DRAFT - Summary & Recommendations for NG911 GIS Grant Guidance

Key Recommendations

1. Expand Eligible Uses for NG911 Funds

- Staffing Support: Allow funding for FTE, LTE, and interns, ensuring sustainable GIS workforce development.
- Guaranteed Annual Funding: Model grants after WLIP, ensuring consistent yearly funding for counties to plan long-term.
- Non-Competitive Grant Model: Ensure equal funding access for all counties, recognizing NG911 as a statewide necessity.
- Software Licensing Support: Permit grant funds to cover software costs, easing financial burdens on counties.

2. Improve Long-Term Sustainability

- Ongoing Data Maintenance: Establish funding for data updates and upkeep, preventing counties from shouldering full costs.
- Tiered Allocation Model: Prioritize critical NG911 infrastructure (e.g., ESINet) while allowing partial funding for ancillary projects (e.g., aerial imagery).
- Collaboration with DMA & WLIP: Encourage partnerships to pool funding resources and maximize impact.

3. Enhance Grant Management & Accessibility

- Clarify Eligibility & Restrictions: Define allowable and ineligible costs upfront to reduce confusion.
- Streamline Application Process: Ensure accessible guidance, submission instructions, and timelines for applicants.
- Improve Reimbursement Procedures: Simplify post-project reimbursement to avoid financial strain on counties.
- Transparency on grant awards and none funded items

4. Promote Statewide Equity & Collaboration

- Equitable Funding Distribution: Ensure all counties, regardless of size or resources, benefit from NG911 funding.
- Support Under-Resourced Counties: Provide additional financial aid to counties lacking local revenue options.
- Encourage Cross-County Cooperation: Share best practices and grant successes to improve efficiency statewide.

Strategic Vision

A successful NG911 GIS grant program should:
- ✅ Provide sustainable, predictable funding for long-term maintenance.
- ✅ Ensure statewide equity in funding distribution.
- ✅ Streamline processes for clarity, efficiency, and accessibility.
- ✅ Prioritize critical infrastructure while supporting innovation.