

911 State Grant Fund
Award Philosophy and Criteria
(Revised and Adopted 1-10-14)

Statutory Authorization:

K.S.A. 12-5368: “ (b) The council shall be responsible for ensuring that the 911 state grant fund and any interest earned on money credited to the fund is only expended for the following purposes: (1) Projects involving the development and implementation of next generation services; (2) costs associated with PSAP consolidation or cost-sharing projects; (3) expenses related to the 911 coordinating council; (4) costs of audits conducted pursuant to section 16 (K.S.A. 12-5377), and amendment thereto; and (5) other costs pursuant to section 14 (KSA 12-5375), and amendments thereto. (c) The council shall develop criteria for eligible purchases and for grant applicants and make the final determination as to the distribution of grant funds. Such criteria shall promote the procurement of equipment that meets open architecture and national technical standards. Distribution of grant funds shall not include expenditures to procure, maintain or upgrade subscriber radio equipment.”

Legislative leadership involved in crafting the 911 Act of 2011 expressed their intention that the 911 state grant funds should be prioritized first for the network infrastructure and GIS databases at a statewide or regional basis in order to gain the most effective use of such funds and to provide for shared NG911 infrastructure and services that would benefit multiple PSAPs. Such leaders also encouraged PSAPs and local governments to continue existing partnerships, or to enter into partnerships that would allow for virtual or physical consolidation of PSAPs and some or all of their services.

Development of Council Philosophy for usage of 911 state grant funds:

The 911 Coordinating Council has discussed the preferred uses of 911 state grant funds during a number of its business meetings and has tasked its committees to develop recommendations for the policies and criteria to guide the award of such funds. The work of those committees has been synthesized into the following philosophy, policy and criteria statements.

911 State Grant Fund Use Philosophy:

The implementation and operation of NG911 services is achieved most effectively and cost-efficiently when a strategic approach guides the investment of funds for the ESInet and the GIS databases that must be in place before statewide, coordinated NG911 service can be provided to local jurisdictions. Such a strategic view must focus first upon implementation of the common, standards based NG911 infrastructure and services as well as the NENA standards compliant GIS databases that will serve all Kansas PSAPs. Such an approach necessitates PSAPs across the state to explore multi-jurisdictional and regional partnerships that will allow them to obtain the greatest benefit and efficiencies from their usage of the statewide NG911 network.

Up until January 2012, a Wireless Enhanced 911 Grant Fee was imposed upon wireless phones and generated approximately \$6.5 million annually for the Grant Fund administered by the Governor's Grants Office. Such grant funds were used to provide funding to PSAPs in Counties under 75,000 population to implement Phase II wireless 911 service. Beginning in January 2012, the Wireless Enhanced 911 Grant Fees were rescinded and the 1.06% fee on prepaid wireless service was implemented and resulting revenues are deposited in the 911 State Grant Fund. The Council received a transfer of Wireless Enhanced 911 Grant Funds from the State Treasurer in February 2012 in the amount of \$11,170,933.89, which was deposited into the newly established 911 State Grant Fund administered by the Council.

The annual revenue received by the 911 State Grant Fund since January 2012 has not exceeded \$2.2 million annually which will significantly limit the financial ability of the Council to fund individual PSAP equipment and service requests. The 911 Act did provide for increased 911 revenues to PSAPs to ensure a minimum annual revenue of \$50,000 for each county, which was intended to reduce the need in smaller population counties upon grant funding to pay for ongoing operational and 911 equipment expenditures. Such increased local 911 revenues provide for greater capability to fund 911 equipment needs such as logging recorders, dispatch consoles, and 911 Customer Premise Equipment (CPE), whether funded by individual PSAPs or in partnership with other PSAPs.

Because minimum annual 911 revenues were increased to counties and the amount of annual 911 grant fund revenues did decrease significantly, the most prudent and effective use of available 911 Grant Funds is to invest in the implementation of core NG911 ESInet infrastructure and GIS database enhancements that are the foundation for a statewide NG911 system that may be used by all Kansas PSAPs. Future 911 Grant Fund revenues will be applied primarily to funding of the ongoing costs of implementing and operating the ESInet, as well as to maintain statewide GIS databases.

911 State Grant Funds will not be awarded as a matter of general policy to PSAPs for equipment and service requests, except as described below. Local jurisdictions have the authority and responsibility to determine the level of services and operational capabilities provided by their PSAPs and to allocate operating and capital funding to meet those goals. Local jurisdictions may also choose to partner with adjoining jurisdictions to share operating and equipment costs amongst PSAPs, with the end result of reducing overall expenditures by PSAPs.

