

Legislative Priority: Next Generation 911

WLIA's Request

WLIA requests continued funding of the NextGen-911 (NG911), to support needed Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping by local and state governments. The National 911 Program Office reported to Congress that the GIS component would cost \$1.7 billion nationally to implement. This means about \$30 million for Wisconsin, based on per capita calculations, not including ongoing maintenance costs. Increasing compliance requirements for NG911 GIS data present challenges for local governments.

Background

Current Enhanced 911 (E911) technology is based on 1960's architecture; not designed to support wireless devices. Telecom companies support Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), but this is changing with new technology and the implementation of NG911 by PSAPs will be costly. GIS is a computerized digital mapping system consisting of points, lines and polygons that represent real-world geographic features. This representation is referred to as "geospatial data". The GIS data developed and maintained by local governments and then aggregated by the State plays a critical role in allowing NG911 to function properly.

Role of GIS in NG911

The value of NG911 lies in a more reliable and efficient means of responding to 911 calls. It provides greater accuracy for 911 call locations and a reduction of misrouted 911 calls. It increases options for the public to interact with 911 call centers in the form of text and video. GIS is a critical component in NG911 to identify and validate a caller's location, route the caller to the correct PSAP, and efficiently dispatch resources to the caller. Most geospatial datasets in Wisconsin are created and maintained at the local level. The NG911 system requires PSAPs to have geospatial datasets that cover the entire state. These datasets must be regularly updated to a higher standard than previously required. The most accurate and up to date data is managed at the local level.

Benefits of NG911 GIS data go beyond 911

Statewide address points and street centerlines that aid in computerized routing scenarios also benefit other areas beyond NG911. The data would greatly improve efficiency and effectiveness in the following areas: Voter Registration and License validation (e.g. DMV and DNR), validation of health care beneficiaries to root out fraud (e.g. Medicare) and help improve private sector delivery of goods and services. The development of statewide datasets should not be restricted to one agency or purpose but designed for broad applications at the state and local level to benefit all constituents. The true value in this funding is the compounding effect of this data and its broader uses across all sectors of business and government.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Land Information Association is to foster the understanding, development, operation and maintenance of a network of statewide land information systems. Specifically, the Wisconsin Land Information Association's mission is focused on promoting sound policy, promoting interaction and cooperation, technical research and education