

Federal Funding to Implement Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) Nationwide

The Problem:

Despite being arguably the most critical of critical infrastructure, the nation's 9-1-1 systems are largely based on technology that is more than 50 years old and has not kept up with advances in communications technology. A member of the public trying to contact 9-1-1 is often limited to voice communications and cannot share images, videos, or other data with emergency responders.

The Solution:

Next Generation 9-1-1 is the vision of upgrading 9-1-1 systems so emergency communications centers have whatever technologies and capabilities are required to keep up with what's available to the public. Some states have made partial progress in modernizing 9-1-1 systems, but a significant federal funding program is needed to achieve a comprehensive vision of Next Generation 9-1-1 that ensures strong cyber protections, interoperability between 9-1-1 centers and first responders, and advanced broadband capabilities.

Congress should enact legislation to fund deployment of Next Generation 9-1-1.

- Next Generation 9-1-1 will enable 9-1-1 centers to receive and process voice, text, and multimedia content and share it with other 9-1-1 centers or with first responders in the field.
- Public safety groups have developed legislative language to establish a \$15 billion federal grant program to deploy NG9-1-1 nationwide in a comprehensive, secure, innovative, cost-effective, and interoperable manner. \$15B is needed because if we don't fully fund NG9-1-1, we'll likely end up with have and have-not jurisdictions and might fail to achieve key goals like interoperability and cybersecurity.
- The NG9-1-1 legislation supported by public safety groups has bipartisan support and has been included as part of the Spectrum Auction Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3565).
- Congress should complete its work to protect the public in times of emergencies by passing the NG9-1-1 legislation as part of the Spectrum Auction Reauthorization Act or another legislative package.