

**New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority**  
Montgomery County ▪ Town of Blacksburg ▪ Town of Christiansburg ▪ Virginia Tech  
755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2E ▪ Christiansburg, VA 24073  
www.NRV911.org



January 5, 2015

Dorothy A. Spears-Dean, Ph.D.  
Public Safety Communications Coordinator  
Service Management and Delivery  
Virginia Information Technologies Agency  
11751 Meadowville Lane  
Chester, VA 23836

Dear Mrs. Spears-Dean:

The New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority (NRVECRA) submitted a PSAP grant application during the FY 2016 Grant Cycle requesting funds to replace customer premise equipment (CPE). The request has not been recommended for funding due to language in the FY 2016 PSAP Grant Program Guidelines. While we completely respect the decision of staff and the PSAP Grant Committee, we request to appeal this recommendation to the Virginia E-911 Services Board during the January 2015 meeting.

As you are aware the NRVECRA has taken great strides to properly plan and implement a successful consolidated 911 strategy from governance to a fully operational regional facility. The participating members received a consolidation grant in FY 2015 to assist with the multi-million dollar consolidation project costs. The physical consolidation was postponed till July 2016 due to construction delays with the regional facility which also impacts the technology and training requirements. However, the NRVECRA and member agencies are still moving forward with implementing systems and policies in preparation for the consolidation. The consolidation award was utilized to assist with the procurement of a regional multi-jurisdictional CAD/Mapping system that will go-live this year. The members currently utilize disparate CAD/Mapping systems within their PSAPs. The goal is to provide communications personnel sufficient time to learn the new CAD system and policies prior to the transition into one facility. The Grant Payment Request Form was submitted in November 2014 for the entire grant award and will be closed out by the end of the FY 2015 PSAP Grant Cycle.

When the member agencies finally transition to the new consolidated facility in July 2016, the current geo-diverse shared CPE solution utilized by three of the four members will be beyond five years in service. We do not believe a responsible strategic plan includes relocating almost six year old CPE into our consolidated center with potential extended down time for our PSAPs. Therefore, we submitted a FY 2016 PSAP Grant application as an individual PSAP in the amount of \$150,000 to assist with CPE replacement costs. Our local budgets are already laden with necessary funds required for the building renovation, additional capital expenditures, transition, and training costs.

Our grant submission was not recommended based on the following language in the FY 2016 PSAP Grant Guidelines:

*“Each primary PSAP is limited to receiving only one initial physical consolidation grant award. Furthermore, if a PSAP participates in a physical consolidation project, then the PSAP is prohibited from participating in an individual PSAP, a regional initiative, or a shared services project grant until the physical consolidation project is complete and the grant has been fully executed (closed out); however, they will still be eligible for the Wireless E-911 PSAP Education Program. The only exception for funding would be an emergency appeal made by a single primary PSAP participating in an ongoing consolidation project faced with a critical need related to maintaining current operations and unrelated to the consolidation effort. An appeal for this exception would need to be made directly to the Board and would be limited to \$150,000. Applicants need to submit the equivalent of the information requested in the application.”*

The request was not considered due to the precise language in the guidelines and we respectfully request the members of the Virginia E9-1-1 Services Board reconsider our application. We believe this language was intended in “good faith” to keep PSAPs from receiving multiple grant awards while still maintaining an outstanding consolidation grant. We feel the guidelines do not account for the difference in timelines from the grant submission deadline and the actual end of the grant cycle fiscal year. While our consolidation grant was not closed out prior to the grant submission deadline (September 30, 2014), we will be able to close this out before the end of the FY 2015 grant cycle (within the next 30-45 days) and prior to the new FY 2016 PSAP Grant Awards. We have always recognized we would be considered an individual PSAP after the initial consolidation grant was closed out.

We sincerely value your service and commitment for doing what is in the best interest of the PSAP. Thank you for your consideration and I will be happy to address additional questions.

Respectfully,



Donna Brown, ENP  
Executive Director