Recommendations for Public Safety Broadband Governance

SLIGP is a formula-based, matching grant program assisting states, in collaboration with regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions, to plan for the establishment of a nationwide public safety broadband network.

To provide support and assistance to SLIGP recipients, the SLIGP federal program officers focused on the topic of governance during quarterly progress calls (quarter ending March 2014) with all SLIGP recipients. Recipients were given the opportunity to describe their governance strategies and progress, including the process they used to get started, how they got organized, and whom they included. In addition, recipients provided insight into how their governance structure will work with FirstNet.

Choosing the Right Governance Body
States and territories have taken different approaches to governance for public safety broadband. Most elected to use existing governance groups that were set up to support their Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), other grant programs, or a specific statewide system. Others added members, created committees, or created entirely new governance bodies specifically to support public safety broadband. The chart below shows the percentage of SLIGP recipients that have taken these approaches.

Upgrading Membership
States and territories are including a wide variety of existing and new stakeholders in their governance activities. They are engaging the following stakeholders (in order of frequency):

- State-level public safety agencies and stakeholders
- Tribal representatives
- Subject matter experts
- Local, city, and county-level public safety agencies and stakeholders
- Regional representatives
- Office of the CIO
- Governor’s office and other state agencies
- Public safety associations
- Utilities, public health, and other public services
Identifying Governance Roles for FirstNet
States and territories must determine the role their governance bodies will play in preparing for and conducting consultation with FirstNet. The chart to the right shows the identified roles and percentage of recipients that intend to have their governance bodies play each role. Some recipients will have their governance body play multiple roles.

Getting Started
Generally, states and territories that have started governance activities under SLIGP have engaged in some level of evaluation before getting started that has allowed them to go through the proper channels (legislative, Governor approval, group approval, etc.) to make changes to their governance structure. Using public safety broadband as an opportunity, recipients are strengthening their governance bodies and bringing the right stakeholders to the table to plan for broadband. Recipients have generally used the process depicted below.

Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications Governance Resources at:
www.safecomprogram.gov/oecguidancedocuments.html
Establishing Governance to Achieve Statewide Communications Interoperability (December 2008)
Regional Intrastate Governance Guide for Interoperable Emergency Communications Efforts (December 2010)