National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Office of Public Safety Communications (OPSC) Update

FirstNet State Point of Contact (SPOC) Meeting

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OPSC Activities

Statutory oversight responsibilities include:

- State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP)
- Review and Approval of FirstNet Fees
- State Alternative Plan Program (SAPP)
- Next Generation 911 Grant Program
State Alternative Plan Program (SAPP) Background

The Act requires that FirstNet’s NPSBN consist of a core network and a radio access network (RAN) that links to the core to ensure a single, interoperable nationwide network.

States and territories may decide to “opt-out” of FirstNet construction of the RAN in their state. If they opt-out, states accept responsibility to construct, operate, maintain, and improve their own RAN that still must connect to the FirstNet core.

To obtain mandatory spectrum capacity leasing rights and get an optional grant for RAN construction, a state must demonstrate to NTIA that it has the ability to build, operate, maintain, and improve a RAN that interoperates with the NPSBN.
SAPP – Understanding The Process

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SAPP – Understanding The Program

• SAPP is designed for states and territories that seek to construct, operate, maintain, and improve the RAN in their state.

• States **must** apply to NTIA for the right to execute a spectrum capacity lease with FirstNet and they **may** apply for a grant to go towards the cost of building the RAN.

• The same evaluation criteria will be used for both the right to execute a spectrum lease and a construction grant.
This July, NTIA released a Public Notice discussing the 5 statutory demonstrations a state must make to receive the authority to enter into a spectrum lease with FirstNet and the opportunity to receive grant funds to assist in RAN construction:

- The technical capabilities to operate, and the funding to support, the state radio access network;
- The ability to maintain ongoing interoperability with the nationwide public safety broadband network;
- The ability to complete the project within specified comparable timelines specific to the state;
- The cost-effectiveness of the state plan; and
- Comparable security, coverage, and quality of service to that of the nationwide public safety broadband network.
SAPP – Required Demonstration

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The ability to maintain ongoing interoperability with the nationwide public safety broadband network
SAPP – Required Demonstration

The ability to complete the project within specified comparable timelines specific to the state
The cost-effectiveness of the state plan

Inputs That May Be Considered:

1. Spectrum Monetization
2. Business Plan
3. RAN Construction and Deployment Plans
SAPP – Required Demonstration

Comparable security, coverage, and quality of service to that of FirstNet
Questions?

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