

Fiscal Highlights

The Utah Communications Authority is Up and Running - Brian Wikle

The Utah Communications Authority (UCA) was established as an independent state agency effective July 1, 2014. UCA's purpose is to "provide a public safety communications network, facilities, and 911 emergency services on a statewide basis for the benefit and use of public agencies, and state and federal agencies" ([UCA 63H-7-102](#)). To accomplish this purpose, [House Bill 155](#) enacted in the 2014 General Session consolidated duties of the following four entities under UCA:

- Utah Communications Agency Network;
- Department of Technology Services - Radio Shop;
- Statewide Communications and Interoperability Committee; and,
- Utah 911 Committee.

House Bill 155 provided the framework for UCA's structure and funding, and an associated Memorandum of Understanding specified details regarding UCA's creation. Affected agencies cooperated effectively to ensure a smooth transition of staff, assets, inventories, and service rates from other agencies to UCA. In addition, H.B. 155 guaranteed that state employees who transferred to UCA retained their accrued benefits.

The Utah Communications Authority and the Department of Administrative Services - Finance Division, which holds certain funds in behalf of UCA, are working together to establish processes that allow for timely reimbursement of UCA's expenses and that promote accountability and transparency of UCA's finances.

For an explanation of the fiscal impact to various agencies resulting from the creation of UCA, reference [Update on Fiscal Impact of HB 155, 2014 General Session](#) presented to the Government Communications Task Force on September 11, 2014.