



September 27, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

We are pleased to submit this letter as the annual report on the activities of the Implementation Coordination Office (ICO) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), pursuant to Section 6503 of the Next Generation 911 Advancement Act of 2012, Pub. L. 112-96, Title VI, Subtitle E, *codified at* 47 U.S.C. § 942(a)(4).<sup>1</sup> The ICO provides national leadership and coordination of stakeholder efforts to develop comprehensive and technologically enhanced 911 (E911) and next generation 911 (NG911) services. The ICO also develops, collects, and disseminates practices and procedures used in the implementation of E911 services and administers a grant program specifically for the benefit of 911 Emergency Communications Centers (ECCs).

In August of 2019, the ICO awarded a total of \$109,250,000 in grant funds to 33 States, the District of Columbia, and two Tribal Organizations.<sup>2</sup> During fiscal year 2021, NHTSA and NTIA supported the grantees as they implemented their grant-funded projects. These grant-funded projects are focused on the migration of ECCs to IP-enabled emergency networks, adoption of NG911 services and applications, interconnection with emergency response organizations, and training of public safety personnel in 911 services. NHTSA and NTIA are committed to supporting 911 as a vital service and will continue working towards advancing NG911 across the country.

The COVID-19 public health emergency presented grantees with many challenges in implementing their grant-funded projects in fiscal year 2021. The ICO implemented OMB Memorandum M-20-17 by issuing guidance titled “Administrative Flexibilities in Response to

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<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 942(a)(4).

<sup>2</sup> See NHTSA and NTIA, Press Release, *Departments of Commerce and Transportation Announce \$109 Million in Grants to Modernize 911 Services for States and Tribal Nations* (Aug. 9, 2019), available at <https://www.911.gov/pdf/911-Grant-Program-Awards-Press-Release-Aug-2019.pdf>.

the National Emergency (COVID-19): 911 Grant Program.”<sup>3</sup> In addition, the ICO hosted a webinar to provide grantees with assistance in adjusting existing plans, if necessary. More broadly, the ICO held webinars to provide guidance on the grant program and also met with each grantee to discuss their progress in fiscal year 2021. Grantees were also selected for desk reviews, with eight grantees receiving this additional monitoring activity this fiscal year. The ICO also engaged with stakeholder organizations such as the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), and the National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) by participating in regular meetings and conferences.

If we can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to contact us. We have sent copies of this report to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; and to the Co-Chairs of the Next Generation 911 Caucus.

Sincerely yours,



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Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D.  
Acting Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration



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Evelyn Remaley  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for  
Communications and Information  
and Administrator  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration

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<sup>3</sup> See White House Office of Management and Budget, Memorandum M-20-17, *Memorandum to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies regarding Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations* (Mar. 19, 2020), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf>; NHTSA and NTIA, *Administrative Flexibilities in Response to the National Emergency (COVID-19): 911 Grant Program* (Apr. 30, 2020), available at [https://www.911.gov/pdf/911\\_Grant\\_Program\\_Administrative\\_Flexibilities\\_for\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://www.911.gov/pdf/911_Grant_Program_Administrative_Flexibilities_for_COVID-19.pdf).