

About the Homeland Security & Public Safety Division

The NGA Center for Best Practices Homeland Security and Public Safety (HSPS) Division provides governors and their staff with analysis and information about best practices, tailored technical assistance and insights into emerging policy trends across homeland security and public safety. The division provides detailed analysis and technical assistance to governors on all matters related to homeland security, emergency management, public safety and criminal justice. Focus areas include:

Criminal Justice & Public Safety Program

- Criminal Justice Reform
- Opioid Use Disorder and Overdose
- Crisis Communications
- Traffic Fatality and Injury Prevention
- Juvenile Justice
- Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health in Incarcerated Populations
- *Supporting Networks:*
 - Governors Criminal Justice Policy Advisors
 - Consortium of Public Safety Executives

Homeland Security Program

- Emergency Preparedness
- Disaster Response, Recovery and Resiliency
- School Safety
- Energy Infrastructure and Assurance Planning
- Public Health and Pandemic Preparedness
- Preventing Targeted Violence
- *Supporting Networks:*
 - Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council

Cybersecurity, Technology & Communications Program

- Cybersecurity (governance, incident response, election security, cybercrime, electrical grid)
- Smarter States, Smarter Communities
- Public Safety Communications (FirstNet, NG911, Land Mobile Radio, alerts and warnings)
- Public Safety Technologies (AI, predictive analytics, forensic/biometric tools)
- Information Sharing (across the state enterprise)

Learning and Networking Opportunities for Governors' Policy Advisors

The HSPS Division offers a variety of learning and networking opportunities via intensive technical assistance projects, meetings, conference calls and webinars. The ability of states to learn from the experience of other states and network with their colleagues is a hallmark of those opportunities. Division staff facilitate this through:

- **Policy Academies:** Over 12 to 18 months, the division convenes state teams for specific, intensive technical assistance and strategic planning focused on a public policy challenge affecting many states.
- **Policy Institutes and Workshops:** The division hosts an annual policy institute for governors' criminal justice policy advisors, a biannual conference for governors' homeland security advisors, and other workshops on specific topics to bring governors' staff together with subject-matter experts to exchange ideas, and identify best practices.
- **Conference Calls and Webinars:** The division routinely hosts conference calls and webinars to highlight new and emerging issues and allow for peer-to-peer exchange.

Technical Assistance for Governors' Policy Advisors

NGA staff provide tailored technical assistance to governors' advisors upon request. Assistance can include on-site visits, workshops, confidential memos, consultation on a policy development process or access to outside experts to help the governor's office move its agenda. In addition, the HSPS Division manages a network of governors' criminal justice policy advisors, the Consortium of State Public Safety Executives, and the Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council.

Resources for Governors' Policy Advisors

The HSPS division publishes a variety of materials, based on the best available evidence of what works, offering practical solutions to the most pressing policy issues. These include:

- **Issue Briefs and White Papers:** Analyzes policy challenges, identifies lessons learned and offers recommendations.
- **Road Maps:** In-depth overview of potential policy options and provides practical guidance for implementing them.
- **Newsletters:** The HSPS Division issues a weekly newsletter containing a roundup of homeland security related news from the states, as well as news on U.S. counterterrorism measures.
- **Governors' Guides:** Provides overview of policy/political environment and serves as a handbook for governors and their staff on how to successfully carry out roles and responsibilities in office.
- **Resource Centers:** The HSPS Division provides governors' key advisors with virtual access to resources on issues such as emergency communications and cybersecurity.
- **Podcasts:** The HSPS Division hosts podcasts on issues relating to homeland security and cybersecurity.

Contacts

Jeff McLeod
Division Director
jmcleod@nga.org
202-624-5311

Maggie Brunner
Program Director
mbrunner@nga.org
202-624-5364

Jeffrey Locke
Program Director
jlocke@nga.org 202-
624-5348

Lauren Stienstra
Program Director
lstienstra@nga.org
202-624-5300

Lauren Dedon
Senior Policy Analyst
ldedon@nga.org
202-624-5375

David Forscey
Senior Policy Analyst
dforscey@nga.org
202-624-5356

Michael Garcia
Senior Policy Analyst
mgarcia@nga.org
202-624-5312

Kalyn Hill
Senior Policy Analyst
khill@nga.org
202-624-5386

Elise Simonsen
Policy Analyst
esimonsen@nga.org
202-624-5380

Reza Zomorrodian
Policy Analyst
rzomorrodian@nga.org
202-624-7816

Lacy Adams
Program Assistant
ladams@nga.org
202-624-7808

Lauren Goodwillie
Program Assistant
lgoodwillie@nga.org
202-624-5413

For more information about the work of the Homeland Security & Public Safety Division and access to recent publications, please visit the division's page on the NGA website at www.nga.org/cms/center/hsp.