State of Arizona – State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) 2.0

Application Narrative

The State of Arizona (State) hereby submits this application for funding under opportunity number 2018-NTIA-SLIGP-2, CFDA number 11.549, to continue programmatic activities in support of the deployment of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) by the First Responder's Network Authority (FirstNet) and their partner, AT&T, Inc.

Project Narrative

On August 15, 2017, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey notified FirstNet that Arizona's intention was to "opt-in" and permit FirstNet/AT&T to deploy the network within the state. Therefore, the State will be conducting allowable program activities in this regard.

Explanation of Allowable Activities

The State will be conducting activities in the following areas as described:

Single officer (or governmental body) and staff to, at a minimum, provide for ongoing coordination with NTIA and implementation of grant funds.

The SPOC for the State currently resides within the Department of Public Safety. The Program Manager for SLIGP activities has resided within the Department of Administration, Office of Grants and Federal Resources (GFR). The Program Manager will continue at this location for SLIGP 2.0 activities. The Program Manager, assisted by other GFR staff, will have responsibility for grant management and coordination with NTIA to insure grant funds are implemented in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

Existing governance body to provide input to the single officer and to contribute towards planning activities to further identify potential public safety users of the NPSBN and prepare for data sharing.

Currently, the State has an ad hoc Working Group of approximately 131 public safety stakeholders representing all public safety disciplines at all levels of government, including Tribal, who have provided guidance and input into the State's planning process under SLIGP. The Public Safety Broadband Program has been working with the Governor's Office to reestablish a public safety communications Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC). A draft Executive Order for formulating the SIEC is currently under consideration by the Governor's Office. The proposed SIEC would be structured as depicted in Figure 2 below. The Public Safety Broadband Program will continue to work with the Governor's Office to establish the SIEC; once it's established, the Public Safety Broadband Program will work to develop the Council's charter, and provide support to established Working Groups to develop SOP and best practices documents to facilitate deployment of the NPSBN regarding data sharing, system usage, interoperability concerns, and others.

