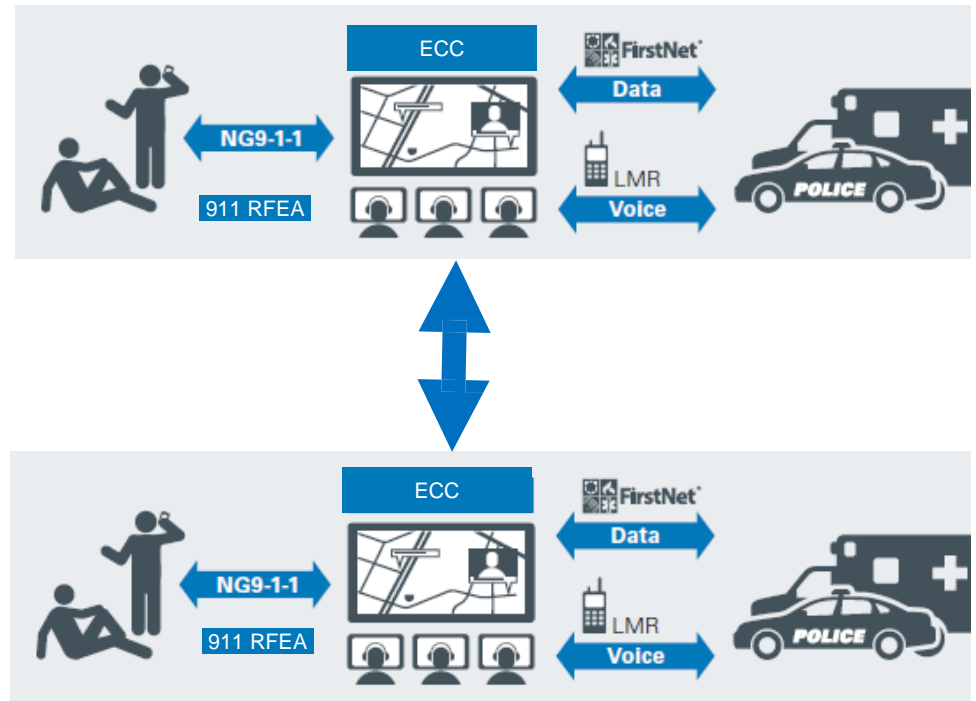# Key Talking Points on Federal Funding for Next Generation 9-1-1

What NG9-1-1 Will Bring to Agencies

- Today's 9-1-1 systems are based on 50+ year old technology and limited to voice calls and some text capabilities.

- NG9-1-1 will create efficiencies and leverage the opportunities afforded by the innovation and breadth of the commercial marketplace.

  – Enable 9-1-1 centers to receive and process all types of 9-1-1 requests for emergency assistance – including photo, video, and other forms of data.

