



U.S. Mayors & the FirstNet Network

An Interoperable, Wireless Broadband Network for First Responders

What is FirstNet: FirstNet is an independent federal entity established by Congress to ensure the building and deployment of the first nationwide, interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety. The network is intended to provide for mission critical data communications over a dedicated, reliable, and hardened connection with a robust ecosystem of devices and applications available to public safety entities that subscribe.

Deployment of the FirstNet Network: In January 2016, FirstNet issued an objectives-based request for proposal (RFP) to solicit innovative, private sector solutions to build and deploy the network. Proposals were due on May 31, 2016, and FirstNet's goal is to award a contract in 2017 and begin deployment in 2018.

The FirstNet State Plan & the Governor's Decision: Following the award of the FirstNet contract for the network, FirstNet and its partner(s) must deliver individual State Plans detailing the proposed network deployment. Each Governor will have 90 days to make the following decision:

Opt-In: If the State opts-in or takes no action, FirstNet will issue a task order to its partner(s) to begin deployment of the Radio Access Network (RAN) portion of the FirstNet network in the State at no cost to the State.

Opt-in States will support the faster delivery of services to public safety within the State and the creation of an interoperable, secure, and sustainable nationwide network dedicated to public safety.

Opt-Out: If the State affirmatively opts-out, it must develop and complete an RFP and submit an alternative plan to the FCC within 180 days for the construction, maintenance, operation, and improvement of the RAN in the State. Before deployment can begin, the FCC must approve the alternative plan, and the State must apply to the NTIA to enter into a spectrum capacity lease with FirstNet.

Opt-out State's public safety personnel will face delays in service availability and the State will assume significant technical, operational, and economic risks and responsibilities related to building its own RAN.

What Role Can Mayors Play?

FirstNet's [Consultation Strategy](#) includes an aggressive [outreach and education campaign](#), partnering with states to reach metropolitan and rural areas.

➤ Understand and inform the Governor's decision by:

- Reaching out to your [State's Single Point of Contact](#) (SPOC) to participate in [FirstNet's outreach](#) and learning about your State's FirstNet Governance Body.
- Recognizing the impact of the Governor's decision and advocating for local public safety needs.

➤ Help local public safety agencies prepare for the option to adopt FirstNet services by:

- Understanding the need to maintain mission critical voice radio communications (LMR), while investing in wireless broadband (LTE) services dedicated for public safety.
- Understanding how mobile broadband access could affect local operations.
- Sharing technical, operational, budgeting, and procurement requirements with FirstNet.

Further information on the FirstNet consultation strategy can be found here: www.firstnet.gov/consultation.