

2018 NYSAC Legislative Conference
Standing Committee on Public Safety
Resolution #4

Resolution Calling on Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Interoperable Communications, to More Equitably and Efficiently Release the Interoperable Emergency Communication Funds Authorized

WHEREAS, the funding mechanism that counties use to help operate, maintain, and upgrade 9-1-1 system capability and performance is out of date and does not correspond well to recent technology and marketplace changes; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately and unlike other states, too much funding is diverted by New York State for non-9-1-1 purposes, resulting in a system that does not direct sufficient revenue to allow counties to properly maintain existing systems, while also preparing to implement the next generation of 9-1-1 technology required under federal law; and

WHEREAS, under current law, for the last two budget years, \$10 million was authorized and targeted directly to PSAPs and up to \$65 million was 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; and

WHEREAS, 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, while \$45 million for 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); and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, upgraded systems will be able to better pinpoint an emergency caller that may be in a remote area of the state or in a skyscraper in one of our cities. Recognizing a more precise location of those needing emergency services will improve outcomes and save lives, but this cannot be accomplished without consistent and timely funding from the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) calls upon Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Interoperable Communications to release all funds authorized so far and to ensure that future authorizations are released in full in the budget year they are appropriated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, releasing 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 implementation at the county level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to member counties for their consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and all others deemed necessary and proper.