Homeland Security

Office of Grants and Training

ICTAP Bulletin

Connecting First Responders, Keeping America Safe

The Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) provides free technical assistance to enhance interoperable communications among Federal, State, and local emergency responders and public safety officials in cities and States that have received grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Grants and Training (G&T).

March 2007

Highlights

- Statewide Interoperability Planning Conference held March 21-23, 2007 in Los Angeles, CA

- SAFECOM Releases Final Statewide Interoperability Plan Guidance and Template

- PSIC Information Bulletin (IB 248) is Released March 20, 2007

STATEWIDE PLANNING WORKSHOP HELD

On March 21-23, 2007, SAFECOM, in association with the National Governors Association (NGA) and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), hosted the Statewide Planning Workshop for Public Safety Communications Interoperability. Each State was invited to bring five members of its public safety community to learn more about the planning process and subsequent statewide plan requirements and submittal dates. During the workshop, participants listened to a series of introductory presentations before breaking off into smaller groups to delve into the plan criteria in more detail.

As the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program Information Bulletin (IB 248) of March 20, 2007 indicated, the statewide interoperability plans must also include consideration of the State's communications systems that use or enable interoperability with communications systems that support the 764–776 MHz and 794–806 MHz frequency. Additionally, States must include investment justifications tied to the PSIC grant program.

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY PLAN TEMPLATE

1. Introduction

Provide a general introduction to the statewide plan and present the factors driving the creation of the statewide plan.

2. Background

Describe the events that have occurred to develop the statewide plan. Provide a high-level description of the process that was used to develop the statewide plan and people who were involved in the planning process. Include the following:

- State Overview
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration
- Organization of the Regions/ Jurisdictions in the State
- Existing UASI Areas/TIC Plans
- Participating Agencies and Points of Contact
- Statewide Plan Point of Contact
- Scope and Timeframes for Completing Initiatives

3. Methodology

Summarize the process used to encourage cross-jurisdictional and cross disciplinary participation in developing the statewide plan. Address the method used to incorporate TIC plans into the statewide plan. Describe the approach for sustaining participation after the initial plan has been completed.

4. Current Statewide Assessment

Describe the current status of communications and interoperability statewide: include what is working well; what is not working well; key strategies (if applicable) that are currently underway to address what is not working well; and the barriers to implementation. Include descriptions of the following:

- Governance Structure
- Technology
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Training and Exercises Plan
- Usage

5. Strategy

Describe the vision, mission, goals and objectives, and strategic initiatives for interoperability statewide. Describe how the State is working towards full NIMS compliance. Include the review process and schedule of updates.

6. Implementation

Describe the approach for implementing the statewide plan's strategic initiatives, short- and long-term goals for implementation, key roles and responsibilities, performance measures, critical success factors, plans for educating policy makers and practitioners, and a plan for overseeing operational requirements, SOPs, training, and technical solutions.

7. Funding

Determine the budget needed to implement the statewide plan. Identify who will provide funding, the plan to obtain initial funding, and how sustained funding will be provided to support the statewide plan and its mission and goals.

8. Close

Provide a summary of the plan and the next steps.

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For more information on the Statewide Interoperability Plan, please visit:

www.safecomprogram.gov/ SAFECOM/statewideplanning/

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information on ICTAP, visit the Web page at:

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/ta_ictap.htm.

For general information on ICTAP or other G&T initiatives, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at 1-800-368-6498 or askcsid@dhs.gov.