![NASCIO logo - Representing Chief Information Officers of the States]

Continued Adoption of DotGov Domain is Essential

Issue and Background:

- The DotGov domain provides enhanced security features and increases the public trust in government.

- With rampant misinformation and disinformation campaigns from issues ranging from election security to COVID-19, it is paramount that citizens receive accurate and trusted information from government websites.

- Nearly twenty years after making DotGov available to state and local governments, less than 10 percent of local governments are registered on the domain.

- In April 2021, administration of the .gov top-level domain (TLD) was transferred from the General Services Administration to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), reflecting the inherent linkage between domain registration and cybersecurity.

- NASCIO's advocacy was [instrumental](#) in CISA's announcement to waive the annual $400 registration fee for DotGov, which was cost prohibitive and unnecessarily burdensome for the majority of local governments.

- While waiving the registration fee was a key step in the right direction to increase migration to DotGov, there needs to be increased education, outreach and advocacy to local governments.

Recommendation:

- **CISA should establish a stakeholder advisory group** to work with key stakeholders and educate local governments on the business case and security benefits of migrating to .gov. CISA should utilize the state CIOs and CISOs to assist in this educational campaign and to highlight a 24/7 help desk and other inherent operational benefits of the .gov program, which will provide tremendous support to resource and personnel-constrained local governments.

- **Expand opt-in centralized cybersecurity services for DotGov entities** CISA has built a strong team focused on providing technical support and information to SLTTs. With ownership of the .gov program, they can now make available opt-in cybersecurity shared services on top of the .gov TLD. Doing so will create a compelling case for local governments to migrate to a .gov and leverage the additional capabilities CISA can make available.

- **Tie federal grant funding for local governments to DotGov adoption/migration.** With the recent passage of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, local governments will receive 80 percent of federal funding. CISA and FEMA should mandate local governments will only be eligible for grant funding if they agree to migrate to the DotGov domain.

- **Allow flexible usage of State Homeland Security Grant Program funds** to be used for migration to DotGov domain to include non-technical transition costs on items including communication outreach to citizens, marketing materials and revisions to stationary, business cards and other printed collateral.