

FUSION CENTER SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

- **Access an extensive array of databases** through a single contact point.
- **Receive bulletins** with intelligence and advance warnings regarding possible terrorist and criminal incidents.
- **Save manpower and investigative steps.** Both sworn and civilian personnel with knowledge and expertise in a variety of designated areas of responsibility are available at a fusion center to assist law enforcement agencies around the clock. These experienced and knowledgeable people access a centrally located pool of investigative resources to provide both analytical services as well as general case support.
- **Share a technology standard** that enhances the ability of different computer systems to “talk.” Fusion centers promote a unified standard for information technology systems.
- **Access intelligence information from public safety entities and private sector organizations.** Nontraditional collectors of intelligence possess important information (e.g., risk assessments and suspicious activity reports) that can be “fused” with law enforcement data to provide meaningful information and intelligence about threats and criminal activity. Fusion centers combine efforts with these nontraditional sources.
- **Embrace proactive intelligence efforts.** Those efforts are key to inhibiting criminal networks—whether those groups are terrorists, drug-related groups, organized crime, or other criminal enterprises.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Fusion center resources are available at the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Global Web site:

www.it.ojp.gov/fusioncenter

For information about DOJ’s initiatives, go to:

www.it.ojp.gov

2. NCIRC.gov is a secure Web site developed to serve as a “one-stop shop” for local, state, Tribal, and federal law enforcement to keep up with the latest developments in the field of criminal intelligence. The Web site contains information regarding law enforcement intelligence operations and practices.

www.ncirc.gov

3. Developed by DOJ and DHS, the *Fusion Center Guidelines* are available in hard copy, CD, and electronic formats. For more information or to obtain copies of the report or CD, contact DOJ’s Global at:

(850) 385-0600

4. The Fusion Process Resource Center is a secure and restricted database for fusion process-related documents, such as best practices, samples, and templates.

www.lis.gov



BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance

This project was supported by Grant No. 2005-NC-BX-K164 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice’s Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

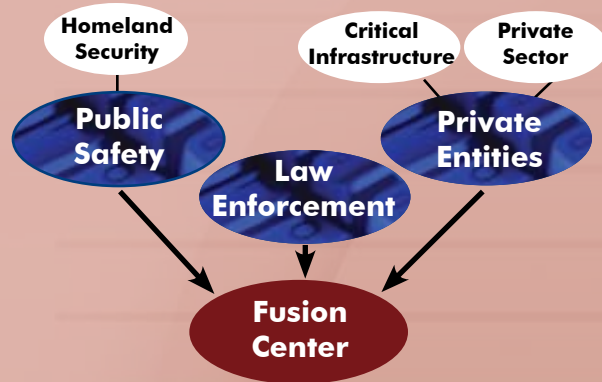


United States
Department of Justice



FUSION CENTERS AND INFORMATION SHARING

FUSION CENTERS ARE A COMBINED EFFORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND PRIVATE ENTITIES



WHAT IS A FUSION CENTER?

A *fusion center* is a collaborative effort of two or more agencies that provide resources, expertise, and information to the center with the goal of maximizing their ability to detect, prevent, investigate, and respond to criminal and terrorist activity. Intelligence processes—through which information is collected, integrated, evaluated, analyzed, and disseminated—are a primary focus.

Data fusion involves the exchange of information from different sources—including law enforcement, public safety, and the private sector. Relevant and actionable intelligence results from analysis and data fusion. The fusion process helps agencies be proactive and protect communities.

NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR FUSION CENTERS

In 2006, the President approved the establishment of a national integrated network of state and major urban area information fusion centers. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the FBI have begun deploying personnel to work within the fusion centers.

NEARLY ALL 50 STATES HAVE FUSION CENTERS

Recognizing the critical importance of information sharing, nearly all 50 states have created fusion centers with various federal, state, and local funds (several major urban areas also have fusion centers).

FUSION CENTER GUIDELINES

The *Fusion Center Guidelines* were developed to ensure that fusion centers are established and operated consistently, resulting in enhanced coordination, strengthened partnerships, and improved crime-fighting and anti-terrorism capabilities. The 18 guidelines and their key elements—as well as additional resources, model policies, and implementation tools—are included in this publication from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and DHS.

ROLE OF FUSION CENTERS

State and regional fusion centers enable local, state, and Tribal governments to gather, process, analyze, and share information and intelligence relating to all crimes and all hazards. Fusion centers communicate, cooperate, and coordinate with each other and with the federal government. These centers:

- Contribute information to ongoing federal and national-level terrorist risk assessments and complete statewide, regional, or site-specific and topical risk assessments
- Disseminate federally generated alerts, warnings, and notifications regarding time-sensitive threats, situational awareness reports, and analytical products
- Gather, process, analyze, and disseminate locally generated information, such as suspicious activity reports
- Produce or interpret intelligence products relevant to stakeholders
- Protect civil liberties and privacy interests of American citizens throughout the intelligence process

FUSION CENTERS IN ACTION

NEW YORK STATE INTELLIGENCE CENTER (NYSIC)

Since its inception in 2003, NYSIC has supported the efficient, timely, and accurate exchange of information among its state law enforcement agencies. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the center augments law enforcement operations by acting as a centralized, comprehensive intelligence fusion center, specifically designed to coordinate the exchange of criminal intelligence on a statewide basis.

Its central location helps pool the resources of the New York State Police and the New York State Office of Homeland Security as well as other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, gathering law enforcement information and data. Agencies throughout New York are not only invited to provide information to NYSIC and to make requests for case assistance but also are encouraged to contribute personnel to staff the center.

New York communities have clearly benefited from the specialized support and resources provided by this successful intelligence fusion center.