ARIZONA STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED STRUCTURE

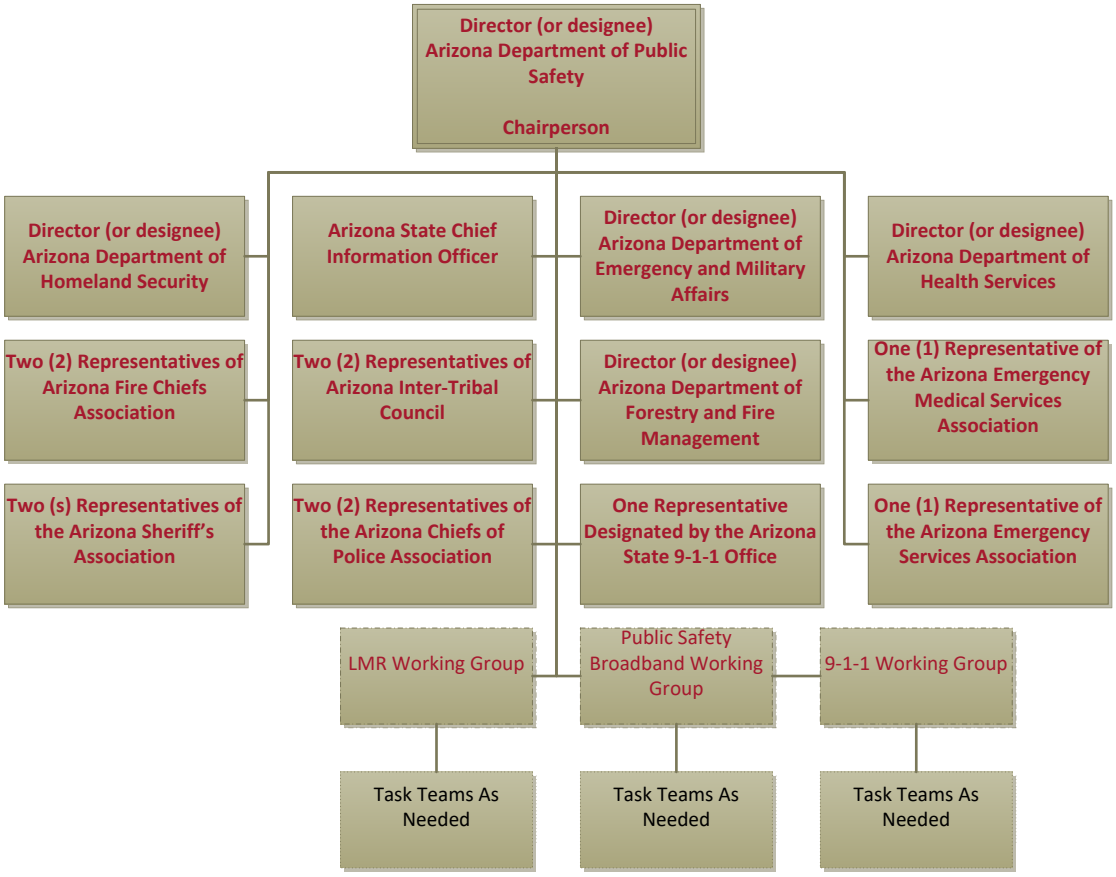

Figure 1 – *Proposed* Composition and Structure of Arizona SIEC

Data collection in specific areas identified to be helpful as requested by FirstNet.

The State participated in previous data collection efforts in 2015 and 2016 as directed by FirstNet. The State stands ready to collect data as requested by FirstNet under SLIGP 2.0 activities. As a result of the previous efforts, an electronic database has been developed of contact names for numerous public safety agencies throughout the State. The State's current contractor support has an internal electronic data collection tool that is ideally suited for collecting and collating large amounts of data. The current ad hoc Working Group, or the SIEC when commissioned, will assist in any data collection efforts through outreach to agencies to encourage participation as directed by FirstNet.

Development of policies and agreements to increase sharing of data between existing public safety systems across various agencies within the State or territory using the NPSBN.

One of the tremendous capabilities the NPSBN will bring to public safety will be the ability for agencies to share relevant data with each other to insure appropriate situational awareness. To facilitate this process, the State will work under the guidance of the Working Group or SIEC to develop model policies, procedures, and Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) that can be easily customized to meet the needs of individual agencies interested in sharing data. Additionally, the State will work to identify databases and/or applications currently utilized by agencies that would be beneficial subjects of sharing arrangements.

Individuals, such as the single officer and governing body members, to perform planning activities to help FirstNet and its partner further identify potential public safety users of the NPSBN.

The State will continue to perform planning activities to identify potential users of the NPSBN. Planning efforts through the Working Group or the SIEC will enable the identification of additional primary and extended primary public safety users for the NPSBN. The State, through the Working Group or SIEC, will also work with and provide input to FirstNet/AT&T to determine whether identified extended primary public safety entities have a true public safety component to their mission that would make them eligible to utilize the NPSBN.

Planning efforts to help FirstNet gain inclusion on applicable statewide contract vehicles.

The State has recently worked with AT&T to develop a procurement amendment (PA) to the National Association of State Procurement Officers (NASPO) contract vehicle specific to Arizona. The State intends to develop a Procurement Plan for engaging public safety entities on the details of the PA, and the fact that for an agency to utilize the NASPO vehicle within Arizona they must join the Arizona Purchasing Cooperative. Additionally, the State will work with the Tribal nations who currently are unable to utilize the NASPO value point, but can join the Cooperative to get the Arizona state pricing.

In addition to the NASPO contract, the State program staff will continue to work with FirstNet/AT&T to facilitate the inclusion of NPSBN service and device offerings on any other relevant contract vehicles.

Planning Activities to prepare for emergency communications technology transitions.

