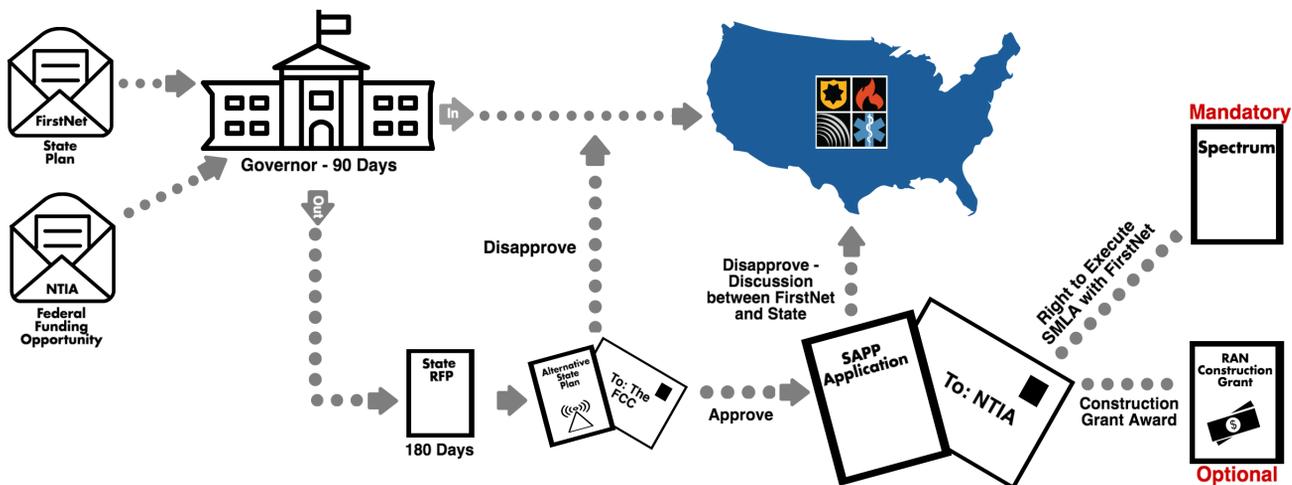


About the State Alternative Plan Program (SAPP)

The State Alternative Plan Program (SAPP) establishes a spectrum capacity leasing authority and radio access network (RAN) construction grant program for any state that “opts out” of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) proposal for that state to have the RAN built as part of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) and seeks to conduct its own deployment of a RAN within its state subject to the provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Act).

As described in the Act, after receiving approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), an “opt-out” state must apply to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a grant of authority to enter into a spectrum capacity lease agreement with FirstNet and may apply for RAN construction grant funding. An applicant must demonstrate: that the state has the technical capability to operate and the funding to support the state RAN; the ability to maintain ongoing interoperability with the NPSBN; the ability to complete the project within specific comparable timelines specific to the state; the cost effectiveness of the state plan, and comparable security, coverage, and quality of service to that of the NPSBN.

Understanding the Process



The Public Notice

The Notice discusses the 5 statutory evaluation criteria that a state must demonstrate to receive the right to enter into a spectrum capacity lease with FirstNet and potential RAN Construction grant:

- The technical capability to operate and funding to support the state RAN;
- The ability to maintain ongoing interoperability with FirstNet’s nationwide network;
- The ability to complete the project within comparable timelines;
- The cost effectiveness of the state’s alternative plan; and
- Comparable security, coverage, and quality of service to the FirstNet plan.

SAPP applies to states and/or territories that seek to construct, operate, maintain, and improve the RAN within their borders.

States **must** apply to NTIA for grant of authority to enter into a spectrum capacity lease agreement with FirstNet and they **may** apply for a grant to go towards the cost of building their RAN.

There will be one application and set of criteria regardless of whether a state applies for one or both.