

9-1-1

NEW JERSEY'S   

E M E R G E N C Y

L I F E L I N E

FY-2023

Next Generation 9-1-1 Grants

Revised November 1, 2022

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I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

In March 2022, after a lengthy RFP and bidding process, a contract was awarded to CenturyLink, DBA Lumen to upgrade the Statewide Enhanced 9-1-1 Network from the legacy analog system to a state-of-the-art digital IP based platform, referred to as Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1). On April 22, 2022, OETS, along with the OIT and Lumen Project Team conducted a kickoff meeting with the County 9-1-1 Coordinators, followed by a similar kickoff meeting for PSAPs on May 20, 2022, to provide an overview and timeframe for implementing such a massive project.

Recognizing that transitioning the legacy analog network infrastructure to a modern digital system will not be a quick nor easy mission, it will also require an investment in new call handling equipment (CHE) at the PSAPs to benefit from this new technology. In recent years some PSAPs have made upgrades to their CHE that will permit a graceful transition to the new NG9-1-1 IP network. Some, although their equipment may be relatively new, will require additional upgrades to take full advantage of the NG9-1-1 capabilities. Many PSAPs will require either the wholesale replacement of their call handling equipment or the decision to consolidate with another PSAP. As part of the Lumen contract many PSAPs will be able to leverage what is known as a Legacy PSAP Gateway (LPG) that will permit older CHE to function until funding can be obtained to perform the necessary upgrades. Although PSAPs relying on the temporary use of a LPG will permit the network migration to NG9-1-1, not all of the functionality will be available until a CHE upgrade accomplished.

In July 2021 OETS notified PSAPs utilizing the KML SmartDMS terminals that the use of LPGs is not an option because of the proprietary features rooted in the KML terminals, therefore, there is no path forward and new CHE would be required. Secondary PSAPs or PSDPs utilizing the KML terminals may choose to transition having their calls transferred from the PSAP over a 10-digit phone number until new equipment can be procured. There may come a time during the NG9-1-1 cutover PSDP's that have not procured new CHE will be forced to transition the transfer of their 9-1-1 calls from the PSAP over a 10-digit line to permit the decommissioning of the legacy selective routers. Primary PSAPs using KML terminals must replace their CHE with new on-site equipment, consider a hosted solution, or consolidate with another PSAP.

The FY-2023 State Budget included a \$10M appropriation to create a grant opportunity to assist in the upgrading of PSAP equipment and create incentives for consolidation of PSAPs. The following is from the FY-2023 Appropriations Handbook:

Public Safety Answering Point Upgrades and Consolidation .. (10,000,000)

The amount hereinabove appropriated for Public Safety Answering Point Upgrades and Consolidation shall be used to provide grants to units of local governments for equipment upgrades and consolidation of Public Safety Answering Points, pursuant to a competitive process, by the Chief Technology Officer, and in accordance with grant criteria to be jointly developed by the Office of Emergency Telecommunication Services within the Office of Information Technology and the Department of the Treasury, subject to the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

II. GRANT PERIOD:

The Next Generation 9-1-1 PSAP Grant period shall coincide with the State's fiscal period, beginning July 1, 2022, with funding encumbered before June 30, 2023. Grant availability in future fiscal years is at the pleasure of the Legislature and Administration and unknown currently.

III. MINIMUM PSAP ELIGIBILITY STANDARD:

For PSAPs to be eligible to receive NG9-1-1 PSAP Grants the PSAP must meet the following criteria:

- a. The PSAP shall be operated by a county agency, or;
- b. The PSAP shall serve a population of 65,000 or more, based on the most recent Census Bureau statistics with the serving population specified on the Grant Applicants resolution by the governing body, and;
- c. The PSAP shall be configured with a minimum of two fully equipped call-taker positions as defined in N.J.A.C. 17:24-2.1, and;
- d. Maintain a minimum staffing level at the PSAP consisting of two certified call-takers/dispatchers dedicated to PSAP operations at all times. Such minimum staffing levels, at the discretion of OETS, may need to be sufficiently documented to show that the PSAP met this minimum staffing level at all times during the 60-day period prior to the Grant Application date by supplying staffing schedules for that period. Grant recipients may be required validate such staffing levels throughout the grant period, or;
- e. Consideration will be made to PSAPs that have been designated as Resort Municipalities in the New Jersey Uniform Crime Report that maintain a minimum staffing level at the PSAP consisting of two certified call-takers/dispatchers dedicated to PSAP operations during those months recognized as peak tourist season, and;
- f. PSAP staffing shall not utilize regularly scheduled sworn officers as call takers or dispatchers except in instances where the sworn officer is returning to active duty from an injury or other physical disability or other unique situation that precluded that officer from performing law enforcement duties.

