
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

911 Wireless Surcharge Administration

Purpose and History

The Iowa 911 system consists of 112 public safety answering points (PSAPs) across all 99 counties that are administered by local Joint 911 Service Boards or the Department of Public Safety (DPS). A PSAP is a 24-hour communications facility that receives 911 emergency calls and directly dispatches emergency response services. The 911 Program was created during the 1988 Legislative Session and is currently under the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD). The wireline 911 system was first launched in 1988, with the wireless 911 system launching in 1998.

Funding

The Iowa 911 system is funded by a combination of local government expenditures and statewide surcharges on telecommunications services. The 911 wireless surcharge is a \$1 surcharge included on the monthly phone bill of each wireless phone subscriber. The surcharge is collected by telecommunications providers and deposited quarterly into the 911 Emergency Communications Fund. The Fund is managed by the 911 program manager. Expenditures from the Fund must be made in a priority order pursuant to Iowa Code section [34A.7A](#). The first item in the priority order is a yearly appropriation by the General Assembly for 911 wireless surcharge administration. The appropriation is used to do the following:

- Implement, support, and maintain the functions of the director of the HSEMD.
- Implement, support, and maintain the functions of the program manager of the 911 Program.
- Employ the Auditor of State to perform an annual audit of the 911 Emergency Communications Fund.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [34A](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [605—10](#)

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More Information

HSEMD — 911 Program: homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/programs/911-program/
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