  – Ensure seamless interoperability – between 9-1-1 centers and with responders in the field – without proprietary interfaces and expensive after-the-fact integrations.
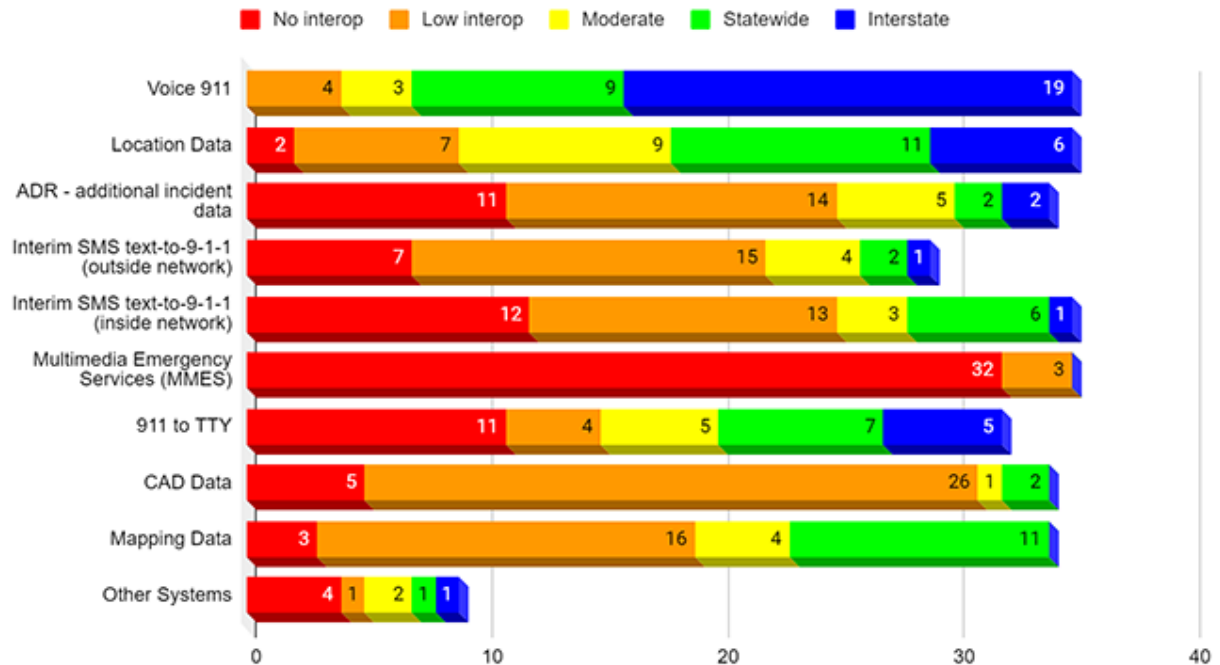
Seamless Interoperability

This graphic illustrates the goal that ECCs will be able to receive all types of requests for emergency assistance and share such requests with other ECCs and responders in the field without the need for proprietary interfaces.

The Extent of Interoperability for 9-1-1 Today

Data from an FCC advisory committee report demonstrates significant interoperability problems today, with ECCs facing challenges even with sharing basic voice calls to 9-1-1 in some cases.

Interoperability by Type of Service

Source: FCC advisory committee report.
Related APCO blog: https://www.apcointl.org/federal-report-estimates-extent-of-interoperability-challenges-for-9-1-1

NG9-1-1 and Cybersecurity

- 9-1-1 centers are often targeted by malicious actors seeking to disrupt 9-1-1 operations.
  - This includes ransomware, denial-of-service, and malware attacks.
- Modernizing 9-1-1 systems presents the opportunity to deploy added layers of protection on top of any additional cybersecurity measures.
  - For example, NG9-1-1 deployments can implement the widely supported cybersecurity recommendations of the FCC's Task Force on Optimal PSAP Architecture (TFOPA).

Federal Funding for NG9-1-1

- As background, in 2019 NG9-1-1 legislation was introduced in the House and Senate. This was a major turning point in focusing discussions among public safety and with members of Congress.
- Following introduction, APCO and other national public safety organizations formed the Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition:
  - Consists of national law enforcement, fire, and EMS associations.
  - Committed to advancing legislation to enable a nationwide upgrade to NG9-1-1.
  - Key First Principles include technological and competitive neutrality, interoperability, cybersecurity, open standards, urban and rural coverage, sufficient funding.
  - https://ng-911coalition.org/
- The Coalition developed improved legislative language and is seeking to get NG9-1-1 funding consistent with the Coalition's core principles included in any funding opportunity.

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What We Need From NG9-1-1 Legislation

- $15B in federal funding to deploy NG9-1-1 nationwide.
- Modern definitions of important terms such as NG9-1-1 and interoperability.
- Important conditions on grant recipients such as interoperability, a sustainable funding mechanism, no fee diversion, etc.
- Assists state/local public safety agencies dealing with cyber threats.

APCO's Efforts in Congress

- APCO and the Coalition are working with Congressional leadership to ensure that sufficient NG9-1-1 funding is included in any final funding package with provisions consistent with the Coalition's core principles and with special attention to issues like achieving interoperability.
- Challenging negotiations on the funding amount compounded with the complex legislative process of reconciliation = rapidly-evolving status.
- Funding at $15B will ensure ubiquitous coverage, interoperability, and cybersecurity and is necessary to reverse the status quo.
- NG9-1-1 has bipartisan support despite the partisan issues with reconciliation.

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