IV. ALLOWABLE/NON-ALLOWABLE USE OF NG9-1-1 PSAP GRANT FUNDS:

Allowable use of NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant Funding:

- a. PSAP Equipment funding to upgrade/replace CHE that is not able to take full advantage of the NG9-1-1 capabilities or approaching end of life. This includes on-site CHE, geo-diverse configurations and hosted solutions approved by OETS and the network vendor.
- b. Additional call taker answering positions/console upgrades to accommodate the consolidation of other PSAP/PSDPs.

- c. Network/firewall improvements that will enhance cyber security posture for the PSAP.
- d. Minor alterations to equipment room to permit installation of NG9-1-1 equipment rack and any required new equipment.
- e. Geographic Information System (GIS) enhancements.
 - i. Conversion of GIS data necessary to achieve the requirements for implementing NENA Standard for NG9-1-1 GIS Data Model. Example data sources might include County GIS or PSAP computer aided dispatch system(s).
 - ii. Upgrades to GIS data to designate Emergency Service Zones.
 - iii. Requests must be based on the countywide data conversion, not individual PSAP coverage areas.
 - iv. After determining the number of GIS data conversion requests OETS may consolidate the requests into a single procurement to a state contract GIS vendor or other procurement vehicle and utilize the resources of the State Office of GIS within OIT to manage the conversion project to reduce costs.

Example of non-allowable items for NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant funding include:

- a. Non-Supplanting funding, any costs listed above that the applicant has previously purchased or has issued a purchase order to procure for the purposes of PSAP enhancements.
- b. Salaries.
- c. Consultant fees.
- d. Vehicles
- e. Radio equipment.
- f. Mobile data networks.
- g. Major PSAP building alterations or construction projects.
- h. Furniture.

V. NG9-1-1 PSAP GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant Application:

Unlike previous PSAP Grants, the FY-2023 NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant Applications will be an on-line process. PSAPs meeting the grant criteria that choose to apply shall have the PSAP point of contact for the grant send an email request to 911grants@tech.nj.gov to begin the process. Each PSAP contact will be sent a link to access our SimplyGov NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant Application site to initiate the process. Throughout the progression there will be a workflow process that will require various governmental approvals from the applicant.

As in previous grants, the NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant Application must contain a project point of contact, PSAP demographics, a narrative of the Grant Project Description, Performance Indicators and a detailed list of equipment and services, and vendor or manufacturer's quote to the agency should be provided if available.

The projects outlined in the NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant Application will be evaluated and prioritized on the following factors:

- a. Population base served based on the most recent U.S. Bureau of Census population statistics.
- b. Number of municipalities served.
- c. 9-1-1 call volume.
- d. Combined PSAP and Public Safety Dispatch abilities.
- e. Text to 9-1-1 capabilities.
- f. Level of consolidation achieved.
- g. Cost of project.
- h. Timeframe to completion.
- i. Local funding to supplement project.

After OETS is in receipt of the NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant Applications submitted by the deadline, the requests will be evaluated by criteria cited in the Budget Appropriation and a selection will be made of successful requests, up to the FY-2023 appropriation of \$10M for advancement. OETS may seek additional information from PSAPs to understand the project request, additionally, OETS may choose to fund the projects in their entirety or only selected components. It is important that cost details are as accurate as possible in the grant request since the final funding amount can not be increased in the final grant agreement, any additional or unforeseen costs must be funded by the PSAP.

2. Submission/Completion of Grant Application

Completed Grant Applications must have the required administrative approvals required in the SimplyGov workflow **completed by December 9, 2022.**

3. Awarded NG9-1-1 Grant Projects:

Each grant application selected for funding shall provide a spending resolution by the governing body authorizing the PSAP to enter into a grant agreement as well as attesting to the population served by the PSAP. Counties or Municipalities will be required to enter into a formal Grant Agreement with the State of New Jersey, no funding will be made until a resolution and Grant Agreement is on file.

VI. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:

NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant recipients must adhere to all applicable State and Federal Laws, OMB Circular Letters pertaining to the auditing and reporting of state aid.

The grantee will be required to meet the State programmatic and fiscal reporting standards, which include submission to the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services, detailed Cost Statements/Expenditure Reports during the grant period and the maintenance of a bookkeeping system, records, and separate grant files that clearly identify the expenditure of grant funds. If deviations in the approved project or grant duration occur during the grant period, the PSAP must request and receive approval from the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services. The Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services may approve requests provided the requested

change continues to meet the intent of the Grant Program and requires no additional funds or require the unexpended funds be returned.

All expenditures from the NG9-1-1 PSAP Grant shall be attested to by the Chief Financial Officer of the governing body as being consistent with any Grant Requests and used for the purpose stated in any Grant Application. Any variation will jeopardize future grant awards and they may require the governing entity to forfeit any misused funds.