

# Narrow-Banding Below 512 MHz

## *Funding and Interoperability from the User Perspective*

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- Funding opportunities at the State level and SCIP analysis/state interoperable vision.
- How interoperable communications can be increased by accessing narrow-band designated interoperability channels with interoperable grant funding while also meeting the 2013 narrow-banding deadline.
- Meeting the narrowband deadline and agencies deriving enhanced interoperability and “operability” while working with wide area state interoperable networks.

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- *Funding opportunities at the State Level.*
  - Agencies are urged to become familiar with their State SCIP (Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan) and how it describes interoperable enhancement in your state. A correlation exists between the State SCIP and grant guidance in each state.
  - A state's SCIP plan speaks to its definition of interoperable communications and knowing the State's preferred method(s) of improving interoperability is critical in meeting narrow-banding.
  - In many states, enhancing interoperable communications per the state SCIP agencies can be accomplished in several ways with a by-product being meeting narrow-banding requirements.
  - Funding can be leveraged by the applicant in the manner that best meets their needs and fiscal abilities.
  - Grant applicants should identify commonalities between state interoperable vision and narrow-banding needs.

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- *How interoperable communications can be increased by accessing narrow-band designated interoperability channels with interoperable grant funding while also meeting the 2013 narrow-banding deadline.*
  - Example: Wideband only subscriber (mobile/portable) radios cannot access many FCC designated interoperability channels (discipline specific or multi-discipline). By replacing these radios with new subscriber units they can meet narrow-band requirements while enhancing interoperability.
  - Costs for reprogramming radios from wideband operation to narrowband operation should be grant eligible as they enhance nationwide interoperability channel access.



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*Meeting the narrowband deadline and agency's deriving enhanced interoperability and "operability" while working with wide area state interoperable networks.*

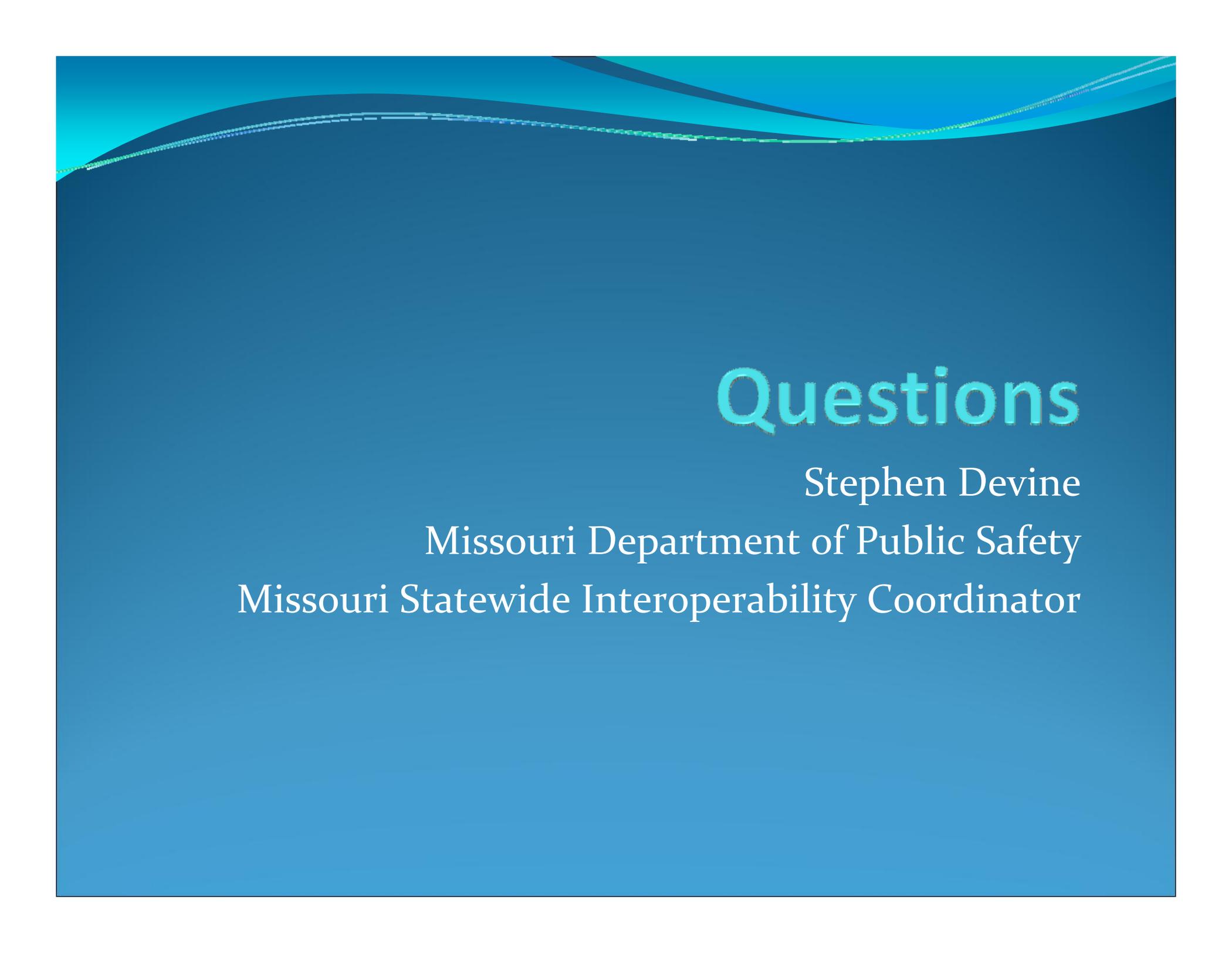
Many Wide Area/Statewide Trunked Radio Networks, often a large part of a state's SCIP plan, can offer narrowband eligible agencies cost effective alternatives from owning their own systems with improved performance.

Compared to meeting an agencies narrowband requirements, which in itself does NOT provide any additional capacity to the user, wide area/statewide trunked networks can introduce wide area capabilities, enhanced "operability" and interoperability, additional talk group functionality and fixed long term costs to participating agencies.

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- *Summary*

- Know your States interoperable vision and how it relates to grant funding.
- Acknowledge in grant applications that meeting narrow-banding requirements itself has an interoperable *quotient* as it allows access to nationwide interoperability channels that wideband only radios cannot utilize.
- Identify if statewide or wide area trunked networks can provide a higher degree of functionality and if participating in such a network is a better usage of agency funding rather than narrow-banding an agencies own system.



# Questions

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