

Secure, Interoperable Public Safety Messaging & Collaboration



Homeland
Security

Science and Technology

DEPENDENCE ON CONSUMER-GRADE APPS

Public safety is quickly operationalizing messaging as a mission critical communications tool. But the lack of a secure, compliant, interoperable, and cost-effective industrywide platform is driving the rapid and widespread adoption of risky consumer-grade apps.

Each of these apps violates different types of public safety laws and regulations. Signal uses end-to-end-encryption which violates many discovery and transparency laws and brings numerous other risks identified in this [International Statement issued by the Department of Justice](#). WhatsApp not only sells user data, but the data is owned by Facebook, Inc. (now Meta Platforms) also violating many laws governing public safety data. A third widely used tool is Telegram which is hosted in the Middle East and has similar issues as Signal and WhatsApp with security, data encryption and privacy. Other less popular apps carry similar risks.

NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVES

Alternatively, there are enterprise apps such as Microsoft Teams which lack interoperability across agencies. Other premium messaging platforms utilize subscription models are cost-prohibitive for many public safety agencies and inhibit interoperability.

So, the accessibility of free, consumer technologies, lack of compliant alternatives, and operational necessity of text-based messaging is driving the rapid adoption of these risky tools.

NEED FOR COMPLIANT MESSAGING TOOL

DHS funded Bridge 4 Public Safety (Bridge4PS) to provide a secure, compliant, accessible, fully interoperable alternative. Bridge4PS was built and is operated by Mobility 4 Public Safety (M4PS). M4PS led the Harris County FirstNet Early Builder program and has unmatched experience deploying public safety collaboration.

M4PS recently completed a FedRAMP Moderate Baseline System Security Plan (SSP) as the first step towards achieving FedRAMP compliance. Once an Authority to Operate (ATO) is obtained, Bridge4PS will be the only fully compliant nationwide, interoperable public safety messaging platform.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Bridge4PS was launched in 2019 as a Proof-of-Concept (POC) to validate the need and understand the costs of a dedicated, public safety messaging and collaboration tool. The POC exceeded all projects targets and expectations. It was instrumental during early response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, civil unrest, 2020 Hurricane Season and 2020 Election Cycle.

IMPACT OF BRIDGE4PS

Bridge4PS promotes interoperable communication between agencies to better coordinate operational awareness and efficient response to emergencies. Remediation costs are reduced through the resulting efficient response.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Bridge4PS adoption is spreading nationwide – almost purely organically - by local, state, tribal, and federal agencies at a rate of 36% annually. This level of organic growth demonstrates the market demand which will be accelerated with proactive outreach.
2. Implementation of federated identity sharing allows Single Sign-On to Bridge4PS using agency credentials, promoting easier & more secure access.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Obtain FedRAMP Moderate Authority To Operate (ATO)

