

About SLIGP

SLIGP was created under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. SLIGP is designed to provide resources to assist regional, state, local and tribal government entities as they plan for the nationwide public safety broadband network (PSBN) being developed by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet).

NTIA awarded \$116.5 million in grants to 54 U.S. states and territories. This funding provides recipients with the resources to work with stakeholders throughout the state or territory to identify needs, gaps, and priorities for public safety wireless broadband. This work will also help recipients prepare for consultation with FirstNet.

Recommendations for Public Safety Broadband Governance

SLIGP is a formula-based, matching grant program assisting states, in collaboration with regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions, to plan for the establishment of a nationwide public safety broadband network.

To provide support and assistance to SLIGP recipients, the SLIGP federal program officers focused on the topic of governance during quarterly progress calls (quarter ending March 2014) with all SLIGP recipients. Recipients were given the opportunity to describe their governance strategies and progress, including the process they used to get started, how they got organized, and whom they included. In addition, recipients provided insight into how their governance structure will work with FirstNet.

Choosing the Right Governance Body

States and territories have taken different approaches to governance for public safety broadband. Most elected to use existing governance groups that were set up to support their Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), other grant programs, or a specific statewide system. Others added members, created committees, or created entirely new governance bodies specifically to support public safety broadband. The chart below shows the percentage of SLIGP recipients that have taken these approaches.

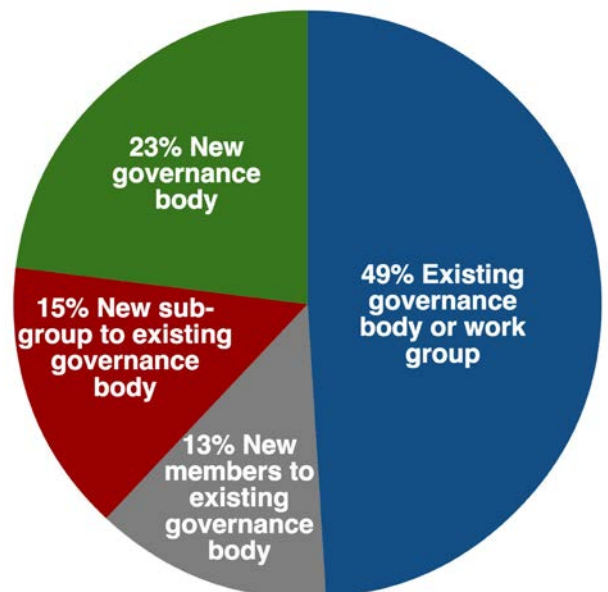
SLIGP Funding Priorities for Governance

- Establish a governance structure or expand existing structures to consult with FirstNet
- Develop procedures to ensure local and tribal representation and participation in the consultation process with FirstNet

Upgrading Membership

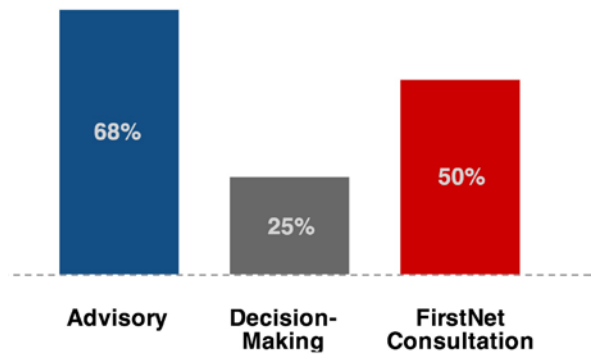
States and territories are including a wide variety of existing and new stakeholders in their governance activities. They are engaging the following stakeholders (in order of frequency):

- State-level public safety agencies and stakeholders
- Tribal representatives
- Subject matter experts
- Local, city, and county-level public safety agencies and stakeholders
- Regional representatives
- Office of the CIO
- Governor's office and other state agencies
- Public safety associations
- Utilities, public health, and other public services



Identifying Governance Roles for FirstNet

States and territories must determine the role their governance bodies will play in preparing for and conducting consultation with FirstNet. The chart to the right shows the identified roles and percentage of recipients that intend to have their governance bodies play each role. Some recipients will have their governance body play multiple roles.



Getting Started

Generally, states and territories that have started governance activities under SLIGP have engaged in some level of evaluation before getting started that has allowed them to go through the proper channels (legislative, Governor approval, group approval, etc.) to make changes to their governance structure. Using public safety broadband as an opportunity, recipients are strengthening their governance bodies and bringing the right stakeholders to the table to plan for broadband. Recipients have generally used the process depicted below.

Assess existing governance structure and determine additional needs for broadband

Consider the OEC guidance for governance in light of the specific broadband needs of the state or territory.



Identify additional stakeholder groups for broadband; create working groups or sub-committees if needed

While not all recipients are using working groups or sub-committees, some have created broadband working groups, technical sub-committees, or PSBN groups under existing groups.



Invite relevant stakeholder groups, associations, and decision-makers to become involved

Consider including policy-makers and experts from the public safety and broadband communications realms, as well as representatives from urban, rural, and tribal areas of the state or territory.



Determine the appropriate role for the governance body in SLIGP implementation and consultation with FirstNet

Many recipients are utilizing their governance bodies as advisors or decision-makers, while some have built structures solely for consultation with FirstNet.



Hold a meeting of the broadband governance structure and working groups

After the first meeting, determine whether or not another assessment of the governance structure is needed and, if so, continue this process.

Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications Governance Resources at:
www.safecomprogram.gov/oecguidancedocuments.html

Establishing Governance to Achieve Statewide Communications Interoperability (December 2008)

Regional Intrastate Governance Guide for Interoperable Emergency Communications Efforts (December 2010)

SLIGP

State and Local Implementation Grant Program

