

911 Advisory Board Funding Subcommittee Minutes – 8/17/2022

Funding Subcommittee			
Region/Entity	Name	Type	Attended
NECORE	Fred Rosencrans, Luzerne	Primary	X
NECORE	Todd Weaver, Northampton	Alternate	X
North Central	Dave Cohick, Tioga	Primary	
North Central	Andrew Kremser, Clinton	Alternate	X
Northern Tier	Chris Clark, Jefferson	Primary	X
Northern Tier	Nate Burgett, McKean	Alternate	X
South Central	Matt Hobson, York	Primary	X
South Central	Vacant	Alternate	
South Central Mountain	Mark Taylor, Blair	Primary	X
South Central Mountain	Chris Stevens, Huntingdon	Alternate	X
Southeast	Brian Gottschall, Berks	Primary	X
Southeast	Kelly Collins, Philadelphia	Alternate	X
Southwest	Gary Thomas, Allegheny (Chair)	Primary	X
Southwest	Frank Jannetti, Mercer	Alternate	X
CCAP	Melissa Gates/Ashley White/Brianna Petitti	Advisory	X
PEMA	Jeff Boyle	Advisory	X

1. 2022 15% Funding Summary:

• Grants applications:

- All grant applications have been sent to the applicable counties for review and submission to PEMA.
- o Item to carry to your regional partners:
 - Please review and submit grant applications as soon as possible
 - This allows PEMA to finalize their grant agreement
 - The grant agreement has to be signed by all parties (County, PEMA, Attorney General, Office of General Counsel, and State Comptroller) before PEMA has the ability to make a payment.
 - It takes time for all of these entities to sign

Grant Awards:

- Awards were focused on maintenance of existing shared projects, GIS, and NG911 migration support.
- No new projects were funded and deferred those discussions until the next funding cycle.
- Key questions and decisions coming up:
 - What is the best approach to address these needs? (i.e., CHE refresh in NECORE and other regions)
 - What will 15% funds cover for connectivity outside of the State ESInet?

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- 911 system plans are anticipated to identify other needs for 15% funding consideration
- All these items together will drive planning budgeting of 15% funds looking ahead to future funding cycles.
- Remaining balance of \$11.9 million puts us in a good position to address coming needs and continuing support of funding formula assistance

• Discussion Items:

- o NG911 CHE migration quotes changed multiple times in some cases. PEMA reviewed quotes closely to ensure no unnecessary items were included. These reviews resulted in revised quotes in some cases.
- o Will final decisions be sent out? PEMA has communicated decisions to counties but will send out a final review summary to all stakeholders.

2. Request for Information – Cloud Based/Data Center Based CHE Solutions Update

- Discussion item in our Subcommittee has been to find more effective ways to procure services and manage costs.
- Releasing an RFI was an action item for PEMA as part of those discussions
- RFI responses are due on 8/19
- The next step would be to determine if any further procurement action is needed from PEMA

3. Upcoming Items

• Finalize NG911 Service Enhancement Review Process

- o Updated draft to be shared with Subcommittee members that provides framework of due dates.
- o A discussion item to finalize the document is to define the review process. A common question has been what the level of engagement is form the Subcommittee & Board in this process and we'll need to work through those details.

Funding formula review

- o Formula assistance will continue so no PSAP will be impacted by a formula change.
 - PEMA has regularly stated that formula assistance is contingent on the availability of 15% funds and will continue until such time there is an increase to the 911 surcharge rate as long as we change the formula..
- o Goal is to have a formula review completed by end of March 2023.
 - A formula change would be implemented immediately due to no impact on PSAPs
 - If the March goal is not met, a formula change can be implemented at any time next year due to no negative impact on a PSAP.
- o Legislation reauthorization discussions could change results of the formula review or could impact the need to continue formula assistance

• Discussion items:

• What is the purpose of the review if there is no impact to a PSAP?

• The current formula is based on data that is over a decade old and needs

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replaced. The review will result in a new formula calculation. There would be no reduction to a PSAP in 2023 since formula assistance will continue. PEMA has regularly stated that formula assistance is contingent on the availability of 15% funds and will continue in future years until such time there is a revenue increase as long as we change the formula. Legislation reauthorization discussions next year would provide stakeholders an opportunity to make any needed adjustments to the formula if necessary.

- Can we define the review process and set goals for completing it at our next meeting?
 - Yes, that can be a discussion item at the next meeting.
- o Comment: Some counties may still be receiving more than their fair share.
 - A new formula should represent a more equitable way to distribute 911 revenue for all PSAPs. A common concern of proponents of a formula change is that some counties are disadvantaged by the current formula. A common concern of those not in favor of a formula change is some counties seeing a revenue decrease. The compromise over the past few years has been to offset revenue losses with 15% funds. PEMA is committed to continuing that approach, based on the availability of 15% funds, until there is a revenue increase in order to effect a formula change.

o Comment: What about the anti-windfall provision?

The anti-windfall provision states that the revenue a county receives from the Fund cannot exceed the costs to operate their 911 system. The anti-windfall provision allows counties to include allocations to capital and operating reserves as part of their costs. Based on the current structure of the law, the anti-windfall provision has not led to the redistribution of 911 revenue from any county under Act 12 to date. The revision of the funding formula would be a proactive step to addressing revenue distribution concerns.

4. New Business

- None
- Next meeting is September 1st. The meeting is in person prior to the 911 Advisory Board meeting

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