Roadmap to the Envisioned State of Emergency Communications

The Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC) coordinates interoperable emergency communications across federal departments and agencies. Within the ECPC, its Grants Focus Group shares information across financial assistance programs and establishes consistent guidance for federal program managers/administrators and grant applicants/recipients. The ECPC Grants Focus Group developed this *Roadmap* for the emergency response community to outline issues and steps toward realizing the *National Emergency Communications Plan* vision, specifically what the community should consider when investing in emergency communications. The *Roadmap* includes:

- Key considerations such as deployment of the First Responder Network Authority's (FirstNet) Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), Next Generation 911 (NG911) migration, shared communications systems and infrastructure projects, lifecycle planning, and cybersecurity concerns.
- Appendix of resources providing websites for additional information and guidance on Roadmap topics.

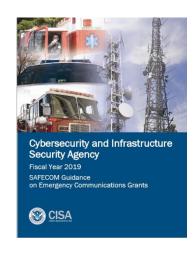
The *Roadmap* is an educational tool complementing the *ECPC Federal Financial Assistance Reference Guide* for federal program managers and the *SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants* for grant applicants. These documents provide recommendations and resources to promote consistent guidance across financial assistance programs for emergency communications investments. Specifically:



ECPC Federal Financial Assistance Reference Guide

Designed by federal program managers, the *Reference Guide* provides common guidance for federal program managers to use when developing Notices of Funding Opportunity, reviewing applications, and monitoring emergency communications projects.

Contact the <u>ECPC</u> for a copy of the *Reference Guide* or additional information.



National Emergency Communications Plan

As the Nation's strategic plan for emergency communications, it outlines nationwide goals and objectives to improve critical capabilities through partnerships, joint planning, and unified investments across levels of government. Its focus is to ensure the public safety community and citizens are collectively driving toward a common end-state for communications:

To enable the Nation's emergency response community to communicate and share information securely across communications technologies in real-time, including all levels of government, jurisdictions, disciplines, organizations, and citizens impacted by any threats or hazards event.

Source: National Emergency Communications Plan

SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants

Developed jointly by the public safety community (SAFECOM / National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators [NCSWIC]) and federal program managers, the *Guidance* is updated annually with **best practices**, **recommendations**, **and technical standards for grant applicants** to reference when developing emergency communications proposals.

Download a copy of the latest *Guidance* from the <u>DHS / SAFECOM</u> Funding Resources website.

For additional information on the ECPC or this document, visit https://www.dhs.gov/emergency-communications-preparedness-center or contact <a href="https://www.dhs.gov/emergency-communications-preparedness-center-preparedness-c

Purpose: This Roadmap provides general guidance and activities for emergency response agencies in order to achieve the envisioned state of emergency communications.

General Assistance

- Align communications plans to the National Emergency Communications Plan
- Engage with and leverage resources from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (e.g., training, technical assistance)
- Incorporate whole community partners (e.g., medical personnel, critical infrastructure operators, private citizens) into planning and operations
- Encourage coordinated communications investments with Statewide Interoperability Coordinators

FirstNet NPSBN and Other Broadband Service Providers

- . Be aware of the FirstNet solution
- Consider implementation of alternative broadband technologies and deployment of fiber optic backhaul networks in rural and unserved areas
- Coordinate broadband investments with applicable governing bodies, FirstNet, and federal granting agency

Next Generation 911

- · Leverage resources available with the 911 Program Office
- Invest in NG911 transition activities
- . Look for SAFECOM / NCSWIC and ECPC 911 Working Group guidance

Shared Communications Systems and Infrastructure Projects

- Consider the Shared Communications System and Infrastructure approach when maintaining or modernizing public safety communications
- Follow Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements such as narrowbanding and relocating
 T-Band public safety licensees to other spectrum
- Develop an iterative risk management process for your organization
- Identify cost sharing opportunities and in-kind contributions

Lifecycle Planning

- Conduct lifecycle planning to fund, plan, procure, implement, support, and maintain communications systems, and eventually replace and dispose of components, as well as continuously train and exercise personnel on capabilities
- Look for SAFECOM / NCSWIC guidance on data interoperability; identity, credential, access management; and new technologies (e.g., IoT, 5G)
- Encourage the selection of Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program-approved equipment

Cybersecurity

- Implement the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework
- Use the Critical Infrastructure Cyber Community Voluntary Program (C³ Voluntary Program)
- Develop and maintain a cyber incident response plan, including coordination with the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator and information technology administrators
- · Update training and exercise programs to address cybersecurity

General Assistance FirstNet NPSBN and Other Broadband Service Providers

Next Generation 911

Shared Communications
Systems and
Infrastructure Projects

Lifecycle Planning

Cybersecurity

Resources for Federal Program Managers/Administrators and Grant Applicants/Recipients of Emergency Communications

Resources	Websites
General Assistance / Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Emergency Communications	 Emergency Communications Preparedness Center coordinates interoperable emergency communications across federal departments and agencies. Within the ECPC, its Grants Focus Group shares information across financial assistance programs and establishes consistent guidance for federal program managers/administrators and grant applicants/recipients Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Emergency Communications Division enhances public safety interoperable communications at all levels of government and conducts extensive, nationwide outreach to support and promote the ability of emergency response providers and relevant government officials to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other hazards. CISA provides plans, resources, and training to assist responders, including:
FirstNet NPSBN and Other Public Safety Broadband Providers	 <u>FirstNet Authority</u> is responsible for implementing the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network and offers <u>Fact Sheets</u>, <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u>, <u>Presentations</u>, and <u>Reports</u> on its website <u>FCC's Communications Security</u>, <u>Reliability and Interoperability Council</u> and the <u>National Public Safety Telecommunications Council</u> publishes broadband reports and recommendations for public safety agencies
Next Generation 911	 <u>National 911 Program</u> offers NG911 guidance including <u>NG911 Standards Identification and Review</u> and <u>NG911 for Leaders in Law Enforcement</u> CISA recommends understanding <u>Cyber Risks to NG911</u> when planning 911 system migration
Shared Communications Systems and Infrastructure Projects	 Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials provides public safety professionals with tools to establish and sustain effective governance of shared communications systems and infrastructure projects Systems operating in the T-Band must migrate by 2023; see the FCC's <u>Public Safety T-Band Fact Sheet</u> and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council's <u>Overview of T-Band Issues</u>
Lifecycle Planning	 Emergency Communications System Lifecycle Planning Guide provides considerations and recommended actions for each phase of system lifecycle planning P25 Suite of Standards is the recognized technical standards to promote interoperability for land mobile radio systems and equipment; P25 Compliance Assessment Program is a voluntary program, which allows suppliers to publicly attest to their products' compliance through testing at DHS-recognized laboratories
Cybersecurity	 NIST offers the <u>Cybersecurity Framework</u> and implementation guidance in the <u>NIST Roadmap for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity</u> and <u>NIST Cybersecurity Framework Feedback: What We Heard and Next Steps</u> <u>C3VP Cyber Resilience Review (CRR)</u> provides guidance for applying the Cybersecurity Framework, including <u>Summary of CRR projects</u> and <u>CRR: NIST Cybersecurity Framework Crosswalks</u> <u>U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team</u> is available to assist in cybersecurity planning