As the network deployment moves forward and adoption rates increase, the State anticipates there will be a need for public safety agencies to transition communication operations onto the network. The NPSBN is meant to serve as a mission critical data network initially so agencies can access data necessary to their mission. While voice communications on the network during the early years of deployment are not meant to serve the mission critical needs of public safety first responders, these voice communications capabilities will present opportunities for utilization by agencies for non-mission critical purposes. It is envisioned that extended public safety entities could utilize push-to-talk (PTT) features of the NPSBN for voice communications, as well as command and administrative personnel from primary public safety entities. By allowing appropriate public safety personnel to utilize the NPSBN for non-mission critical voice communications, agencies could realize efficiencies and cost savings by decreasing capacity on existing land mobile radio (LMR) networks, as well as decreasing the need to purchase expensive LMR subscriber devices for these personnel. State program staff will work with agencies to continue educating them on the capabilities of the NPSBN regarding voice communications, as well as the availability of PTT applications that would enable this capability.

In addition to transitioning some non-mission critical voice communications to the NPSBN, there will also be a need to have the state's public safety answering points (PSAPs) integrate with the network. PSAPs serve as the hub of the public safety communications eco-system by gathering and processing information from citizens, and then relaying relevant information to the first responders. In a large incident, PSAPs serve as the information control point until an appropriate structure can be established at the scene; therefore, it is critical that PSAPs have the ability to pass not only voice communications to first responders, but also data. There are many challenges to insuring PSAPs can attain a secure and seamless integration with an internet protocol (IP) broadband network such as the NPSBN. Some PSAPs could not currently interface with the NPSBN due to lack of necessary personnel and/or technology at the PSAP. State program staff will work with the PSAP community and AT&T to develop specifications that would be required for a PSAP to integrate with the NPSBN.

Activities to identify and plan for the transition of public safety applications, software, and databases.

This activity will be critical to realizing the full potential the NPSBN will bring to public safety. If agencies adopt use of the network, they will need to have the capabilities of accessing appropriate applications and databases on the network. State program staff will work with the public safety community within the state to identify these mission critical applications and databases, and will then work with the agencies and AT&T to develop a plan to migrate them onto the NPSBN.

Identifying and documenting on-going coverage needs/gaps.

As has been identified throughout the planning process to date, coverage is the most critical element for public safety to realize the vast potential of the network. Network adoption, and therefore the benefits of the network, will be greatly inhibited if there is a perception of a lack of coverage. State program staff will work with public safety stakeholders to identify any existing critical coverage gaps. The State will then work with AT&T to verify the gaps and develop an appropriate mitigation plan.

Activities to convene stakeholder outreach events to continue planning for NPSBN implementation, as requested by FirstNet.

State program staff acknowledge that all outreach and education events under SLIGP 2.0 must be approved by FirstNet. The State also acknowledges that AT&T is responsible for driving network adoption under their contract with FirstNet. However, State program staff also are aware that there is tremendous value in continuing planning activities for NPSBN implementation, as there are still many public safety stakeholders who don't fully understand the benefits the NPSBN will offer to their mission. For public safety as a whole, and therefore the citizens they serve, to attain the maximum benefit of the network capabilities, it is critical that these planning activities continue under the direction of FirstNet. State staff will work with FirstNet to identify appropriate stakeholder outreach events to pursue under SLIGP 2.0. From the State's perspective, the primary purpose of such events will not be to drive adoption, as much as it will be to educate public safety stakeholders as the to the existence and capabilities of this tool to enhance their ability to provide their critical services as the NPSBN is implemented.

Applicant Capacity, Knowledge and Experience

Management of the SLIGP grant falls under the State of Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Grants and Federal Resources (GFR). Matthew Hanson currently serves as the Statewide Grants Administrator and Director of the GFR. In this capacity, he helps coordinate the pursuance and implementation of all federal grants allocated to the State of Arizona. Examples of current grants administered through GFR are the State Energy Program, SLIGP 1.0 and the Travel Reduction Program. Prior to joining GFR, Mr. Hanson served as the Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Recovery and before joining the state served as the Intergovernmental and Grants Program Coordinator for the City of Goodyear. Prior to relocating to Arizona, he served as Director of the Grants Policy Office at the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

Also with GFR, Karen Ziegler has nearly 30 years of experience in criminal justice program administration; budget and finance; and full grant life cycle management. Recently retired as Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, the State Administering Agency (SAA) for US Department of Justice and state criminal justice grants, Ms. Ziegler was responsible for the acquisition; sub award; management; and reporting of over $50 million in federal, state and non-profit grants including American Recovery and Reinvestment ACT (ARRA) funding. Ms. Ziegler is the current program manager for the SLIGP 1.0 grant and has effectively managed the program and grant requirements since 2016.

