Fact Sheet

Office of Emergency Communications
Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans

Introduction

Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIP) are locally-driven, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-disciplinary statewide plans to enhance emergency communications interoperability. Every State[1] has an approved SCIP that addresses designated critical elements for statewide interoperability. In the future, SCIPs will be revised to align with the goals in the National Emergency Communications Plan to promote a coordinated nationwide strategy to address operable and interoperable communications.

SCIP Development

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) worked with practitioners from around the country to build SCIP criteria and standards under which States would qualify for grant funding through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program. OEC provided technical assistance, outreach, and guidance to States as they developed their SCIPs. OEC facilitated 35 SCIP development workshops and conducted 15 document reviews, providing SCIP-development support to 48 of the 56 States and territories. In accordance with HSGP and the PSIC Grant Program, all 56 States and territories submitted SCIPs by the December 3, 2007 deadline.

SCIP Review

More than 100 peer reviewers from all levels of government participated in an evaluation process over the course of two months to provide feedback on the SCIPs. OEC, with its partners at the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), facilitated a two-part peer review process, including individual peer reviews and peer panel discussions, to evaluate the SCIPs and the PSIC Investment Justifications. As of April 2008, all 56 States and territories have an approved SCIP, the first step in qualifying for more than $968 million in PSIC funds.

SCIP Implementation

OEC is undertaking the following initiatives to support States' implementation of their SCIPs: (1) SCIP Implementation Reports (2) National Summary of SCIPs (3) SCIP Implementation Workshops and (4) Technical Assistance (TA). The primary objectives of these initiatives are to support States in improving emergency communications and help OEC align its resources and programs to best support each State's interoperability needs.

SCIP Implementation Reports
OEC prepared a SCIP Implementation Report for each State based on a comprehensive review of the State's respective SCIP. These reports describe the current status of interoperable communications across the five

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[1] State refers to States and territories.

lanes of the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum [2] to include capabilities, interoperability gaps, strategic initiatives, and next steps to be taken in each State. OEC will use this "snapshot" of each State's current status to gain a clearer understanding of its needs. This will enable OEC to more effectively align its resources and programs; establish funding goals for the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) in coordination with the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate; and establish a baseline to measure future progress within each State. The reports may also serve as a baseline by which States can measure their progress in an annual State grant recipients report required by Congress.

National Summary of SCIPs
After the SCIP Implementation Reports are reviewed by the States, OEC will draft a National Summary of SCIPs to identify the common initiatives, trends, and best practices outlined in the 56 SCIPs. The National Summary of SCIPs will be released publicly to provide an overview of the Nation's current interoperability gaps and initiatives. OEC will use the data to design and enhance its future projects, tools, and TA efforts. Furthermore, States can use the information to identify and collaborate with other States with similar gaps and initiatives.

SCIP Implementation Workshops
Once the SCIP Implementation Reports are reviewed by the States, OEC will offer each State a one-day workshop, bringing together State and local representatives to discuss communications gaps and SCIP initiatives. The workshop will be participatory and hands-on, and will focus on each State's specific needs and priorities. OEC will conduct these collaborative workshops from October 2008 through April of 2009.

Technical Assistance
OEC provided each State with a revised TA Request Form and a State TA Report, in conjunction with their SCIP Implementation Report. The State TA Report listed the State's SCIP initiatives and a suggested TA catalog offering to support the initiative. While OEC made recommendations based on each State's SCIP initiatives, States applied for the TA offering they deemed appropriate during their SCIP Implementation Report review process. Each State was able to request up to five TA offerings with at least one supporting the Urban Area(s) in the State. All TA requests had to align with an initiative in the State's SCIP.

For more information on SCIP Implementation and OEC, please contact OEC@hq.dhs.gov or visit http://www.dhs.gov; keyword: OEC.

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[2] The SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum graphically depicts the multiple dimensions of interoperability and identifies five critical success factors for progress: governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training and exercises, and usage.