
State of New York Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan



SIEC New York State
Statewide Interoperability
Executive Committee

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SCIP Goals and Objectives

Important Goals and Objectives of the SCIP

1.) **SCIP Identified Interoperable Communications Gaps**

The State recognizes and places significant emphasis on the fact that, in order to achieve long-term meaningful and measurable improvements in public safety interoperable communications, gaps must be closed in each of these identified areas.

- Lack of federal, state, and local funding for improving public safety interoperable communications
- Lack of dedicated public safety radio spectrum and interoperability channels
- Limited or no international, interstate, interregional, interagency, and intra-agency interoperable communications
- Coverage gaps in many localities due to inadequate systems
- Outmoded technologies
- Lack of affordable in-building coverage and underground communications technologies
- Licensing obstacles
- Lack of multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Cross-border communications issues with Canada
- Disparate Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP)
- The Inability to page forces

2.) **Strategy**

In reviewing the State of New York Interoperability Baseline, the State has determined that, in order to achieve short-term meaningful and measurable improvements in public safety interoperable communications, the scope of the activities to be undertaken shall be focused in the five (5) following areas:

- **Planning and Coordination**
- **Acquisition**
- **Deployment**
- **Operations and Maintenance**
- **Training**

Within these five (5) focus areas, the State has identified the goals in subsections to follow that best addresses perceived gaps:

- **Governance**
 - Leverage the existing governance bodies at the State, county, and local levels to establish Regional Task Forces to plan, administer, and coordinate interoperable communications initiatives; and
 - Implement clear roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationships between SWN Advisory Council, Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), Regional Task Forces, and other governance bodies
- **SOPs**
 - Develop a baseline of existing SOPs and training and exercise programs

- Review, improve, and refine existing SOPs and emergency readiness exercise programs among jurisdictions to more closely align with and support agile incident response
 - Develop, test, and implement an integrated platform of SOPs and readiness exercise programs statewide
 - Implement a process audit and process improvement program to regularly evaluate and improve the SOPs and emergency readiness exercises
- **Technology- Acquire, test, and implement technology solutions that:**
 - Enable seamless communications across all public safety frequency bands
 - Provide flexibility in tailoring the features and functionalities to satisfy unique operation needs of fire, EMS, and police first responders
 - Are capable of receiving software operation and configuration code updates over the air (OTA)
 - Are designed and hardened adequately to withstand the harsh conditions in which first responders work
 - Interoperate with commercial off-the-shelf (COTs) devices (e.g. PDAs, pagers, cell phones, laptops)
 - Are equipped with GPS location identification hardware, software, and logging devices
 - Are modular and allow for incremental upgrades
 - Support one-to-one and one-to-many (command/broadcast) communications methods
 - Operate via various communications technology delivery platforms (e.g. WiFi, WiMAX, cellular, LMR conventional and trunking mode, etc.)
- **Training and Exercises**
 - Integrate efforts with SEMO and the OHS collectively to plan, implement, and administer multi-jurisdictional and multidisciplinary training and exercise programs
 - Leverage the existing training and exercise components of NIMS MSC and UASI TIC plans to develop fully NIMS-compliant training and exercise programs
 - Implement international, interstate, and intrastate training and exercise programs
- **Usage**
 - Via the Office of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, develop, implement, and continuously improve an all-hazards command and control structure that pools resources from the federal, state, local, and tribal bodies to execute daily operations and to respond to natural and manmade disasters

Additional **Strategic Components** to be considered as important objectives and goals, and which are include in SCIP are:

- State Wireless Network principles
- Coordinating resources with neighboring states and Canada
- Data interoperability
- Restoring communications capabilities following a disaster
- NIMS compliance
- Coordination with major metropolitan areas and mass transit systems

3.) **Governance**

Effective October 2007, the SWN Advisory Council, legislatively created in 2004, assumed the responsibilities of the Interim Governance Board and the existing members of the Interim Governance Board became the SIEC. The members of the SIEC serve as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for the State's interoperable communications initiatives.

The SIEC is responsible for:

- Assisting in the development and implementation of an integrated communications system
- Consulting with and advising the New York State Office of The Chief Information Officer Office for Technology (CIO/OFT) regarding State purchases of information and communications technology
- Making recommendations to State-elected leaders concerning the availability and reliability of communications

At the State, county, and local levels, multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary governance bodies carry out interoperable communications planning and coordination. Please refer to Section 2 for additional information.

4.) **Training and Exercises**

Training and exercise should not be limited to testing the communications process, but strengthen the ties of mutual assistance and entities must understand the process by which assistance is sought. There is also a strong focus on the integration of interoperable communications practices via training and exercises.

Training Goals: Enhance and maintain training programs so that emergency-response and management professionals can execute their duties safely and efficiently.

