Commonwealth of Kentucky
Public Safety Broadband Network
NTIA RFI

Governance

State Points of Contact and Broadband Governance Structure should be established immediately for coordination with FirstNet and oversight of grants and planning activities.
Existing governance structures (SIEC or SIGB) should be utilized by the states during the planning process. Many of these groups have been in existence for many years and include practitioners from the state CIO's, heads of public safety as well as state and local government. The SIEC has existing policies and procedures in place necessary for statewide public safety system planning and deployment.

Data collection

States should collect data with regards to existing infrastructure to include towers, LMR and data systems, buildings, backhaul capacity and connectivity. Regional outreach to gather data from local system users, utilities and Federal partners will be critical. Existing mobile data usage and potential user identification will also be helpful. Many states already have this data available, standardizing the collection process and data will assist FirstNet and the States and ensure continuity of the planning process and deployment.

Planning Activities

Planning activities should include but not be limited to; outreach and education, data collection, governance, consultation, personnel and administrative expenses related to the planning process. Regional outreach at the local and boarder state level will be necessary for the planning process and the success of the network.

Federal users

Partnerships should be established early in the planning process through outreach. Inclusion in the governance structure of the states PSBN working group or task force is key.

Grant performance period

The grant performance period should be phased into two disbursements with a 12 month performance period (24 months total).

Existing Governing Body

The role of the SIEC will be crucial in the process of network planning and deployment. Special working groups can be added to bring in SMEs (subject matter experts) and groups such as the state Rural Broadband Office, utilities, Telco's and other governmental entities not typically affiliated with the SIEC.

What governance actions have been taken?

The SIEC has established the PSBN working group. The SWIC has been assigned as the state POC and will chair the PSBN working group and direct its activities during the planning process and implementation. The working group will be comprised of members representing the states Office of Technology, Office of Rural Broadband, Public Safety (each discipline), The Governors Office and non governmental entities such as utilities. The SWIC will act as the primary contact for FirstNet and will consult with and brief the Governors Office, SIEC and State CIO of all activities relating to planning and deployment.

Role of the SCIP

The SCIP is each states primary strategic planning document for public safety communications. The SCIPs should be streamlined and modified to capture planning activities for PSBN. It is important that we standardize the planning process and data collection to ensure continuity of each state plan.

Leveraging Existing Infrastructure

States should initially survey existing resources such as towers, buildings, right of way, existing voice and data networks and connectivity. Identifying these resources and incorporating them into the planning phase with FirstNet will be crucial for the success of the network. Standards for acceptable hardened structures, security, network capacity, throughput and reliability will need to be established for states to consider collocation.

How will states include utilities?

Utilities should be included in the outreach and planning process. Utilities will bring value added resources, right of way and will assist in effective costs of the network. There is a concern of bandwidth needed for proposed "smart grids" nationwide and should be considered when engaging them.

State and local implementation Grant Activities

What type of activities and costs should be allowed?

The states should be able to set up a clearinghouse for the PSBN. Development of public private partnerships will be required as a part of planning and outreach. Regional, local and boarder state meetings and activities. Consultation, governance, personnel, travel, and administrative costs associated with the planning process should all be allowable expenses.

What is the role of the state CIO CTO?

The state CIOs should be actively involved and included in the planning process. Existing resources including personnel, SMEs and existing infrastructure can all be leveraged with cooperation of the state CIOs office.

What should the NTIA consider in regard to matching dollars and potential waivers?

Considering the current economic climate, in kind, waivers or soft match for allowable planning activities would greatly benefit the states. The states are committed to this project and are contributing vast resources in the form of consultation, time, manpower and facilities.

Please provide comments on any other issues related to PSBN

Standardizing the collection process for data will be extremely important. Standardized data will allow us to work with FirstNet more effectively and will expedite the RFP process. It is also important in the beginning, accurate and consistent information about the planning process is distributed to groups such as NASCIO and NGA to ensure continuity at the state level.

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