FirstNet Recommended Data Collection

WHAT IS FIRSTNET'S APPROACH TO THE DATA COLLECTION AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO OTHER FIRSTNET ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING RFP AND STATE PLAN PROCESSES?

The law that established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) requires it to consult with local, state/territory, tribal, and federal public safety entities[1] to ensure that the nationwide public safety broadband network (network) is designed to meet the needs of public safety across the country. FirstNet is working through the State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) to gather inputs from key stakeholders for developing its deployment plan, one method of which is data collection. The law requires FirstNet to deliver a state plan to each governor regarding FirstNet's plan to deploy the Radio Access Network (RAN) within the state or territory.

FirstNet is in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) toward a Comprehensive Network Solution(s). FirstNet's current approach is based upon the premise that FirstNet will seek proposals for a network solution or solutions allowing it to control and operate a nationwide Core network, RANs in Opt-in States, as well as for devices, deployable capabilities, applications, integration, and maintenance and operational services required to fully function as an operational wireless standards-based long term evolution (LTE) network nationwide. FirstNet will solicit feedback on the RFP prior to its release through a series of engagements with industry, public safety, and various stakeholders at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE SPOC IN THE DATA COLLECTION PROCESS? WHICH AREAS SHOULD THE SPOC FOCUS ON?

FirstNet is requesting the assistance of SPOCs to collect data from the public safety community inclusive of local, state/territory, and tribal governments, to inform FirstNet's acquisition toward a Comprehensive Network Solution(s) and state plans. Participation from the broad public safety community is critical to ensure the network meets the needs of public safety.

[1]Refer to FirstNet's preliminary definition of "public safety entity" [A Public Safety Entity is an entity that provides public safety services as defined in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. No. 112-96, Title VI, 126 Stat. 256 (codified at 47 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.)] (the "Act") and further discussed in FirstNet's first public notice and request for comments to better understand who may be considered a potential user of the network. First Responder Network Authority Proposed Interpretations of Parts of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, 79 Fed. Reg. 57058, 57060 (September 24, 2014) available at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-09-24/pdf/2014-22536.pdf

FirstNet seeks information on the following topics:

1. **Coverage:** Identify desired coverage within the state or territory and proposed build out phases.
2. **Users and Operational Areas:** Gather information on the eligible user base and their respective operational areas.
3. **Capacity Planning:** Estimate current data usage today from typical users with indicators of potential growth.
4. **Current Providers/Procurement:** Identify current service providers and plans, procurement vehicles, and barriers to adoption.
5. **State Plan Decision Process:** Document the final state plan review process prior to submission to the Governor and any potential barriers/issues FirstNet should be aware of.

WHEN IS THIS INFORMATION DUE TO FIRSTNET?

FirstNet requests an initial response to topics 1-4 by July 31, 2015 to inform FirstNet's acquisition and a written narrative response to topic 5 by December 31, 2015. Beyond the initial July 31, 2015 deadline for topics 1-4, FirstNet will accept the SPOC and Agency POC collected data on an ongoing basis and will establish a second deadline in the future for final information to inform the state plans.

CAN STATES AND TERRITORIES USE SLIGP FUNDS FOR THIS DATA COLLECTION?

States and territories may leverage State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) funding to complete these data collection activities. Additional information regarding SLIGP and the use of funds is available at http://www.ntia.doc.gov/sligp/program_information. Please reach out to your SPOC for additional information regarding the specific data collection within your State, Territory, or Tribal Nation. General questions may be directed to datacollection@firstnet.gov.