2024, adopt and maintain (1) the DESPP-POST minimum standards and practices on body cameras or (2) a higher level of accreditation standards developed by POST or CALEA ([CGS § 7-294ee\(b\)](#), as amended by

[PA 20-1, JSS](#)). The minimum standard and practice for body cameras is that if a unit uses body cameras, it must have a policy that meets or exceeds the DESPP-POST guidelines on body cameras ([POST General Notice 20-04](#)). Effectively, state and tribal law enforcement units that use body cameras and are currently excluded from CGS § 29-6d must nevertheless follow or exceed many of that statute's requirements to the extent they are incorporated into those guidelines (i.e., [POST General Notice 15-05](#)). (Starting in 2025, state law requires law enforcement units to obtain and maintain CALEA accreditation ([CGS § 7-294ee\(b\)](#), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)).

DESPP has an additional body camera policy within its Administration and Operations Manual that must generally be followed by all its uniformed troopers and police officers scheduled to perform police duties (see the policy [here](#)).

Additionally, DESPP is required, by January 1, 2021, to equip every State Police uniformed trooper with a body camera (Governor Lamont's [Executive Order No. 8](#)).

Current Dashboard Camera and Electronic Defense Weapon Recording Equipment Law

State law concerning the use of and the retention of data from dashboard cameras and electronic defense weapon recording equipment is currently much more limited than it is for body cameras.

For dashboard cameras specifically, the same provisions governing the review and disclosure of body camera recordings in use of force and discipline situations applies to recordings from dashboard cameras with a remote recorder ([CGS § 29-6d\(f\)](#), as amended by [PA 19-90](#)). Additionally, DESPP, by January 1, 2021, must equip every Connecticut State Police marked vehicle with a dashboard camera (Governor Lamont's [Executive Order No. 8](#)).

There is otherwise nothing else in state law currently beyond the inclusion of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder and electronic defense weapon recording equipment in the OPM reimbursement grant program ([CGS § 7-277b](#)).

By law, a "dashboard camera with a remote recorder" is a camera that (1) attaches to a dashboard or windshield of a police vehicle, (2) electronically records video of the view through the vehicle's windshield, and (3) has an electronic audio recorder that may be operated remotely. "Electronic defense weapon recording equipment" means an electronic defense weapon (e.g., a stun gun) that is equipped with electronic audio and visual recording equipment ([CGS § 7-277b\(c\)](#)).

Additional Body Camera and Dashboard Camera Law Taking Effect July 1, 2022

Required Use of Body Cameras

Effective July 1, 2022, CGS § 29-6d's body camera requirement will be expanded to all sworn members of law enforcement units and members of those units who perform police duties ([CGS § 29-6d\(c\)\(1\)](#)), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)). By law, "law enforcement unit" means any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime ([CGS §§ 29-6d\(a\)\(1\)](#) and [7-294a\(8\)](#)), as they are amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)).

DESPP-POST Administrative Materials

The DESPP commissioner and POST must jointly evaluate and approve minimal technical specifications for dashboard cameras with a remote recorder as well as guidelines on their use and retaining and storing their data. They must also add guidance on the types of detective work that should not be recorded to their guidelines on body and dashboard camera use. The law will also prohibit the DESPP-POST guidelines on retaining body and dashboard camera data from requiring law enforcement units to store that data for longer than a year except in cases where units know the data is pertinent to any ongoing civil, criminal, or administrative matter ([CGS § 29-6d\(b\) & \(j\)](#)), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)).

Required Use of Dashboard Cameras With a Remote Recorder

Beginning July 1, 2022, each law enforcement unit must require the use of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder in each police patrol vehicle used by any of the officers it employs. The officers must use the dashboard cameras according to their unit's adopted policy and based on the DESPP-POST guidelines ([CGS § 29-6d\(c\)\(4\)](#)), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)). By law, a "police patrol vehicle" includes (1) any state or local police vehicle, besides administrative vehicles, with a body camera-wearing occupant, (2) bicycles, (3) motor scooters, (4) all-terrain vehicles, (5) electric personal assistive mobility devices, and (6) animal control vehicles ([CGS § 29-6d\(a\)\(6\)](#)), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)).

