The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) Division is the primary federal laboratory focused on conducting research, development, testing, and evaluation for public safety communications technologies. Their mission is to accelerate communications innovation in support of public safety communities and the citizens they serve.

NIST PSCR implements numerous research mechanisms that aim to advance near- and long-term R&D activities to support the development and deployment of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network: grants, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contracts, prize challenge competitions, and internal research. These research mechanisms are housed within six research portfolios and cross-cutting initiatives to maximize their impact:

- User Interface/User Experience
- Location-Based Services
- Mission Critical Voice
- Public Safety Analytics
- Security
- Resilient Systems

While the ultimate impact of these research mechanisms is the increased safety of first responders and their communities through improved communications technologies, PSCR was interested in better understanding how their R&D investments to date result in economic impacts that ripple outward to state economies. An independent analysis was conducted to demonstrate how PSCR’s research investments translate into broader impacts to the United States, including jobs, earnings, value added, and total economic output. As of 2021, PSCR investment has resulted in economic output in 30 of the 50 states. Results of the analysis are presented here.

For more information, see NIST PSCR’s Economic Impact Study.