



# **STATE AND LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM**

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**APCO Session: Preparation for the State and Local  
Implementation Grant Program**

**August 22, 2012**



# STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

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- **NTIA will establish the State and Local Implementation Grant Program**
- **Authorized as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. No. 112-96)**
- **Up to \$135 million is available to establish a grant program**
- **Program will assist regional, state, tribal, and local governments:**
  - **To plan for a single, nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network (PSBN)**
  - **To identify and plan the most effective way to utilize and integrate the infrastructure, equipment, and other architecture associated with the nationwide PSBN**
- **Not later than 6 months after the Act's enactment, and in consultation with First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), NTIA must establish grant program requirements, including:**
  - **Defining eligible costs**
  - **Determining scope of eligible activities**
  - **Prioritizing grants for activities that ensure coverage in rural as well as urban areas**



# REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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- NTIA released a Request for Information (RFI) on May 16, 2012
- RFI covered many topics, including:
  - Consultation Process
  - Existing Public Safety Governance and Planning Authorities
  - Leveraging Existing Infrastructure
  - Grant Activities
  - Funding Allocation and Match
  - Other
- NTIA received over 70 comments
- RFI and comments are available on the NTIA website:  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/public-safety>



# GRANT REQUIREMENTS

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- NTIA published a Federal Register Notice (FRN) establishing the program requirements
- FRN is available on the NTIA website:  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/public-safety>
- FRN establishes the grant requirements:
  - Funding Distribution
  - Eligible Applicants
  - Allowable Grant Activities
  - Eligible and Ineligible Costs
  - Rural Coverage Prioritization



# APPLICATION

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- **FRN does not open the grant application window**
- **NTIA expects to issue a Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) notice and accept applications during Q1 of CY13 (January-March 2013), subject to FirstNet activities**
- **FFO will specify the exact contents of the application package, however, NTIA will likely require applicants to:**
  - **Submit the SF-424 family of application forms;**
  - **Designate a single officer or governmental body to coordinate grant funds in the application;**
  - **Explain how states plan to collect input from local and tribal jurisdictions;**
  - **Explain how existing public safety governance and planning authorities in each state might be incorporated into the consultation with FirstNet regarding the PSBN; and**
  - **Describe how states plan to expand the expertise of their governance structures to include representatives with an understanding of broadband and Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology**



# ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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- 56 states and territories are eligible for grants
- Each state and territory will need to submit an individual application
- States and territories may decide to collaborate or coordinate with other states and regions in preparing application submissions



# FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

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- The program will be a formula-based, matching grant program
- Matching requirement:
  - The federal share may not exceed 80%
  - Assistant Secretary may waive, in whole or in part, the matching requirement for good cause and if it is in the public interest
- Waiver process for matching requirement has not been determined yet
- NTIA plans to distribute available funding in two phases
- NTIA will take into account the input from commenters when developing the formula to allocate the available grant funds
- NTIA received feedback that it should consider providing each State with an initial, equal distribution of funds to enable states to accomplish certain planning tasks



# ALLOWABLE GRANT ACTIVITIES

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- **NTIA will detail the full scope of allowable planning and governance activities in the FFO**
- **NTIA is likely to require recipients to show that they have accomplished certain initial planning activities**
- **NTIA will consider requiring each recipient to prepare a comprehensive plan, similar to the existing Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIPs), that will describe the public safety needs that they expect FirstNet to address in its design of the nationwide PSBN**



# ALLOWABLE GRANT ACTIVITIES

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- Support planning and governance activities related to the establishment of the nationwide PSBN
- NTIA plans to distribute funding in two phases:
  - **Phase One:** Focus on initial planning and consultation activities, including strategy and timeline development, meetings, governance planning, and outreach and education efforts
  - **Phase Two:** Address states' needs in preparing for additional consultation with FirstNet and planning to undertake data collection activities
    - Phase Two will begin after FirstNet has consulted with the state-designated contact about matters listed in the Act, including defining coverage needs, user requirements, and network hardening and resiliency requirements
    - Phase Two will begin after FirstNet has developed a standardized process to govern data collection activities



# ELIGIBLE COSTS

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- **Eligible costs under the planning grant program will likely include the following categories of expenses:**
  - Hiring staff and consultants;
  - Holding planning meetings;
  - Covering travel costs;
  - Developing, modifying, or enhancing state plans and governance structures;
  - Conducting communications, education, and outreach activities;
  - Developing standardized MOUs and other types of agreements to facilitate access to and use of existing infrastructure;
  - Identifying potential public safety users for the PSBN;
  - Administrative services and supplies necessary for the program;
  - Legal services related to the planning process; and
  - Training costs related to the planning process



# INELIGIBLE COSTS

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- **NTIA does not envision allowing grant funds to be used for the following activities:**
  - Site preparation;
  - Broadband deployment;
  - Broadband installation;
  - Construction;
  - Acquisition of equipment used to provide wireless broadband services; or
  - LTE-related activities



# DATA COLLECTION

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- **Commenters recommended:**
  - FirstNet must establish a standardized process for data collection activities; and
  - FirstNet should create a standardized template and/or database for the collection of asset inventories
- **NTIA may permit the use of grant funds for supplemental activities related to preparing for any FirstNet data collection efforts, if:**
  - sufficient funds are available, and
  - initial planning milestones are met
- **NTIA does not expect at this time to include assets and infrastructure inventories as a requirement of the program**
- **Data collection will likely be unallowable until FirstNet has developed a standardized process to govern data collection**



# RURAL COVERAGE PRIORITIZATION

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- Commenters noted that designing a one-size-fits-all approach to ensuring rural coverage may not work for all circumstances
- NTIA expects to:
  - Avoid a solely population-based formula approach;
  - Consider additional factors in the funding distribution that takes into account rural areas;
  - Provide flexibility to states in determining the most effective means by which FirstNet can provide adequate rural coverage; and
  - Ask states to address how they will prioritize their grant activities to ensure coverage in rural areas



**Laura M. Pettus**

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration**

**U.S. Department of Commerce**

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# **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**