



Using the FirstNet network, public safety professionals will be able to share applications, access databases and provide better services through improved communications. FirstNet's goal is to provide **public safety-grade reliability** and **extensive coverage** so public safety personnel can count on the network when they are on the job.

FirstNet will also provide **coverage solutions** that let public safety personnel "take the network along" to their destination. The assignment of users will be determined through the **local control** of individual departments and agencies as to who can use the system and access applications.

When the FirstNet network launches, it plans to provide mission-critical, high-speed data services to supplement the voice capabilities of today's Land Mobile Radio (LMR) networks. Initially, the FirstNet network will be used for sending data, streaming video, images, text and location information. Eventually it will include **cellular voice communications**, such as Voice-over Long Term Evolution (VoLTE) or other alternatives.





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About FirstNet

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), is an independent organization created by Congress to cost-effectively create a nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. Using dedicated spectrum, when complete, the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) will provide first responders and other public safety personnel a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety communications.

Success of the network build-out depends, in part, on users and other stakeholders. For example, all 56 **U.S. States** and **Territories** must have a radio access network (RAN) that connects to the FirstNet core network. To contain cost, FirstNet will leverage existing telecommunications infrastructure and assets, including exploring **public/private partnerships** that can help support and accelerate the creation of the network.







The 2012 Federal law that created FirstNet also established the **State and Local** Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP), paving the way for Louisiana FirstNet.

SLIGP provides resources to engage local, Tribal. State and regional jurisdictions in identifying interoperability wireless data needs, gaps and priorities, and plan for build-out of the NPSBN.

Louisiana FirstNet is **leading** that effort. In **partnership** with local and statewide stakeholders, Louisiana FirstNet is determining the most efficient and effective means to use and integrate the infrastructure, equipment and other architecture associated with FirstNet. It is intended that local, Tribal, State and regional jurisdictional and seamless interoperable data-sharing requirements are met through planning, developing and deploying the NPSBN.

Louisiana + Public Safety Broadband

Louisiana is no stranger to emergencies or disasters. The response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 demonstrated the challenge of – and need for – seamless interoperable voice and data communications. Louisiana responded by constructing the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN), addressing voice communications. The NPSBN provides us an opportunity to address the need for seamless, high-speed video, location data, telemedicine, document sharing and applications during an emergency or disaster.

Background

Following the tragic events on September 11, 2001, the 9/11 Commission recommended the establishment of a **nationwide**, **interoperable public** safety communications network to resolve communications challenges faced by emergency responders. They found that during emergencies, public safety personnel need access to a robust network able to freely share information between different groups of public safety entities with priority over civilian users of that network.

Authorities

To address these issues, when **Congress passed** the *Middle Class Tax* Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, it included provisions to allocate critical radio spectrum to public safety and to **create** both the:

- Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN)
- First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)

The NPSBN will be the first nationwide, high-speed broadband network **dedicated** to public safety.

FirstNet is responsible for the development, deployment and maintenance of the NPSBN. Using nationwide 700 MHz spectrum, FirstNet will end decades-long interoperability and communications challenges, helping to keep our communities and emergency responders safer.

Congress also dedicated up to \$7 BILLION in funding for the construction of the FirstNet network.

Federal Governance

FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), organized under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Never before has Congress established an *independent* governmental authority with a **mandate** to provide specialized communications services for public safety.

FirstNet is governed by a **15-member Board**. The Board is composed of representatives from public safety; local, State and Federal government; and the wireless industry. Members bring their expertise, experience and commitment to serving public safety and meeting the FirstNet mission.









Structure

The SLIGP grant recipient is the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), Office of State Police. The grant is administered by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). Each State designates a single point of contact (SPOC) to facilitate connectivity and cooperation between the State and the FirstNet organization. The grant is funded by 80% (Federal) and 20% (State) contributions that total \$2.4 million.

As part of the overall process, **each State will have the option of participating as part of FirstNet or opting out** by seeking approval to construct its own alternative radio access network (RAN) plan.

Gathering + Sharing Information

Dedicated to public safety, NPSBN design will be based on input from local jurisdictions. To ensure **statewide** and **local needs** are identified and shared, Louisiana FirstNet is committed to reaching out to local first responders, member associations, Tribal authorities and other stakeholders in Louisiana and to interface with the national FirstNet organization.

When complete, the nationwide network is envisioned to provide a secure, reliable and dedicated interoperable network of both voice and data to enable emergency responders to communicate during an emergency and take advantage of technologies to support local and national response and recovery efforts.

Louisiana is already half way there!

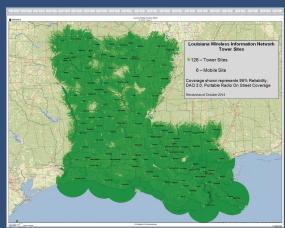
Louisiana is on the **leading edge** of emergency and disaster response communications. We have ALREADY invested heavily in **voice technology** through the creation of the **Louisiana Wireless Information Network** (LWIN). The National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) provides us an opportunity to also provide seamless and **dedicated** data sharing, including **high-speed video**, **location data**, **telemedicine**, **document sharing** and **applications** during an emergency or disaster.

