



The Office of Public Safety Communications (OPSC) helps NTIA meet its responsibilities under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Act) and in other areas of critical communications. The Act established the creation of an interoperable nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) through the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) for use by police, firefighters, emergency medical service professionals, and other public safety entities to complete their critical missions. OPSC supports the Commerce Department's oversight of FirstNet and the NPSBN, leading to improved public safety outcomes and greater support for America's first responders. OPSC also works in coordination with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to improve the implementation of 911, Enhanced 911, and Next Generation 911 services.

OPSC oversees the following programs:

Review of FirstNet's Fees

NTIA is charged with annually reviewing and approving the fees that FirstNet assesses under specific statutory authorities. Consistent with requirements in the Act, NTIA established by rule that it will approve FirstNet's proposed fees each year if they equal, but do not exceed, the amount FirstNet needs to execute its statutory obligations in a given year. Under this review, NTIA examines all revenues and expenses FirstNet projects for the subsequent fiscal year.

Next Generation 911 (NG911)

NTIA works with NHTSA as part of the 911 Implementation and Coordination Office (ICO). In August 2019, the agencies awarded more than \$109 million in grants to 34 states and two tribal nations as part of the 911 Grant Program, which will help 911 call centers upgrade to NG911 capabilities. The funding will support improvements such as providing digital and IP network capabilities to 911 (cont.)



Credit: FirstNet

emergency call centers and will assist implementation of advanced mapping systems that will make it easier to identify a 911 caller's location. The 911 Grant Program also provides funding for training costs directly related to NG911 implementation.

State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP)

This program provides resources to assist regional, state, local, and tribal government entities as they plan for NPSBN being deployed by FirstNet. NTIA awarded \$116.5 million in grants in 2013 to 54 U.S. states and territories and provided recipients with the resources to work with stakeholders to identify needs, gaps, and priorities for public safety wireless broadband. In March 2018, NTIA awarded \$33.3 million in SLIGP 2.0 grants to 46 U.S. states and territories to continue planning for FirstNet as deployment of the NPSBN occurs. SLIGP 2.0 awards will expire on a rolling basis from March 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