GFR has extensive knowledge, experience and organizational capacity necessary to complete the proposed project and effectively manage the grant.

Staffing

The State plans to support program activities in the same way activities were supported under the original SLIGP grant. Figure 1 below represents the staff structure dedicated to programmatic efforts.

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Chung of the Arizona Department of Public Safety currently is the single point of contact (SPOC) for Arizona FirstNet efforts. Lt. Col. Chung has been a strong leader for the program efforts since his designation as SPOC, and personally participates in program activities on a part-time basis. Kevin Rogers, also from AZ DPS, has nearly 40 years of communications experience managing land mobile radio (LMR) systems at the state and local levels. He is actively involved in the day-to-day activities and planning efforts for the NPSBN. The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), Jeremy Knoll, is also active in program activities on a part-time basis.

The current Public Safety Broadband Program Manager is Karen Ziegler. She is a contractor through the State of Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Grants and Federal Resources. Karen dedicates approximately 75% of her time to SLIGP activities. The SLIGP program also has contractor support through Mission Critical Partners, Inc., a public safety communications consulting firm that provides administrative, operational, and subject matter expertise support to the program. The State anticipates maintaining support from Mission Critical Partners in conducting SLIGP 2.0 activities.

Scott Neal is a consultant with Mission Critical Partners, Inc. and brings three decades of emergency communications experience. Scott retired in 2015 after completing a 28-year career with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). At the time of his retirement, he held the rank of Major and was the Director of the Bureau of Communications and Information Services, responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Pennsylvania Statewide Radio Network (PA-STARNET). He also was responsible for the administration of the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN), a platform that enables all law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania to access the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) databases, driver's license and registration databases, and other relevant information. Mr. Neal also served as the single point of contact (SPOC) for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the planning and deployment of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN). Mr. Neal retired from PSP in 2015 and accepted a position as a public safety communications consultant with Mission Critical Partners, Inc. Over the past three years, Mr. Neal has supported Arizona, Michigan, New Jersey, Missouri, and New Hampshire in their planning efforts for the NPSBN.

Darek Wieczorek is a consultant with Mission Critical Partners, Inc., who brings extensive public safety and telecommunications experience that includes the management, support and implementation of radio and wireless projects throughout North America and Europe. His expertise covers all aspects associated with public safety communications systems projects from user needs and customer requirements, design and management to procurement and implementation support. Mr. Wieczorek currently supports New Jersey and Arizona in their planning efforts for the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN).

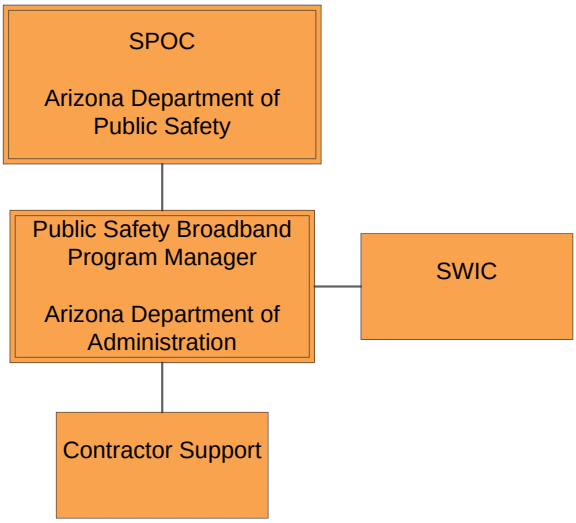

Figure 2 – Arizona Public Safety Broadband Program Organizational Chart