Applying Existing Body Camera Laws to Dashboard Cameras

Several existing provisions concerning body cameras will apply to dashboard cameras with a remote recorder beginning July 1, 2022. Specifically, the laws:

1. prohibiting the editing, erasing, copying, sharing, altering, or distributing of camera recordings or its data except as required by state or federal law;

2. permitting police officers to review recordings from their cameras to assist in preparing a report or performing their duties;
3. generally exempting specific recordings (e.g., ones involving minors) from disclosure under Connecticut's FOIA and requiring they be confidential; and
4. requiring law enforcement units to follow DESPP-POST guidelines on using cameras, retaining their data, and storing the data safely and securely ([CGS § 29-6d](#), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)).

Body Camera and Dashboard Camera Recording Prohibition and Ensuring Functioning Equipment

The prohibition on using body cameras to intentionally record in specific situations or settings (e.g., encounters with undercover officers or informants) unless under an agreement between an officer's unit and the federal government will apply to dashboard cameras with a remote recorder beginning July 1, 2022. Relatedly, encounters with officers performing detective work described in the DESPP-POST guidelines is added to the list of situations covered by the prohibition ([CGS § 29-6d\(g\)\(1\)](#), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)).

The requirements that (1) officers inform their supervisors as soon as practicable after learning that body cameras are lost, damaged, or malfunctioning and (2) their supervisors ensure that the reported cameras are inspected and repaired or replaced will be extended to dashboard cameras with a remote recorder. Relatedly, with both cameras, officers must provide the notice in writing ([CGS § 29-6d\(i\)](#), as amended by [PA 20-1, JSS](#)).

State Funding for Police Recording Devices and Services

OPM Grants for DESPP, Municipalities, and Public Universities

By law, up to \$12 million is authorized to OPM for body camera and digital data storage device or service grants, with \$5 million earmarked to DESPP for State Police officers and \$7 million to municipalities for local police officers ([PA 15-1, June Special Session](#), as amended by [PA 20-1](#)). (It appears that OPM and the State Bond Commission treat public university special police forces as municipalities (see, e.g., this [OPM webpage](#) and this [November, 29, 2017, State Bond Commission Agenda](#)).

Relatedly, a separate law requires OPM to administer a grant program covering body cameras, digital data storage devices and services, dashboard cameras with a remote recorder, and electronic defense weapon recording equipment purchased by municipalities. OPM must administer the grants as reimbursements subject to several statutory requirements. This includes

that the body cameras and digital data storage devices or services purchased by municipalities conform to DESPP-POST’s minimal technical specifications ([CGS § 7-277b](#)).

Reimbursement grants to municipalities must be distributed within available resources and based on the following reimbursement methodologies:

<i>Purchasing Conditions</i>	<i>Purchases</i>	<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>
Purchased from January 1, 2012, through June 30, 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Body cameras or 2. Digital data storage devices or services 	<p>100% of the costs associated with the purchases</p> <p>(though reimbursement for body cameras must not exceed value for a sufficient quantity and digital data storage services is limited to the cost for up to one year)</p>
Reimbursed for purchases made from January 1, 2012, through June 30, 2016, and Made additional purchases during Fiscal Years 17 or 18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Body cameras (if a sufficient quantity is purchased) 	<p>100% of the costs associated with the purchases</p>
Purchased during Fiscal Years 17 or 18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Body cameras (if a sufficient quantity is purchased), 2. Digital data storage devices or services, 3. Electronic defense weapon recording equipment, 4. First-time purchases of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder, or 5. Dashboard cameras with a remote recorder that replace ones purchased prior to December 31, 2010 	<p>100% of the costs associated with the purchases</p> <p>(though reimbursement for digital data storage services is limited to the cost for up to one year)</p>
Purchased during Fiscal Years 17 or 18 and paid by August 31, 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Body cameras (if a sufficient quantity is purchased) 	<p>100% of the costs associated with the purchases</p>

