



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety & Security

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**Deval L. Patrick**  
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December 30, 2013

## Introduction to the Public Safety Broadband Office

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) is pleased to announce the establishment of the Commonwealth Public Safety Broadband Office (PSBO). The PSBO will coordinate activities with the **First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)** regarding the creation of the **National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN)** and its implementation in the Commonwealth.

*The NPSBN will facilitate communications amongst first responders during emergencies and provide reliable, secure access for public safety users every day.*

Initially envisioned by the 9/11 Commission and enacted by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, FirstNet is an independent Federal authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that was established to provide emergency responders with a nationwide, high-speed, wireless network dedicated to public safety.

To begin the process of implementing the network nationally, the NTIA has issued initial grants through the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP). Phase One of this grant program started this fall and focuses on education and outreach. Phase Two will focus on data collection and FirstNet requirements.

To support the NPSBN's implementation in Massachusetts, EOPSS established the Commonwealth Public Safety Broadband Office. Over the next few months, the PSBO will:

- ✓ Serve as the Commonwealth's **mandated single point of contact** with NTIA and FirstNet
- ✓ Hold **outreach and information sessions** to inform interested parties about the direction of the NPSBN and the Commonwealth's role in it
- ✓ **Solicit feedback** concerning public safety broadband needs and expectations in Massachusetts
- ✓ **Answer questions** that you may have about this initiative
- ✓ Provide up-to-date information about FirstNet and public safety broadband activities via our **website** ([www.mass.gov/eopss/commonwealth-public-safety-broadband-office.html](http://www.mass.gov/eopss/commonwealth-public-safety-broadband-office.html)) – please note that the PSBO will be significantly updating this site in the coming months)

*The PSBO will collaborate with first responders, public safety entities and other stakeholders in preparation for the deployment of the network in Massachusetts.*

As the head of the PSBO and the Governor's designated point of contact with the National Public Safety Broadband Network Initiative, I am excited about this program and look forward to talking more with first responders and public safety stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth about this project soon.

Curtis M. Wood, Undersecretary  
Forensic Science & Technology