Objectives:

- Establish a progressive emergency-management training program to address the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed by State and local agency personnel to accomplish their emergency-management job duties and responsibilities over the longer term.
- Ensure that emergency-management training is consistent with the training needs assessment and the State's strategy, and is related to corrective actions or deficiencies identified from emergency-management exercises or actual incidents/events.
- Ensure that training is provided on the NIMS to prepare State and local emergency management and other agencies and their personnel to function under NIMS protocols.
- Establish and implement a NIMS-compliant STR training program. Identify and develop a cadre of adjunct instructors to conduct quality emergency management training programs based on identified training needs.
- Where appropriate and practical, utilize alternative training methodologies such as distance-learning and independent-study programs to increase access and availability of training for State and local emergency-management personnel.

Exercise Goals: 1.) Increase the number of State and local-level individuals trained in exercise design, development, facilitation, and evaluation to provide a greater level of support for State and local-agency exercise programs. 2.) Enhance the scope and frequency of State-level exercises.

Objectives:

- Deliver the HSEEP and Exercise Evaluation and Training Program to local governments, SEMO Regional Staff, and to DPC agency staff.
- Provide additional training or review training, as needed, to ensure that new staff, at both the local and the State level are trained in HSEEP methodology.
- Provide ongoing regional HSEEP workshops to deliver new or revised HSEEP information on a timely basis, as this information becomes available.
- Develop and coordinate, through the multi-agency exercise-coordination group, a comprehensive, multi-year all-hazard exercise plan, in which exercises build on each other, enabling them to grow in complexity.
- Coordinate scope and frequency of exercises between agencies and disciplines, such that agencies or local governments are not overburdened with multiple conflicting exercises, and so that the exercise needs of agencies and local governments are met.
- Encourage specific sectors, such as business, education, etc., to participate in the scheduled exercises.

5.) Implementation

The State of New York has determined that in order to achieve short-term meaningful and measurable improvements in public safety interoperable communications, the scope of the activities to be undertaken and the resources allocated to achieve the improvements will be applied to close the most critical interoperable communications gaps.

Short Term Goals:

While many of these goals and projects are directed towards state level agencies, they communicate several areas local applicants can target, as well as, highlights how local applicants can aid the state through collaboration on many goals.

Governance: 1.) Leverage the existing governance bodies at the State, county, and local levels to establish Regional Task Forces to plan, administer, and coordinate interoperable communications initiatives (High Priority). 2.) Implement clear roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationships between the SIEC, Regional Task Forces, and other governance bodies (Medium Priority).

SOP's: 1.) Develop a baseline of existing SOP's and training and exercise programs (High Priority). 2.) Develop, test, and implement an integrated platform of NIMS-compliant SOP's and emergency-readiness exercise programs statewide (High Priority). 3.) Implement a process audit and process-improvement program to regularly evaluate and improve the SOPs and emergency-readiness exercises (Medium).

Technology: 1.) Develop a statewide inventory of critical communications assets (High Priority). 2.) Clearly define interoperable communications constraints (problem definitions/gaps) and develop a SOW that includes needs assessment, product-scope description, and statement of strategic importance (High Priority). 3.) Conduct an analysis of existing critical interoperable communications assets and their impact on proposed new technology projects (Medium Priority). 4.) Develop the system designs for the selected projects (Medium Priority). 5.) Procure the resources required to implement the system(s) as designed (Low Priority).

Training and Exercises: 1.) Integrate efforts with SEMO and the OHS to collectively plan, implement, and administer multi-jurisdictional and multidisciplinary training and exercise programs (High Priority). 2.) Leverage the existing training and exercise components of the NIMS MCS and UASI TIC plans to develop fully NIMS-compliant training and exercise

programs (High Priority. 3.) Implement international (with Canada), interstate, and intrastate training and exercise programs (Medium Priority).

Long Term Goals:

The State Interoperability Coordinator is in the process of developing long-term goals and objectives beyond 2010. Inclusive in these goals and objectives are the:

- Development and implementation of a Statewide Data Interoperability Roadmap
- Integration of voice and data interoperable communications networks in major metropolitan area, both in above and below-ground transit systems
- Implementation of mutually beneficial spectrum coordination policies, methodologies, and processes with Canada in the 700 and 800-MHz bands
- Development and implementation of a Continuous Improvement (CI) plan to ensure that the products and services implemented under the State's interoperable communications programs remained properly aligned with the changing needs, operational and technical requirements, and expectations of all stakeholders

Performance Measurement System:

The Interoperability Coordinator, in conjunction with the SIEC and PMO (Performance Management Office-housed under OFT), and overseen by the SWN Advisory Council, shall be responsible for implementing a performance-measurement system and defining project-specific metrics to measure and report on the status and progress of each initiative.

6.) PSIC Requirements

PSIC grant requirements, while to be completed in a targeted window of time specific to the grant's period of performance, should be taken into consideration when achieving SCIP goals and objectives as they relate to addressing interoperable communications gaps and be seen as mutually supportive of each other.

7.) SCIP and Associated Resources

The latest revised and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) SCIP and related resources may be obtained by visiting the New York State Regional Planning Committee (RPC) and Interoperable Communications Web site, using this link:

<http://www.nys-rpc.org/interoperability/scip.html>