



Wireless E911 Grant Program

Another example of an enhancement to infrastructure and the improvement of service to Wisconsin citizens is the implementation of an enhanced wireless 911 system. In 2005, the Commission implemented a three-year grant program created by 2003 Wisconsin Act 48 to reimburse local governments and wireless telecommunications service providers for certain costs they will incur to establish this enhanced wireless 911 service (E911). Enhanced wireless 911 service routes a wireless 911 call over a dedicated network, independent of the public switched network, and automatically reports the name and telephone number corresponding to the calling party's wireless telephone to the call taker at the public safety answering point. Most importantly, the enhanced wireless 911 service also reports the location of the calling party by geographic grid coordinates.

As of January 2008, the 911 Fund has disbursed \$23,764,266.29 in grants to 68 counties and 8 wireless carriers. As a result of these grants, the wireless E911 service has now been implemented in 59 counties. The funds for these grants are obtained through a monthly surcharge on wireless telephone service billed in Wisconsin. The Commission recently reduced that surcharge to \$0.43, effective January 1, 2008. Under Act 48, the wireless E911 grant program will expire on April 1, 2009. Appendix A, Map E911-1, indicates the implementation status by county for the E911 wireless grants.

Further Q & A's regarding the Wireless E911 program is also available on the PSC web site at: <http://psc.wi.gov/consumerinfo/faq%27s/tele/teleFAQ-index.htm>.