

**911 ADVISORY BOARD
FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE
2/2/2022**

Attendees:

Entity	Attendee	Attendee
NECORE	Fred Rosencrans	Todd Weaver
North Central	Dave Cohick	Andrew Kremser
Northern Tier	Chris Clark	Nate Burgett
Southeast	Kelly Collins	Brian Gottschall
Southwest	Gary Thomas	Frank Jannetti
Southern Alleghenies	Mark Taylor	Chris Stevens
South Central		
CCAP	Melissa Gates	
PEMA	Jeff Boyle	

I. 2022 STATEWIDE INTERCONNECTIVITY ALLOCATIONS

Change in 15% Funding Process

- Beginning in 2022, the process to determine 15% funding allocations will transition away from the open grant application process used in prior years.
- This change is needed to support NG911 service needs, regional projects, and 911 system improvements as best as possible.

Discussion:

- **15% Funding:** A suggestion was made for a different, more detailed approach be taken to make the best use of the funds. Jeff Boyle stated 2022 will be a transition year where 15% funding allocations will be planned and budgeted based on the statewide NG911 service contract and coordination between PEMA, the Board, and county partners to inventory other targeted projects and costs for consideration. Beginning in 2023, the new County 911 System Planning Process (coming soon) will be used as the foundation for proactively planning and budgeting 15% funds looking ahead to future years.
- **2% Funding:** A suggestion was made to consider using of any remaining 2% funding for specific projects. Due to county budget processes, the funds are unable to be used for specific 911 system improvements. Jeff Boyle stated PEMA can definitely take the timing of any remaining 2% funds into consideration. However, PEMA does not anticipate a large amount of remaining funds in future years. There are costs related to NG911 service that are yet to be defined. The intent is to use remaining funds to take this cost burden off of the counties as much as possible.

Impact of NG911 Project on 15% Funds

- With the NG911 project underway, less funds will be available for grants.

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- For demonstration purposes:
 - \$65.2 million is available for interconnectivity this year

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- If we take into account the NG911 contract, fund shared system maintenance at the same level as last year, and continue to distribute more funds by formula, we will already have \$49.7 million in obligations.
- This would leave \$15.5 million to cover:
 1. Additional fiber builds for the NG911 project
 2. Addressing facility needs to support the NG911 service equipment
 3. CHE provider NG911 migrations support
 4. GIS support
 5. New shared projects (such as CHE, CAD)
- In prior years, we had roughly \$35 million each year for new projects. The current environment represents a significant change from prior years and drives the need for how these funds are managed.

Discussion

- A question was asked the cost of the imagery project. Imagery project costs were a little over \$1 million last year.

Steps to Determine 2022 15% Allocations:

- Compile inventory or list of projects that would be considered for funding
- Define costs associated with those projects that would be considered for 15% funding
- Prioritize what will be funded
- Issue grant awards where applicable

2022 Focus Area Discussion:

- NG911 Service:
 - Costs for NG911 service for 2022 are defined for the contract as it stands today
 - A few change orders are a possibility to address specific connectivity needs in the NE & SE
- Shared System Maintenance:
 - PEMA to begin working with counties/regions now to define 2023 maintenance costs
- Facility Needs to Support NG911 Service Equipment:
 - Focus is to address specific needs identified in the PSAP site survey reports
 - SW, Northern Tier, SCM, NC, and SC regions targeted last funding cycle
 - PSAPs targeted to address needs this year:
 - NECORE: Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Wayne
 - SE: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia
- CHE Migration Support
 - SW, Northern Tier, SCM, NC, and SC regions targeted last funding cycle
 - PSAPs targeted to address needs this year:
 - SC: Lancaster (York/Lebanon, Juniata/Perry funded last year)
 - NECORE: Pike, Wayne (Remaining counties funded last year)
 - SE: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Montgomery, Philadelphia (Delaware funded last year)
- NG911 GIS Data Development
 - Projects considered for funding will focus on addressing Critical Errors identified by DataHub or the early GIS QC Pre-Check process.
 - Critical Errors must be addressed to enable geospatial routing at the time a PSAP is cutover to NG911 service.

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- Counties not migrated to DataHub yet should participate in the pre-check process as soon as possible if they are considering seeking funding.
- Regional Network Needs to Implement NG911

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- Focus would be to support enhancements to regional networks used for 911 call delivery (SW, SCM, and Lehigh Valley)
- New Shared CHE System:
 - Based on the PSAP site surveys for the NG911 project and new CHE projects funded in recent years, PEMA is not aware of any new CHE projects for the upcoming funding cycle but will consult regions/counties to identify needs for consideration.
- PSAP Consolidation Feasibility Studies:
 - Need to define if any counties will be pursuing funding for a PSAP Consolidation Feasibility Study in 2022
- New Shared CAD System:
 - An inventory of projects and costs for the prior focus areas along with consideration of continued funding formula assistance for 2023 are needed to determine the approach to supporting new CAD projects and the amount of funding to do so.
 - Clear criteria for what constitutes a shared CAD system and costs considered for funding would need defined before a new CAD project is supported.

II. NEW 911 SYSTEM PLAN ROLL-OUT

- A high-level overview was provided of the PSAP Portal application
- Under our legislation, each PSAP is required to submit a 911 System Plan.
- The application was developed to automate the planning process:
 - Maintain PSAP inventory data
 - Measure compliance with the new State minimum requirements
 - Track progress in your migration to NG911
 - Submit a financial plan for the next few years
 - Once a PSAP enters data, the intent to publish a public facing document that a PSAP can share with your county leadership and other 911 system stakeholders in your county
- A 911 System Plan will have five sections to complete
 - The Plans by Cost Type section will be used as foundation for planning 15% funding
- The Webtool will move to this platform in 2023
- Looking ahead, the PSAPTC will be migrated into this user-friendly platform
- Due date discussion:
 - PEMA is completing training materials and will look to release the Portal soon
 - The planned due date is September 30, 2022
 - Plans would be due every two years; The next plan would be due September 2024

III. NEW BUSINESS

- Personnel shortages was a topic of discussion
- A question was asked if a minimum compensation rate can be established for telecommunicators. There are challenges associated with that approach such as county labor considerations, expectations for funding, etc. It will likely take a variety of strategies to help address this issue.
- A suggestion was made to review the minimum operational standards may be necessary to align with the actual environment with staffing. Review of these standards will be a discussion with the Technical Subcommittee.
- A question was asked about the results of the poll PEMA conducted to identify PSAP vacancies.
 - 43 of Pennsylvania's 61 operational 911 centers have reported their vacancies.

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1. Total Positions: 1,804
2. Vacancies: 363
3. % Vacant: 20.1%

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- Percentage of Vacant Positions by 911 Center:
 - 911 center vacancies above 50%: 1
 - 911 center vacancies - 40% - 50%: 3
 - 911 center vacancies - 30% - 39%: 7
 - 911 center vacancies - 20% - 29%: 12
 - 911 center vacancies - 10% - 19%: 9
 - 911 center vacancies - 1% - 9%: 3
 - 911 center – no vacancies: 8
- The information was provided to Commonwealth leadership to highlight the issue
- The information has generated discussion which will hopefully lead to action to assist PSAPs with recruitment and retention.
- <https://www.wearecentralpa.com/news/regional-news/shapiro-looks-to-fill-police-vacancies-across-the-state/>

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