



June 5, 2018

Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC)
444 North Capitol St NW #267
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Commissioner Squires and Director Klein,

On behalf of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO), we wanted to reach out and offer our assistance to the Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC) and your members on the new grant guidance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) related to homeland security grants. As you know, FEMA grant guidance now requires a cybersecurity investment justification (CIJ) and requires state CIOs and state CISOs to sit on the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) to better address cybersecurity preparedness.

State CIOs have a long history with state cybersecurity and have consistently ranked it a top priority for state IT. In the [2016 Deloitte-NASCIO Cybersecurity Study](#), we found that the top challenges to addressing cyber within state government were: lack of sufficient funding (80 percent), inadequate availability of cybersecurity professionals (51 percent), increasing sophistication of threats (45 percent), lack of documented processes (45 percent), and lack of visibility and influence within the enterprise (33 percent). We believe that by collaborating with state homeland security and emergency management professionals, we can begin to holistically address some of the aforementioned challenges.

We recognize that redirecting FEMA grant funds to address state cybersecurity may be difficult due to the need to fund existing priorities, required set-asides, and pass through requirements. We also understand that FEMA grants are insufficient to meet all the emergency management and homeland security needs of state and local governments. Acknowledging the challenging financial environment that state and local governments face, we would like to begin engaging in a collaborative discussion with GHSAC members and other homeland security/emergency management professionals in our respective states about how to strategically fund cybersecurity initiatives that would bring the most benefit to our states. Most importantly, we would like to offer our assistance with developing or revising the CIJ document that FEMA requires states to submit.

NASCIO would be happy to connect interested HSAs and state emergency managers to their state's CIO and CISO. Please contact NASCIO director of government affairs, Yejin Jang (yjang@NASCIO.org 202.624.8477) for contact information. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Bo Reese, NASCIO President and Oklahoma CIO