<i>Purchasing Conditions</i>	<i>Purchases</i>	<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>
<p>Purchased from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2021, and</p> <p>Not reimbursed for purchases from January 1, 2012, through Fiscal Year 18</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Body cameras, 2. Digital data storage devices or services, 3. Electronic defense weapon recording equipment, 4. First-time purchases of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder, or 5. Dashboard cameras with a remote recorder that replace ones purchased prior to December 31, 2010 	<p>50% of the costs associated with the purchases</p> <p>(though reimbursement for digital data storage services is limited to the cost for up to one year)</p>

The number of body cameras sufficient for reimbursement purposes must be enough to ensure that sworn police department members, constables, police officers, or other individuals who perform criminal law enforcement duties under the supervision of a resident state trooper serving the municipality are supplied with the equipment while interacting with the public in their law enforcement capacities. The sufficient number of cameras must be determined by the (1) police chief if the municipality has an organized police department or (2) first selectman or borough warden, as applicable, if there is no police chief ([CGS § 7-277b\(a\) & \(b\)](#)), as amended by [PA 19-11](#) and [PA 20-1](#)). (It appears that OPM has interpreted that public university special police forces can be treated as municipalities for the purposes of this statute (see this [OPM webpage](#)).)

By law, the OPM secretary is responsible for prescribing how municipalities may apply for the reimbursement grants ([CGS § 7-277b\(a\)](#)). Application instructions are available on this [OPM webpage](#). OPM will not reimburse purchases procured with federal asset forfeiture funds, federal grant funds, private contributions, or private foundation funds (see this [OPM webpage](#)).

According to OPM, it has made reimbursement grant payments totaling roughly \$5.91 million to 38 different participating municipalities (listed above) and over \$288,526 to four participating universities (UConn, Eastern, Southern, and Western). The most recent payment was completed on May 9, 2020 (see this [OPM webpage](#)). (OPM does not provide the status of payments to DESPP on these webpages since that department is not required to follow the above application process, however, it appears \$2 million to the department was approved by the State Bond Commission in March 2016 (see these [Commission Minutes](#)).)

Based on a [2016 Plainfield Police Department application](#), the department spent \$895 per camera (excluding ancillary costs such as for shirt clips and shipping), just over \$20,000 for storage equipment, and almost \$39,000 for a one-year data services contract. More recently, in a [June 2, 2020, Hartford Courant article](#), Milford Police Chief Keith Mello, who serves as chairman of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, estimated that cameras cost about \$1,000 per unit, with storage costs averaging \$1,000 per year per officer.

Additional OPM Grant Program for Municipalities

[PA 20-1, JSS](#) authorizes up to \$4 million in general obligation bonds to fund an additional grant program to aid municipalities. OPM must administer the program within available resources and distribute grants in fiscal years 21 and 22. Under the act, OPM may approve grants to municipalities for costs associated with purchasing:

1. body cameras for use by the sworn members of the municipality's police department or constables, police officers, or others who perform criminal law enforcement duties under the supervision of a resident state trooper serving the municipality;
2. digital data storage devices or services;
3. dashboard cameras with a remote recorder for the first time; and
4. dashboard cameras with a remote recorder that replace ones purchased before December 31, 2010.

The body cameras, digital data storage devices and services, and dashboard cameras must conform to DESPP-POST's minimal technical specifications in order to be eligible for the grants. The OPM secretary must establish the grant application process and may prescribe additional technical or procurement requirements as a condition of receiving the grants.

OPM may award grant amounts of up to (1) 50% of the associated costs for distressed municipalities and (2) 30% for all other municipalities. In both cases, funding for digital data storage services is limited to the cost for up to one year.

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) annually ranks municipalities based on their relative economic and fiscal distress and designates the top 25 as "distressed municipalities" ([CGS § 32-9p\(b\)](#)). Most recently, in 2019, DECD designated the following municipalities as distressed: Ansonia, Bridgeport, Bristol, Chaplin, Derby, East Hartford, East Haven, Griswold, Hartford, Killingly, Meriden, Montville, Naugatuck, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwich, Putnam, Sprague, Sterling, Torrington, Waterbury, West Haven, Winchester, and Windham (see this [list](#)).

GM:kl