



# Ohio 9-1-1 Newsletter

January 2018

## **Wireless 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund Reconciliation Form**

2018 has arrived, and as such, it is now time once again to check for compliance with the stipulations present in ORC 128.571. According to that section, in 2017, counties were permitted to use money from the Wireless 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund for four public safety answering points (PSAPs) in the county, with an additional fifth PSAP eligible to be funded if a county contains a municipal corporation with a population of 175,000 or more.

Monitoring for compliance with the law is the responsibility of the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office. As such, the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office will again be distributing the Wireless 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund Reconciliation Form to ensure that the conditions set forth in the law are being met.

In response to the feedback received following the distribution of last year's form, the form was revised to make it more concise and simple.

As a reminder, as of Jan. 1, counties are now only permitted to use Wireless 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund money to support three PSAPs, with the exception of those counties containing a municipal corporation with a population of 175,000 or more. Such counties are permitted to fund four PSAPs. Additionally, funds can be used for central, countywide 9-1-1 equipment. Forms collected in 2019 for the 2018 reporting period will account for these changes.

## **Support and Compliance Program Update**

**By Sharon McMurray, Ohio 9-1-1 Support and Compliance Coordinator**

The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office staff met with the County 9-1-1 Coordinator Focus Group for the second time last month. A tentative schedule for the submission of compliance documentation was presented and the group discussed the compressed time line resulting from the May 12, 2018, date of the Operations Rules initiation. Recommendations were discussed to have the data collection process for 2018 defined as an "implementation phase" of the Support and Compliance Program to allow the wireless PSAPs, the County Coordinators, and the Support and Compliance Coordinator to analyze the types of supporting documentation being submitted for validation. Clarifications can be made during this implementation phase without the risk of losing funding. The recommendation has been submitted

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to the ESINet Steering Committee for their review and approval. The Focus Group also contributed recommendations for the Continuing Training Standards, found in section 5507-01-08, which will be provided by the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office for 2018. Thanks to those who volunteered and assisted in designing this program to comply with Ohio Revised Code 128.

An additional "Education and Training" phase addressing the Operations Rules is in the process of being scheduled in seven counties throughout the state. The sessions will take place in February through March. These Support and Compliance educational sessions are designed to introduce the documentation collection process to the county 9-1-1 coordinators responsible for the submission of the documentation and any support personnel from the wireless PSAPs, with agency specific expertise, to associate the process to their own agency's capabilities. Anyone associated with the impending program will be welcomed to the sessions.

Dates and locations of the sessions are as follows:

Session 1

Wednesday, February 7, 10AM-12Noon – Jackson County – Location to be determined

Session 2

Thursday, February 15, 1PM-3PM – Summit County (Richfield OPOTA) – 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, OH 44286

Session 3

Tuesday, February 27, 10AM-12Noon – Franklin County, State EMA EOC/JDF – 2855 W. Dublin Grandville Rd., Columbus OH 43235

Session 4

Wednesday, March 7, 10AM-12Noon – Miami County – 210 Marybill Dr., Troy, OH 45373

Session 5

Thursday, March 15, 10AM-12Noon – Hamilton County – Hamilton County Communications Center 2377 Civic Center Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231 (Visitor parking on North side of the building)

Session 6

Tuesday, March 20, 10AM-12Noon – Guernsey County – Guernsey County Sheriff's Office, 601 Southgate Parkway, Cambridge, OH 43725

Session 7

Thursday, March 29, 10AM-12Noon – Putnam County – Putnam County Educational Service Center, 124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa OH 45875

Session 8

Thursday, March 15th, 1:30PM-3:30PM - Montgomery County - Centerville Police Department training center - 155 W. Spring Valley Road, Centerville, OH 45458

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## **2018 FCC and National 9-1-1 Survey**

As in previous years, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National 9-1-1 Office will be releasing their annual surveys. In an effort to simplify this process and not require our partners at the local level to fill out multiple, duplicative surveys, the relevant information from both surveys will be consolidated into one survey form.

Additionally, the survey form has been updated to be clearer, more efficient, and user-friendly. If you are responsible for filling out this survey for your county, please read the instructions carefully, as some of the questions and procedures from years past have changed. Simply copying and pasting all responses from previous years' surveys will result in confusion and inadequate responses to questions. However, some information from previous years may be relevant.

The responses to the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office received in the combined survey form will be recorded, analyzed, and used to respond to the surveys from the FCC and the National 9-1-1 Office respectively. The form will be released upon receiving both surveys from the respective federal agencies.

## **FirstNet Update**

**By Rick Schmahl, MARCS Director**

On Nov. 30, 2017, Ohio Governor John R. Kasich officially opted Ohio into FirstNet. FirstNet was established by the U.S. Congress, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce, through the "Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012." Through this act, FirstNet is required to establish a nationwide wireless broadband network to provide a single platform for daily, as well as emergency and crisis, public safety communications use. All 50 states have chosen to join FirstNet by the deadline of Dec. 28, 2017.

The FirstNet public/private partnership venture is aimed at building, operating, and maintaining a nationwide wireless broadband data network designed to meet the distinct communications needs of public safety: interoperability, security, availability, and reliability at the speed and level of efficiency required by first responders. This new wireless network will be provided at no cost to the state.

It is imperative that Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) systems and the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) be well-integrated, secure, and utilize standards for security, reliability, and redundancy. The FirstNet State plan for Ohio must be on an open digital platform capable of the secure, efficient, and effective exchange of data between the NG9-1-1 system and NPSBN, giving NG9-1-1 dispatchers the means to transmit the digital, multi-media information received from NG9-1-1 to the first responders.

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## **ESINet Steering Committee Meeting Jan. 25, 2018**

The ESINet Steering Committee will meet at 11 a.m. Thurs. Jan. 25, in room 1948, on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor of the Riffe Center. This meeting will be the in-person meeting for the first quarter of 2018. There will be a number of discussion points, including the state of the Wireless 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund and current funding levels, the Ohio 9-1-1 Support and Compliance Program, and proposed changes to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 128. The committee will be discussing these items and taking action where it deems necessary.

## **New PSAP Operations Subcommittee Members**

At the Nov. 17, 2017, ESINet Steering Committee in-person meeting, the committee voted to approve two new members of the PSAP Operations Subcommittee.

First, there was a previously vacated slot on the subcommittee allocated for a representative from the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio (CCAO). John Leutz, one of the CCAO's representatives on the ESINet Steering Committee, nominated Kim Brandt of Van Wert County. Kim has been the 9-1-1 coordinator in Van Wert County since 2000, and has been an active participant and supporter in a number of 9-1-1 related issues at the local and state level. The committee voted unanimously to approve Kim as a member of the subcommittee.

Mr. Leutz also requested the addition of an additional, at-large member of the PSAP Operations Subcommittee. The case was made that a member representing Cuyahoga County, a jurisdiction with one of the largest populations in Ohio, and large number of PSAPs, would be a beneficial addition to the subcommittee. Specifically, Mr. Leutz nominated Lisa Raffurty, manager of the Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System (CECOMS) for an at-large position. After a brief discussion and consultation of the committee's assigned Assistant Attorney General to confirm the ability to add another member, the ESINet Steering Committee voted unanimously to approve Lisa as a subcommittee member.

The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office looks forward to working with these new subcommittee members in its efforts to deliver the best possible quality 9-1-1 service to the people of Ohio.

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