Award of 911 State Grant funds to a PSAP or a cooperating group of PSAPs may be considered by the Council where such financial assistance is essential to avoiding the loss of E911 service in a jurisdiction(s) currently providing such services. The Council will evaluate the availability of local funding to cover all or a portion of the costs, existing partnerships, activity levels, and participation in the statewide NG911 system, in making a decision to provide some level of funding in such a situation.

911 State Grant Fund Award Policies:

The Council may award 911 State Grant Funds for projects and services having a common statewide benefit such as implementation and operation of the ESInet and the implementation of a statewide GIS database meeting NENA standards. 911 State grant funds may be awarded for the purposes set out in KSA 12-5368, upon a majority vote of the voting members of the Council. Recipients of grant funds may include state agencies, GIS providers, and equipment providers that are selected through a competitive process to provide allowed equipment and services, and includes telecommunications carriers or other vendors which are contracted to provide NG911 related services.

Grant funds should be expended for equipment and services that are compliant with open standards architecture and technical standards approved by NENA and other standards setting bodies, as well as for training in the use of such equipment and services. Grant funds are intended to facilitate the implementation of NG911 services which may include a period of maintenance services with the initial equipment purchase. Grant recipients will be expected to budget for, and fund, ongoing maintenance of the equipment purchased with grant funds.

To the extent feasible, the NG911 system should make use of existing state networks such as KANWIN and KCJIS for the ESInet, and grant funding may be used to support such network connectivity to PSAPs.

The Council may obtain competitive contracts for consulting and technical services, PSAP equipment, network equipment and services, GIS services that will be needed for implementation and maintenance of NG911 services, and may make such contracts available to PSAPs. Such contracts may be used to provide for regionalized and collaborative projects such as regionalized or statewide GIS databases.

PSAPs not compliant with the statutory requirements for PSAPs as set out in the “Kansas 911 Act” will not be eligible for the award of grant funds.

Any entity awarded grant funds must comply with all application requirements as well as all administrative and reporting requirements established by the council for such funds.

Grant Award Criteria and Eligibility:

In urgent situations in which a PSAP may lose the capability to provide E911 service due to an impending or existing 911 CPE failure, such a PSAP may make a request to the Council for consideration of 911 Grant Funding. The PSAP must meet the following minimum criteria:

1. The PSAP(s) currently provides E911 level services within its jurisdiction.
2. If funding for CPE equipment is being requested, PSAP must first work with the Council to explore potential hosting solutions that could provide a suitable replacement. Such systems lower overall costs via equipment sharing with other PSAP’s. Proposals for back room CPE equipment will not be funded by the Council.

3. The PSAP(s) agrees to use and maintain equipment purchased with grant funds so that it functions appropriately with the NG911 network.
4. The PSAP(s) agree to comply with all application requirements and with all administrative and reporting requirements established by the council for receiving grant funds.
5. The PSAP(s) agrees to maintain the currency and accuracy of its GIS related data in the NG911 GIS database, whether through its staff or through requested services of another agency or of a vendor. Submission of a GIS database maintenance workflow plan will be required with a grant application.
6. The PSAP will provide information requested by the Council concerning PSAP activity levels and the available 911 and reserve funds that could be used to address the equipment failure.
7. The PSAP will agree to explore partnership and other cost sharing options with the Council.

Eligible entities other than PSAPs may receive grant funds when they meet the following criteria:

1. The entity appropriately responds to a formal request for services or equipment issued by the Council.
2. The entity agrees to comply with all administrative, financial and reporting requirements recommended by the Council.
3. The entity will comply with all relevant NENA and technical standards in effect for the services or equipment provided during the grant award period.

Grant Fund Priorities for 2014-2015

1. Design, implementation, operation and ongoing maintenance of the statewide ESInet, including required consulting and program management services, and any agreed upon operating costs by selected providers.
2. Conduct of statewide GIS Gap analysis, GIS database remediation work by contracted vendors, and Audit of GIS database remediation work. Included are agreed upon costs to operate a state level GIS database. Due to the importance of developing a statewide GIS database that meets national standards, the Council has determined that it should fund with 911 State Grant Funds the work to be performed statewide by contractors awarded contracts at the December 6, 2013 business meeting.