

As Virginia PSAPs transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), it is important to ensure that sustainable funding is available to local governments to maintain standard services and capabilities across the state. To this end, a Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) Integrated Services Program (ISP) committee was formed and is seeking input from the 9-1-1 community. To ensure all localities have an opportunity to provide input, all Virginia primary PSAP Managers are asked to complete the attached survey jointly with their locality administrator. The Public Safety Communications (PSC) Coordinator (Coordinator) and the NG9-1-1 Sustainable Funding Committee (Committee) will be using your responses, along with other analysis, to make a recommendation to the 9-1-1 Services Board (Board).

The survey is intended to provide input on four questions:

- Is the projected growth rate of wireless 9-1-1 revenue sufficient to keep pace with estimated NG9-1-1 recurring costs? If not, what are possible methods for increasing revenue?
- Do Virginia PSAPs believe the current distribution percentages and methodology for the Wireless E-911 Fund are optimal to support PSAP operations and discretionary funding (PSAP Grant Program)?
- How can PSAPs be incentivized to pursue shared and hosted services projects?
- Is there a desire to consolidate (physical or technological) among Virginia PSAPs, but personnel are unsure of how or have insufficient resources to proceed?

#### Explanation for the 1<sup>st</sup> Section - Revenue

The Coordinator and staff are preparing a spreadsheet to compare the rate of revenue growth compared to the rate of PSAP cost increases/decreases based on collected financial data. In the event, that cost is increasing at a greater rate than revenue, the Coordinator and Committee would like your input on pursuing legislative changes to increase revenue at the state and/or local level.

#### Explanation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section – Fund Distribution

This section is focused on obtaining locality input on the current funding methodology, as well as the current percentages for monthly distribution (60%) and grant funding (40%).

Funding Formula History: Prior to 2012, the formula utilized cost of non-compensation board personnel and equipment and call volume to determine funding. In 2012, the formula was changed to utilize only non-compensation board 9-1-1 telecommunicators and call volume. In 2017, a Board committee recommended to the Coordinator to change the funding formula to utilize population. This recommendation was based on information that NG9-1-1 recurring costs would be based on population. 9-1-1 call volume was included in the formula to adjust for temporary residents (e.g., students and day-time commuters).

In addition to the survey questions, the Coordinator and staff are preparing a spreadsheet to compare estimated NG9-1-1 and legacy 9-1-1 costs with current and projected funding on a jurisdictional level. The Coordinator and the Committee will analyze anomalies (costs increasing, funding decreasing or vice versa), as well as the overall difference between recurring costs compared to current and projected future funding. Based on survey input and financial analysis, the Coordinator and Committee will make

recommendations to the Board. The focus is not on historical funding compared to current funding, but, rather on an equitable funding formula which mirrors costs associated with providing the minimum standard of service across the state.

The Coordinator and Committee are also seeking input on whether jurisdictions would like more of the fund to be distributed monthly leaving less for grants, or have more funds for grants reducing the amount of monthly allocation, or if they are satisfied with the current 60% monthly allocation/40% grant funding split. If a change is desired, you are presented with different values up to 100%. As noted, an increase in one category will result in a decrease in the other category as the distribution percentage must equal 100. A suggestion has been made to use wireless 9-1-1 funding to pay for recurring ESInet costs. A percentage of the estimated recurring ESInet costs (based on AT&T contract) as compared to the total amount of wireless funding available to PSAPs is provided for your reference as you complete the grant and PSAP operational funding questions.

The last question is to determine whether localities will change their position on maintenance if grant funds are reduced.

#### Explanation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sections – Cost

In addition to increasing revenue, the Coordinator and Committee would like to investigate possible ways to reduce costs. System (software and/or hardware) sharing and PSAP consolidation are approaches other states have utilized to purportedly reduce costs. The questions in the survey are intended to determine localities' willingness to participate in system sharing arrangements if they reduce the local cost.

The final questions allow the jurisdiction to provide input that the Committee may not have considered.

Thank you for participating in this survey. The Coordinator and Committee believe it is essential that every PSAP's input be considered as they develop recommendations to the Board on how to mitigate the impact of NG9-1-1 recurring costs. If you have questions, contact your ISP Regional Coordinator.