



NYSAC
NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2018

Budget Priority

9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS

PROBLEM

Counties operate and maintain 9-1-1 functions. The funding mechanism used today to help operate, maintain, and upgrade 9-1-1 system capability and performance is out of date and does not correspond to technology and marketplace changes. In addition, too much funding is diverted by the State for non-9-1-1 purposes. As a result, the system does not generate sufficient revenue to allow New York's counties to properly maintain existing systems while also preparing to implement the next generation of 9-1-1 technology required under federal law.

Under current law, for the last two budget years, \$10 million is authorized and targeted directly to PSAPs and up to \$65 million is set aside for the provision of grants and reimbursements to counties administered by the State Interoperable Communications Grants (SICG) program, administered by the Division of Homeland Security. To our understanding a total of \$150 million has been authorized for county 9-1-1 purposes, but only \$20 million has been released (\$20 million for PSAPS over the two years and \$45 million authorized purposes from the SFY 2016-17 budget under a new formula based methodology, while identified, has not been made available to draw down yet).

COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

NYSAC is asking the state to release all funds authorized so far and to ensure that future authorizations are released in full in the budget year they are appropriated. Getting these funding obligations on a regular schedule will provide certainty and build continuity as we upgrade and maintain existing systems and prepare for NextGen 9-1-1 development and roll out at the county level.

The goal of upgraded 9-1-1 systems is to make sure that all devices capable of connecting to the system can do so using voice, text, video images and other data formats to better inform the emergency responders to the situation they will be entering. In addition, upgraded systems will be able to better pinpoint an emergency caller that may be in a remote area of the state or skyscraper in New York City. Knowing a more precise location of those needing emergency services will improve outcomes and save lives. This cannot be accomplished without consistent and timely funding from the state.

For more information on the county position regarding this issue, visit <http://www.nysac.org/publicsafety> or call 518-465-1473 to speak to Kate Hohman, NYSAC Program Specialist.