

State Homeland Security Policy Group /Senior Advisory Council

- Purpose** The Nebraska Homeland Security Policy Group/Senior Advisory Council 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.
- 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. The Senior Advisory Council 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. Voting members are identified annually by the group they represent, with the exception of the Governor appointed State Homeland Security Policy Group members. Ex officio members may not vote, but may give reports, participate in discussions and lead working groups/subcommittees. All council 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. Active participation will ensure this data is familiar to members. Reports and relevant data from these annual events are made available to members at each meeting as a reference to guide decision making and outreach to constituency groups.
- Charge** The Senior Advisory Council shall:
1. Create a planning framework for preparedness to leverage all available resources
 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 Senior Advisory Council will be represented on subcommittees and serve as a link back to the Council
 5. Create a report that will be submitted electronically by March 1 of each year to the executive board identifying federal funds sent to the state in support of its preparedness activities and indicating the use of federal funds received by the state for homeland security, including specific amounts allocated to any unit of state or local government and the use to which the unit shall apply the funds.

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

Roles The Council Chair will set meeting agendas. The Council will determine charters and chairpersons for work groups and subcommittees. 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.

Membership 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.

Representatives invited as voting members of the Senior Advisory Council 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

Ex officio, nonvoting members include:

- Nebraska's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
- Nebraska's Appropriations Committee

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), however when possible the agendas and meeting materials for the senior advisory council will be made available for public review. The sensitivity of meeting content dictates the level of transparency.

1. Decisions are made by voting members of the senior advisory council with a simple majority vote of members present
2. No quorum is required for the group to conduct business
3. Formal meetings of the senior advisory council will be held 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)
4. The governor appointed members of the state homeland security policy group form the executive committee of the senior advisory council. This group may meet and make decisions related to homeland security without consent of all senior advisory council members. Whenever possible the homeland security policy group will seek recommendations from the senior advisory council prior making decisions.

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