Connecticut Specific FirstNet Frequency Asked Questions

Question: What is the difference between FirstNet and other wireless options?

Answer: FirstNet is a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network designed to provide emergency responders with a nationwide high-speed broadband network dedicated to first responders. FirstNet has a dedicated CORE and is required to have public safety grade infrastructure for increased resiliency and have the capacity to support public safety applications. Commercial wireless carriers do not operate under the same rigid standards as set forth by the FirstNet guidelines. Those individuals using commercial carriers will not have access to the FirstNet CORE, Band 14 Spectrum or the services provided.

Question: What is Quality of Service, Priority, and Preemption (QPP)?

Answer: Quality of Service means, public safety personnel maintain appropriate access to critical communications resources at all times with a high service level.

 Priority means, public safety personnel receive access to resources ahead of other users.

Preemption means, higher priority personnel are able to utilize all available resources within the network, even if services to lower priority personnel are denied.

Question: What is local control?

Answer: Local control or “Direct Control” is comprised of:

* Quality of Service, Priority, and Preemption – This provides authorized users the ability to raise or lower settings of one or more users
* Users & Groups – This provides authorized users the ability to manage users and groups within their control and map these to roles and profiles
* Roles & Profiles – This provides authorized users the ability to manage roles and profiles that simplify user management
* Devices and Provisioning – This provides authorized users the ability to manage devices and the provisioning of those devices on the network
* Applications and Services – This provides authorized users the ability to whitelist and blacklist applications and assign applications to specific users or devices

Question: Is this an unfunded mandate?

Answer: No. There is no requirement to use FirstNet as your wireless broadband service provider. You may stay with current wireless provider, however you will not have access to the FirstNet CORE or the associated services.