We will be *fully* **prepared** to provide the **latest technologies** to public safety agencies and organizations across the State by adding **seamless data communications** to **work alongside** our existing LWIN system.

State Governance

Louisiana FirstNet is under the general direction of the **21-member Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee** (SIEC) and its **Broadband Subcommittee** – composed of up to seven (7) public safety professionals and the Louisiana FirstNet staff of six (6).

Created by the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act (Louisiana Disaster Recovery Act), the SIEC has **full authority** to design, construct, administer and maintain a statewide interoperable communications system with capacity to transport voice, data and imagery in support of full response to any emergency or disaster event.



LWIN COVERAGE MAP

News + Events

Look for announcements regarding **outreach activities** and **events**. As they are scheduled, activities and events will be posted to the **calendar** on **firstnet.louisiana.gov**. There will also be other ways to participate through **survey tools** and **data-collection** initiatives.

To stay **up-to-date** on FirstNet activities, public safety personnel can also track progress at **firstnet.gov** and the Louisiana FirstNet site **firstnet.louisiana.gov**.



The State single point of contact (SPOC) is Colonel Michael Edmonson, Superintendent - Louisiana State Police and Deputy Secretary -Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services.



SIEC Membership

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) membership is composed of all appropriate first responder and support organizations and includes:

Neal Underwood

Louisiana Division of Administration

Major Alan Dunn

Louisiana National Guard

Sheriff Ricky Edwards (Retired)

Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

Mike Knaps

Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police

Chief Robert Benoit

Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association

Richard "Dick" Gremillion

Regional Parish Homeland Security and **Emergency Preparedness Directors Committee**

Lieutenant Colonel Adam White

Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services

Vacant Position

Louisiana Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

Bill Vincent

Louisiana Association of Public Safety Communications Officials

John Taylor

Louisiana Ambulance Alliance

Aaron Miller Region 1

Billie Giroir Region 2

Chair - Christopher Guilbeaux Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency **Preparedness**

Eric Deroche Region 3

Stacey Blanchard Region 4

Lloyd Miller Region 5

Sonya Wiley-Gremillion Region 6

William "Wes" Edge

Region 7

Sean Christian Region 8

Merrick Tassin Region 9

Broadband Subcommittee

Sheriff Ricky Edwards (Retired)

Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

Chief Robert Benoit Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association

Aaron Miller

City of New Orleans

William Daniel City-Parish of East Baton Rouge

Christina Dayries

Governor's Office of Homeland Security and **Emergency Preparedness**

Neal Underwood Louisiana Division of Administration



Chair - Lieutenant Colonel **Adam White** Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services



Broadband Planning + Data Collection

Since the establishment of FirstNet, the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** (DHS) **Office of Emergency Communications** (OEC) has been supporting FirstNet, as well as key local, Tribal, State and Federal stakeholders to ensure the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) meets the various needs of the **public safety community** and provides seamless interoperable communications nationwide.

To support broadband planning by local, Tribal and State partners in Louisiana and across the country, OEC developed a wireless broadband planning template. OEC is also:

- Assisting States with updating their Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIPs) through a series of SCIP workshops focused on broadband planning.
- Providing online tools to aid planning and build-out efforts, including:
 - Mobile Data Survey Tool (MDST)
 - > Frequency Mapping Tool (FMT)
 - > Communications Assets Survey (CASM)
 - > Next Generation and Site Survey Tool (SST)

The tools are designed to **share information** between Federal and State planners and FirstNet personnel who are developing the network.

To ensure Louisiana data is included, Louisiana public safety organizations such as **State and local law enforcement (LE)**, fire departments, emergency medical services (EMS) providers, constables' offices of homeland security and emergency preparedness (OHSEPs), communications districts, public safety answering points (PSAPs) and other public safety entities have been asked to complete the MDST.









In establishing a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network dedicated for first responders, FirstNet is guided by these 10 important principles:

- 1. FirstNet will be a public safety-grade network built to meet the needs of our Nation's first responders.
- 2. FirstNet will provide public safety users with priority access to the network.
- 3. FirstNet will harden the network to assist with resiliency during natural disasters, incidents and man-made threats.
- **4.** FirstNet will enhance public safety communications by delivering mission-critical data and applications that augment the voice capabilities of today's land mobile radio (LMR) networks.
- **5.** FirstNet will enable local communications management and keep incident commanders in control.
- **6.** FirstNet will be judicious with taxpayer dollars while remaining focused on offering its services to public safety at a compelling cost.
- 7. FirstNet will have effective security controls that protect data and defend against cyber threats.
- **8.** FirstNet will design a backhaul approach that keeps the network up and running.
- **9.** FirstNet will leverage existing infrastructure where it makes economic and engineering sense.
- **10.** FirstNet will support and learn from its Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) project partners.

For complete text on the 10 principles, visit **firstnet.gov/about/guiding-principles**.





