

Messaging the Importance of Governance

Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC)

- Ensure your audience knows that SWIC stands for Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
- Explain the SWIC’s key roles:
 - Plays a pivotal role in the state’s emergency communications interoperability initiatives (e.g., coordinates multiple users, systems, policies, procedures, and technologies)
 - Manages day-to-day operations related to interoperability
 - Manages and implements the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIP) and National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)
 - The SCIP provides essential governance, goals, and initiatives essential to improving daily operations and disaster response
 - The NECP is the Nation’s strategic plan for emergency communications and sets goals for each state and territory
- Facilitates communications among responders during emergencies and continues to be an important asset when responding to planned and unplanned events
- Manages Communications Unit Leader and Communications Technician training program
- Helps the state sustain and maintain programs amidst diminishing funding opportunities and may manage and allocate a variety of grant dollars and other funding sources for emergency communications initiatives
 - Participates on the State Administrative Agency as mandated by the *SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants*
 - Manages requests for federally provided technical assistance including Office of Emergency Communications
- Serves as the State representative to the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC)
 - NCSWIC develops interoperability best practices and facilitates nationwide partnerships among members of the public safety community from different disciplines and at all levels of government.
 - Acts as (or coordinates closely with) the State Point-of-Contact (SPOC) with the First Responder Network Authority, or coordinates with the SPOC, on issues related to the implementation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network
- Explain the importance of having a centralized point-of-contact:
 - A single point of contact within the State promotes efficiency and better program management of essential statewide, regional, and local systems
- Provide examples of key state successes from your office (i.e., recent disaster response, best practices implemented, cross-border collaboration)
- Explain the importance of funding a full-time positions:
 - The SWIC position is best able to serve the state when there is a stable legislative mandate that provides
- In some cases, plays crucial role in coordination with ESF-2

Presentation Best Practices:

- Provide examples of key successes, challenges, and shortfalls (i.e., issues with federal partners operating on state systems, lack of staffing and funding)
- Explain current business/funding model
- Describe potential money-saving opportunities
- Use visual aids such as tablet or digital photos
- Ask to be invited to additional legislative/cabinet meetings to provide updates

Statewide Governance Bodies [Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB)/Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)]

- Use definition of governance related to communications interoperability: the system by which federal, state, local, and tribal governments work together to make informed decisions to advance interoperable communications
- Reference the governance structure in your state or territory and how it functions
- The role of a governance body is to foster relationships, collaboration, and information sharing to better balance fiscal, technological, and policy-driven public safety needs
- Robust governance establishes and maintains a central coordination point for efforts across the broad spectrum of public safety stakeholders, and can help to address challenges in a unified manner
- Effective governance bodies bring the right people to the table (multi-disciplinary, multi-functional) to make informed decisions related to interoperability strategies
- Governance is critical in addressing the technological convergence of land mobile radio, broadband, 9-1-1, and Next Generation 9-1-1 as it affects equipment interoperability, system and network sustainment, and upgrades and funding
- Benefits of strong governance include:
 - More coordinated response in incidents and emergencies which can help save lives
 - Coordination and alignment in strategies at all levels of government within a state
 - Alignment in funding decisions which will reduce duplication and will result in cost savings
 - Provide examples of cost savings
 - Greater insight into existing emergency communications capabilities, identify gaps, and assess areas for coordination
 - Better use of shared resources across levels and jurisdictions for incident response such as a cadre of trained professionals who can manage communications for incidents and emergencies
 - Buy-in through participation (inclusivity) and understanding of interoperability strategies included in decisions related to operability and interoperability

Relevant Definitions

- **Interoperability:** “Ability of emergency responders to communicate among jurisdictions, disciplines, frequency bands, and levels of government as needed and as authorized. System operability is required for system interoperability.” –NECP, 2014: <https://www.dhs.gov/national-emergency-communications-plan>
- **Operability:** “Ability of emergency responders to establish and sustain communications in support of mission operations” –Ibid.

For questions regarding the NCSWIC or SWICs, please contact your SWIC or the [NCSWIC Inbox](#).