

Bello / Secondary PSAP Funding

911 is an expensive business and changes in technology are going to make it even more so. These changes are not only going to present great financial hurdles, but also will require a cultural mindset shift in the world of public safety communications - more information, different types of data, and deeper partnerships with surrounding agencies. The funding of secondary PSAPs does little to further these partnerships.

CAD, telephone, call distribution, and NG 911 systems - virtually every allowable expense from the State - are all systems that can be shared, or set up with satellite locations. This would greatly reduce installation and maintenance costs for secondary sites. In instances where secondary PSAPs set up these shared environments with surrounding PSAPs, therefore reducing financial burden, I am in favor of the state paying the same expenses to the secondary as they do the primary PSAP. Again, for only the shared systems between the primary and secondary PSAP.

However, the primary PSAP should not be impacted due to this - their costs of doing business remains the same. To accomplish this, an increase in 911 surcharges would be required to cover these expenses. Additionally, I believe there needs to be a limit placed on the number of secondaries that can be established, else the state faces an increase in funding requirements higher than can be supported.

Funding of primary PSAPs has been for receiving, locating and call entry for 911 callers. A secondary PSAP is not required for this to happen, it is a luxury and a choice that has been made to remain "independent." If the State now chooses to begin funding even more disparate and separate systems, that thought process flies in the face of partnering required for NG911. The focus needs to be on finding and funding cost savinops plugins, partnering and sharing systems, not the promotion of separation and segmentation. In short, only shared systems between a primary PSAP and a secondary PSAP should be considered for State funding.

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