

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION APPROVES STATE-WIDE 9-1-1 RESOURCE CENTER**

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission today approved the creation of a state-wide 9-1-1 Resource Center. The Resource Center will be an information clearinghouse, and will offer assistance to the 9-1-1 community throughout Colorado. One of its first tasks will be to issue a report on "The State of 9-1-1 in Colorado." In the near term the Resource Center also plans to deal with wireless 9-1-1 in Colorado, and with Voice over Internet Protocol—commonly called "VoIP"—which sends telephone calls over the Internet, from computers connected to the Internet, anywhere.

Qwest has provided \$2 million to fund the Resource Center, as part of the settlement of a case before the Commission, alleging that it failed to file interconnection agreements with certain local telephone companies. The OCC has been the main proponent of the 9-1-1 Resource Center, primarily through its membership on the PUC's 9-1-1 Task Force. The 9-1-1 Task Force will have direct oversight of the Resource Center, and the Public Utilities Commission will have indirect oversight, through its oversight of the 9-1-1 Task Force.

"The Resource Center will provide a significant benefit to the citizens of Colorado," said Jim Greenwood, Director of the OCC. "Currently, the metropolitan areas can generally afford to acquire the information and resources necessary to remain on the cutting edge of 9-1-1 technology. However, many rural counties, with their smaller populations and budgets, cannot afford to conduct the research necessary to deal with new issues as they arise."

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Chris Olson, Director of Safety Services for the City of Englewood, and Chair of the 9-1-1 Task Force subcommittee that developed the business plan for the 9-1-1 Resource Center, agreed. “ This is very exciting news for those of us in the public and private 9-1-1 arena, as we have been working on the creation of a Resource Center for several years. Funding has always been a primary issue, but with this decision by the Public Utilities Commission, and after much work and input by many dedicated people affiliated with 9-1-1 issues, the implementation of a Resource Center, serving the citizens of this state, will soon be a reality.”

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*The Office of Consumer Counsel represents residential, small business and agricultural consumers in electric, gas and telephone rate and rulemaking cases before the Public Utilities Commission and federal agencies. The OCC is a division of the Department of Regulatory Agencies.*