

DHS OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OVERVIEW

The Department of Homeland Security has a vital mission: to secure the nation from the many threats we face. This requires the dedication of more than 240,000 employees in jobs that range from aviation and border security to emergency response, from cybersecurity analyst to chemical facility inspector. Our duties are wide-ranging, but our goal is clear - keeping America safe.

The **Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA)** promotes an integrated national approach to homeland security by coordinating and advancing federal interaction with state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments. IGA is responsible for continuing the homeland security dialogue with executive-level partners at the SLTT levels, along with the national associations that represent them. IGA's State Team is the designated lead for state relations and consultation at the Department. Governors, State Homeland Security Advisors (HSA), and state agencies constitute a large amount of the Department's outreach and collaboration. IGA State Coordinators are tasked with maintaining relationships and situational awareness of events and issues in all 56 states and territories, as well as communicating with numerous national associations that address homeland security-related issues. State Coordinators are also responsible for maintaining an up-to-date awareness and continuous communication with all DHS components, and facilitating direct communication and information flow on all Department issues with our SLTT stakeholders.

In addition to IGA's State Team, the Office is also comprised of Local and Tribal Affairs teams. In addition, the National Operations Center (NOC) State and Local (S&L) Support Desk builds upon existing NOC and IGA relationships and supports governors, homeland security advisors, mayors, other elected and appointed officials, and their staffs at the SLTT levels. The NOC S&L Support Desk monitors state, local, tribal, and territorial homeland security efforts, maintains general awareness of SLTT resources and requirements, and works closely with the NOC and IGA to coordinate issues of significance to their constituencies.

OVERVIEW OF IGA INTERACTIONS WITH STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Through your designated IGA Coordinator, IGA provides a direct link from Governors, HSAs, and other state officials to Secretary Napolitano and DHS components.

- IGA provides a direct source of official communication and information from the Department to Governors and HSA Offices.
- Each IGA Coordinator is charged with building relationships with state officials and maintaining overall knowledge of DHS operations and issues in each state/territory.
- Although HSAs and State officials interact with many different agencies and components across the Department, IGA provides a "one-stop shop" for DHS-related information and can provide assistance, information, and connections to DHS officials to ensure that stakeholder needs are met.
- IGA serves as an advocate for SLTT interests within the Department. IGA works with State and local officials and their representative associations to ensure that these viewpoints are heard and incorporated into the policy process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IGA:

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