

**November 4, 2013**

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** All State Administrative Agency Heads  
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact  
All Urban Areas Security Initiative Points of Contact  
All State Homeland Security Directors  
All State Emergency Management Agency Directors

**FROM:** Brian E. Kamoie  
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**SUBJECT:** **Revision to IB 386, *Clarification on Use of DHS/FEMA Grant Funds for Broadband-Related Expenditures and Investments***

In June 2012, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) issued Information Bulletin (IB) 386, *Clarification on Use of DHS/FEMA Grant Funds for Broadband-Related Expenditures and Investments*. The purpose of the IB was to provide FEMA Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) grantees guidance regarding the use of DHS/FEMA grant funds for broadband-related expenditures and investments operating in the 700 megahertz (MHz) public safety broadband spectrum.

The IB was developed in response to enactment of the “Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012” (Pub. L. No. 112-96), which:

- Authorizes the creation of a nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) in the 700 MHz spectrum band (based on a single, national network architecture)
- Designates a single licensee – the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) – to manage the building, deployment, and operation of the network
- Authorizes FirstNet to hold the 700 MHz spectrum license for the network, which will be based on commercial standards for the Long Term Evolution (LTE) service and which will evolve with technological advancements.

Please be advised that IB 386 has been revised to make a technical clarification that non-broadband public safety communications investments that operate in the 700 MHz spectrum are allowable expenditures under FEMA grants programs. This includes the replacement and expansion of existing land mobile radio (LMR). Please see the revised language below, which is also captured in the attached, revised IB #386 A:

Original:

*This Information Bulletin applies only to broadband communications projects that will operate in the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum. FEMA GPD will still allow*

*the replacement and/or expansion of existing non-broadband, non-700 MHz land mobile radio (LMR) systems and other communications investments.*

As amended:

*This Information Bulletin applies only to broadband-related communications projects that will operate in the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum. FEMA GPD continues to allow the replacement and/or expansion of existing land mobile radio (LMR) and other communications systems. This IB applies to all active awards with unobligated or unexpended balances.*

***Please note:*** *A formal FEMA Policy Directive is forthcoming which will provide additional updates and clarification on broadband communications and associated projects.*

For any questions regarding this information bulletin, please contact your FEMA GPD Program Analyst, the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at [askcsid@fema.gov](mailto:askcsid@fema.gov) or call 1-800-368-6498.