

State Homeland Security Senior Advisory Council Charter

Purpose The Office of Homeland Security is created to ensure preparedness by the State of Nebraska in response to terrorist acts and shall coordinate efforts regarding domestic security issues with the United States Department of Homeland Security.

The Nebraska Homeland Security Policy Group will assess strategic alternatives and recommend broad courses of action for the development of comprehensive strategies to integrate preparedness activities across disciplines and stakeholder groups. The Senior Advisory Council (SAC) is created under the Homeland Security Policy Group.

Background The State Homeland Security Policy Group¹ was established by State Statute 81-830. This group also serves as the executive committee of the State's Senior Advisory Council.²

The SAC is a working committee under the authority of the Policy Group and contains broad representation from stakeholders with responsibility for or interest in Nebraska's homeland security. This group monitors and makes recommendations related to coordination of activities and funding in Nebraska for homeland security initiatives and programs.

Charge The Senior Advisory Council shall:

1. Participate with the State Planning Team to create a planning, training and exercising framework for homeland security preparedness programs and activities to leverage all available resources encompassing the "whole community" within the state.
2. Monitor all available preparedness funding sources to minimize duplication of effort
3. Ensure applications for federal funds align with threat/hazard identification and risk analysis efforts and address gaps identified in the state preparedness report
4. Establish working groups or subcommittees to engage and inform constituency groups as applicable.
 - a. Subcommittees will be expected to use "whole community" approaches <http://www.fema.gov/whole-community>
 - b. Members of the SAC will be represented on subcommittees and serve as a link back to the Council
5. Receive and review the required annual Homeland Security Report to the Legislature which is submitted by the Homeland Security Policy Group by March 1 of each year to the executive board.

¹ NEB. REV.STAT. § 81-830 (Laws 2006, LB 940, § 5; Laws 2012, LB782, § 173).

² The SAC is created by public law 110-53 and the 2013 Homeland Security State Grant Program as a requirement to receive funding within the state.

Roles The SAC chair is selected by Nebraska's Director of Homeland Security and will be a member of the Homeland Security Policy Group. The chair will set meeting agendas. The Council will determine charters and chairpersons for work groups and subcommittees they create. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will provide facilitation and support for Council meetings, and is charged with meeting administrative requirements for the state homeland security grant and providing regular reports to the Council about the grant finances. SAC members are expected to participate in annual workshops (with additional representatives from stakeholder groups) to complete statewide threat/hazard identification and risk analyses; to develop the state preparedness report; and to develop wording for investment justifications for the state homeland security grant. Programmatic priorities are determined in these workshops and ratified by the Senior Advisory Council.

Membership Nebraska's Governor makes appointments of State Homeland Security Policy Group members (Nebraska Statute 81-830) and the Chairperson (who is the Director of State Homeland Security) serves as the link between state and the United States Department of Homeland Security. Membership in the SAC is determined by the Policy Group via the charter.

Representatives invited as voting members of the SAC include:

- Director of State Homeland Security/Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
- State Emergency Management Agency Director
- State Public Health Officer
- State Public Safety Officer
- SAA for Justice Assistance Grants
- State Court Official
- State Trauma System Manager
- State Emergency Medical Services for Children Coordinator
- State Education Department
- State Human Services Department/State Child Welfare Services
- State Juvenile Justice Services
- State Department of Agriculture
- State Department of Roads
- State Department of Environmental Quality
- State Fire Marshal
- Adjutant General
- State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)
- Nebraska's Critical Infrastructure Key Resources community
- Not for profit sector – VOAD
- Tribal representatives
- Nebraska Public Power representative
- Nebraska's ASPR/CDC Grant
- Governors policy research office
- Other stakeholders as determined by the Chairperson or Governor

Governance The State Homeland Security Policy Group is not subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act or to sections 84-712 to 84-712.09 (81-830). The SAC is an official subcommittee of this group.

1. Decisions are advisory only and made by a simple majority vote of SAC members present.
2. No quorum is required for the group to conduct business
3. Formal meetings of the SAC will be held at least twice a year with additional participation in workshops and meetings expected for members (e.g., annual workshops to complete threat/hazard identification and risk analysis; investment justification development; state preparedness report development)

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