



My name is Marc Kasprzak, I am the President of the New York State 911 Coordinators Association and the Director of Emergency Communications for Niagara County. The NYS 911 Coordinator's Association is made up of 911 Professionals representing the 62 Counties in New York State. I want to thank Chairs Krueger and Weinstein, Legislative Fiscal Committee members, and other distinguished members of the Legislature for the opportunity to present our written testimony for Governor Kathy Hochul's FY 2023-2024 Budget Proposal.

To provide background on 911 systems in New York State - In the 1960's emergency phone calls came through dedicated phone lines into the homes, and workers would then notify the fire department. As these emergency call services were consolidated under 9-1-1, the function was taken over by the local counties and state police. Today, most of the state's 9-1-1 emergency communication systems are operated and funded at the county level. Collectively, dispatchers across New York State receive around 30 million calls per year (including NYC).

For our county 911 centers or public safety answering points (PSAPs) to fund the necessary technology upgrades and resources - local government receive funding through the following funding streams:

State 9-1-1 surcharge

Today's cell phone bills have as the Public Safety Surcharge, a \$1.20 fee is imposed on each contract cellphone device. At the inception of this surcharge, the legislative intent was for revenues to cover all costs associated with providing 9-1-1 services and operating PSAPs. The first such revenue source was created in 1989. Since then, the name of the fee has changed, the amount of the fee increased, and the appropriated uses of funds collected changed. The fee is now known as the "Public Safety Surcharge". Under Section 186-f of the NYS Tax Law, \$.50 of this \$1.20 is **SWEPT** into the State's General Fund and isn't dedicated to public safety. The remaining \$.70 goes to a variety of public safety programs, including state agencies, to supplant General Fund appropriations. In addition, due to the state sweeping public safety funds – we as a state are prohibited from applying for any 911 funding that may be available at the federal level.

In 2021 the State collected over \$247 million dollars for the Public Safety Surcharge – from the \$247 million counties only see \$75 million of that broken down into two formula-based grants - The Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant which provides \$65,000,000 and the Public Safety Answering Points Grants which provides \$10,000,000. This funding is supposed to be provided annually however, this funding has been historically delayed over a year and a half and counties have been very creative in stretching out this funding to support 911 services.

Landline surcharge for Enhanced 9-1-1

The Public Service Commission (PSC) authorizes the imposition of a \$.35 charge per access line per month on landline phones. The authority for this surcharge was established in the County Law § 308 and § 309. This surcharge is imposed at local option. According to the DPS, the purpose of the fee is to pay for the cost of enhanced 9-1-1 systems. However, landlines are becoming antiquated, and this funding stream is drying up.

Local 9-1-1 Surcharge

Counties in New York State can implement a surcharge up to \$.30 on wireless phones in their county at local option. This local authority is permitted only with State legislative approval, as authorized under Article 6 of the County Law, “Enhanced Emergency Telephone System Surcharge.”

Next Generation 911

It is expected that the FCC will soon mandate 911 centers to support Next Generation 911 (NG911). NG911 involves the latest 911 technology, including upgrades for pinpointing the exact location of cell phone callers, translating text messages at a 911 Center, and ensure counties have back up resources with other similar counties. NG 911 also requires an Emergency Services IP Network (ESInets).

Based on the NYS NG 911 Strategic Planning Workgroup hosted by the Office of Emergency Communication within the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services the Path to creating NG 911 will need to be done in eight phases:

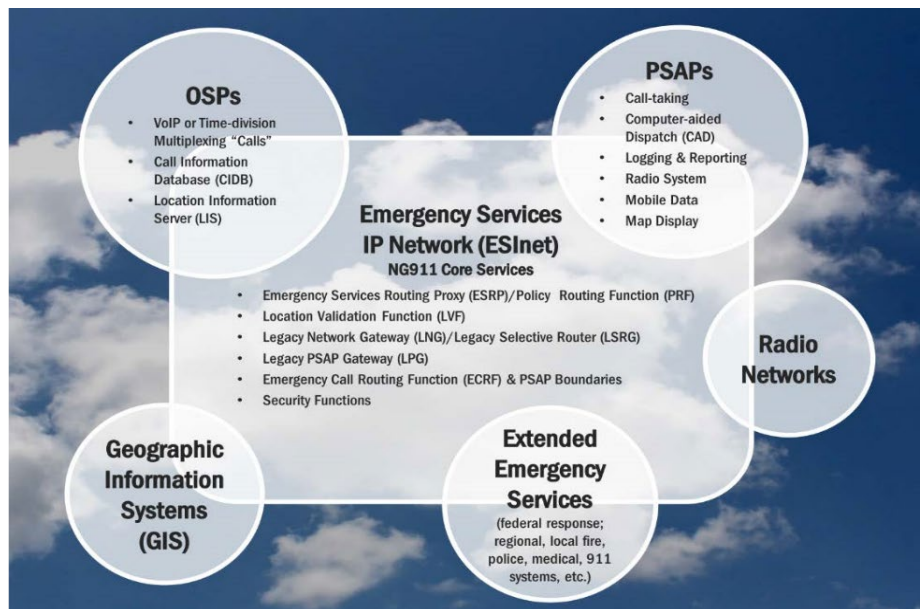
Phases	Definition
Phase 1	ESInet
Phase 2	ALI database migration
Phase 3	PSAP transition
Phase 4	Wireless transition
Phase 5	Database transition
Phase 6	Selective Router decommission
Phase 7	Wireline transition
Phase 8	Monitoring, Management, and Performance

According to the Federal Government back in 2018- the cost to deploy NG911 across the nation is estimated to be \$9.5 billion to \$12.7 billion. The full 10-year complete lifecycle cost estimate to deploy and operate NG911 nationwide is between \$13.5 billion and \$16.1billion. The estimated price tag in New York State for NG 911 is expected to be upwards of \$2 billion over the next 10 years.

We were pleased and encouraged that the Governor’s Executive Budget Proposal mentioned NG 911 and include \$20 million in the Aid to Localities Budget Proposal (A3003/S4003). However, we are concerned about the amount of money allocated and how this money will be spent. In order to create and maintain a sustainable NG 911 System in New York State our association recommends:

- Review and Update the State Next Generation 911 Plan created by all 911 stakeholders back in 2019.
- Accompany the \$20 million with legislation requiring New York State to own the build out and control a statewide ESInet
 - This will avoid a county-by-county patchwork system of multiple ESInets preventing counties from working effectively and efficiently.
- Allow counties to have a primary and secondary connection to the ESInet.
- The \$20 million should be allocated annually to ensure the creation and maintenance of an adequate and sustainable NG 911 system.
- The State should issue a Request for Information to gather feedback from ALL the public safety stakeholders to understand what is needed for a successful buildout of NG 911 in New York State.

As a critical public safety service, and as the conduit for public access to all other emergency services (e.g., police, fire, and emergency medical services [EMS]), 911 service should be defined and treated as an “essential government service”. In order to meet the expectations of the millions of New Yorkers who are calling and texting 9-1-1 from their cell phone, we need to upgrade our systems in the most efficient way and support the build out with the adequate funding necessary for a successful NG 911 system. Thank you for your time and we will make ourselves available for additional information and to answer any questions.



High level Abstract View of a Jurisdictional NG911 Environment