

PR gets \$1.4M for safety broadband

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Puerto Rico has been awarded \$1.4 million in federal funding under a program designed to help lay the groundwork for the creation of a public safety broadband network through the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet).

The \$1.4 million earmarked for Puerto Rico was part of a total \$20.3 million in grants awarded to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to seven states and two territories under the State and Local Implementation Grant Program.

In addition to the funding provided by NTIA, each state will make a matching contribution of at least 20 percent of the NTIA grant to the effort.

Grant money is to be used for identifying potential public safety users, establishing or enhancing a governance structure to consult with FirstNet, and conducting education and outreach for stakeholders, among other objectives.

Funds are not to be used for activities such as site preparation, broadband deployment, construction or the acquisition of equipment.