



## SAFECOM Nationwide Survey Webinar Transcript

### Slide 1

Good Afternoon Everyone, and welcome to the SAFECOM Nationwide Survey Informational Webinar. Thank you for your time and participation. We're eager to hear your questions, but please hold them until the conclusion of the webinar.

### Slide 2

Today's webinar provides information on the survey's purpose, history, and how its results will benefit you. For those who haven't yet taken the survey, please remember to visit the SAFECOM website following the webinar at [www.dhs.gov/safecom/sns](http://www.dhs.gov/safecom/sns).

### Slide 3

This data collection initiative will provide findings, which will be analyzed along with other sources, such as the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans, and eventually published. This is an opportunity for public safety's voice to be heard! Your input will provide valuable insights on the current state of the nation's emergency communications. Additionally, SNS results will drive decisions to improve our nation's emergency communications capabilities.

### Slide 4

Grant funding for emergency communications has decreased significantly since its peak between 2007 and 2009. Through the Public Safety Interoperable Communications, or PSIC, Program more than \$1 Billion in grant funding was allocated for emergency communications. Almost 90% of original PSIC Funding went to procuring communications equipment. However, there were no major plans or considerations to allocate funding to sustain the purchased equipment.

### Slide 5

Public safety agencies and departments have indicated they struggle to maintain, upgrade, or replace current communication systems due to insufficient funding. They also encounter challenges conveying these issues to elected officials and decision-makers—many of whom lack a full understanding of the life cycle and why it continues to remain crucial to fund these systems.

### Slide 6

Funding decisions require valid information that reflects the needs of the public safety community. The SNS is a nationwide, data-collection effort to obtain actionable and critical data that drives our nation's emergency communication policies, programs, and funding. SAFECOM will leverage the collected data to identify gaps and inform development of the program's strategic priorities, which includes raising national awareness, building industry knowledge, Influencing public policy, and driving capability improvements.

### Slide 7

We all have competing priorities, so why take time out of your busy schedule to take the survey? Not only will the SNS generate and provide data for decision-makers to inform policy, programmatic, and funding decisions, but participants will be able to leverage data from their jurisdictions in order to compare capabilities and needs to like-jurisdictions and



agencies. Data will also inform the 2019 NECP and other OEC projects and programs, such as the development of state plans, training and exercises, and the SAFECOM Grant Guidance.

#### Slide 8

You may be asking yourself whether this survey is appropriate for you or someone in your organization to take. We want agencies with any level of emergency communications capability to respond to the survey. This includes all levels of government and those that fall within any of the four major disciplines: Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Fire, and 911. We are also accepting responses from local organizations that have a role operating, maintaining, funding, or upgrading their emergency communications systems.

#### Slide 9

Please visit these online links to access the survey, which consists of about 35 questions and has been taking respondents anywhere from 30 to 40 minutes to complete. For further information about the survey, please visit the SAFECOM website at [www.dhs.gov/safecom/sns](http://www.dhs.gov/safecom/sns). And remember, have your voice heard by February 23rd!