



**Homeland
Security**

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 State¹ has an approved SCIP that addresses designated critical elements for statewide interoperability and a self-identified process to frequently update the SCIP as progress is made and new initiatives emerge. The SCIPs were analyzed and incorporated into the development of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) and Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) grant guidance. This fiscal year (FY), States have begun to revise the SCIPs to align with the NECP goals and milestones 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) Technical Assistance (TA) (2) SCIP Implementation Workshops (3) SCIP Implementation Reports and (4) National Summary of SCIPs. 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.

¹ State refers to States and territories.



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Technical Assistance

In addition to the individual SCIP Implementation Report, OEC annually provides a revised TA Report and Request Form to each State. The TA Report outlines the SCIP initiatives and suggests TA catalog² offerings that support each initiative. States may request up to five offerings annually from OEC's TA catalog. OEC internally vets all TA requests, evaluating how they address SCIP gaps and advance interoperability by increasing capability and mitigating risk. Requests are then prioritized to maximize the impact of the assistance for the State to fully implement their SCIP and achieve NECP goals and objectives. In FY 2009, OEC received requests from over 90% of States and territories totaling over 200 individual TA requests.

SCIP Implementation Workshops

OEC is offering each State a one-day workshop, bringing together State and local representatives to discuss communications interoperability gaps and SCIP initiatives. The workshops are participatory and hands-on, and focus on each State's self-identified needs and priorities. OEC is conducting these collaborative workshops through May 2009.

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 lanes of the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum³ to include capabilities, interoperability gaps, strategic initiatives, and next steps to be taken in each State. OEC is using 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 IECGP in coordination with the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate; and establish a baseline to measure future progress within each State. Per FY 2009 IECGP guidance, each State is required to update its SCIP Implementation Report by July 31, 2009 and reflect alignment to the NECP in the report by December 31, 2010.

National Summary of SCIPs

OEC analyzed the 56 SCIPs to develop the National Summary of SCIPs. The document is divided by the five lanes of the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum. Each of the five sections summarizes the common themes, gaps, initiatives, and a sample of best practices as identified in the 56 SCIPs. The National Summary of SCIPs is available on the SAFECOM website.⁴ OEC is using 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.

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

² The OEC Technical Assistance Catalog is available at <http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/statewideplanning/>.

³ 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.

⁴ The National Summary of SCIPs is available at <http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/statewideplanning/>.