

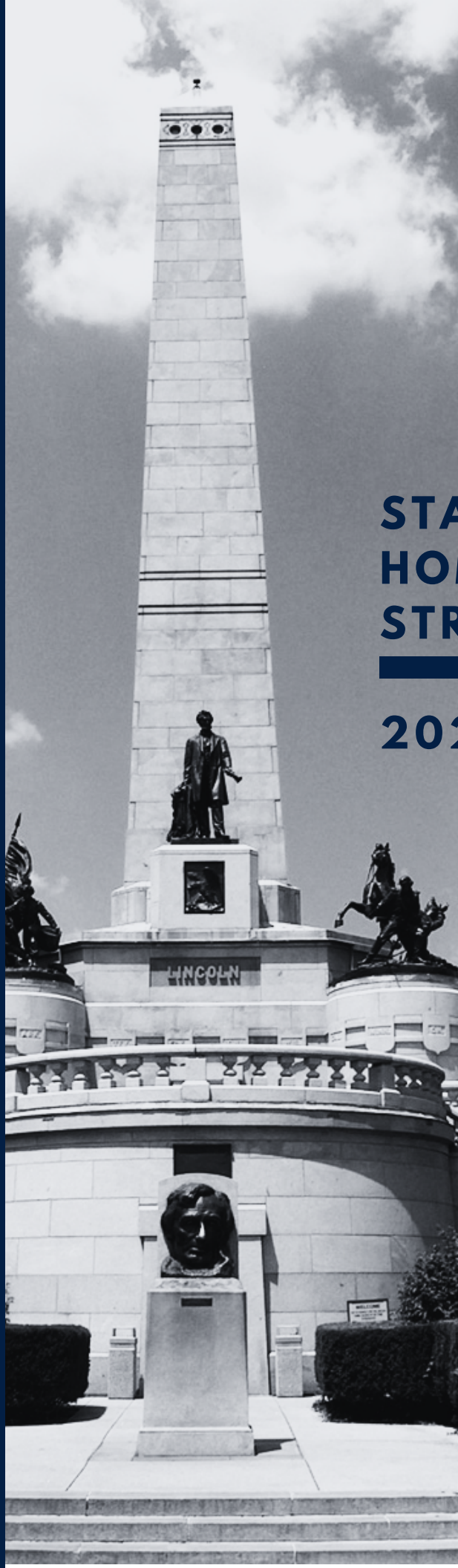


ILLINOIS EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND  
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

# STATE OF ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGY

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## 2024-2028



VISION  
**2028**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Given the intricate and interconnected nature of contemporary threats, it is crucial to adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses all hazards. Atrocities like the Highland Park mass shooting, the tragic fatal stabbing of six-year-old Wadea Al-Fayoume, and the 2019 floods serve as poignant reminders of the array of emerging Homeland Security threats Illinois confronted in recent years.

Illinois' Homeland Security mission is to create a safer and more resilient State by prioritizing education and prevention, and empower every resident, community, and organization with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to identify, mitigate, and prevent potential threats to our residents and critical infrastructure.

We envision an Illinois where education and prevention are the primary drivers of security. We also strive for a future where proactive preparedness is a way of life and where our communities are vigilant and resilient in the face of evolving risks. This represents an Illinois where every resident is an active participant in their own security, and where the collaborative efforts of government, communities, and stakeholders form a shield against threats.

Through education and prevention, we will build a State that is not just better prepared but also actively prevents crises, making Illinois more secure for generations to come.

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# LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR



**JB PRITZKER**

43rd Governor of Illinois

*Through unified prevention efforts, Homeland Security becomes more than just a mission—it becomes a collective commitment to preempting threats and preserving peace.*

As part of our commitment to fostering a safer and more secure Illinois, I am excited to share two new public safety developments – the development of Illinois' inaugural Office of Homeland Security and publication of Vision 2028, our 2024-2028 Homeland Security Strategy.

The Office of Homeland Security will serve as the focal point for coordinating and implementing Illinois' whole-of-State, unified Homeland Security Strategy found within Vision 2028, with a particular emphasis on prevention and education.

Vision 2028 recognizes that effective prevention is key to mitigating risks and ensuring the safety of all Illinoisans. We aim to empower individuals and communities through proactive measures and educational initiatives to recognize and respond to potential threats before they escalate.

The new Office of Homeland Security will play a central role in advancing the efforts highlighted in Vision 2028 through:

- Prevention programs to raise awareness about security threats and promote proactive measures to mitigate risks.
- Engaging with communities across the State to build partnerships, foster resilience, and empower individuals to play an active role in Homeland Security.
- Providing educational resources and training opportunities equips residents, businesses, and organizations with the knowledge and skills to respond effectively to emergencies.
- Facilitating coordination and collaboration among State agencies, local governments, law enforcement, and private sector partners to ensure a unified and comprehensive approach to Homeland Security.

**JB Pritzker**  
Governor

Together, we can build a stronger, more secure Illinois.

# LETTER FROM THE HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR



**ALICIA TATE-NADEAU**

Governor's Homeland  
Security Advisor &  
IEMA-OHS Director

*In Illinois, Homeland Security symbolizes a commitment to the wellbeing and resilience of our communities.*”

In an era where the challenges we face are evolving at an unprecedented pace, the Homeland Security of our State is of immense importance. In Illinois, we are committed to safeguarding our communities through proactive education and prevention measures.

This mission resonates deeply with me because it reflects a holistic understanding of security that extends beyond physical protection to encompass the wellbeing and awareness of all Illinoisians.

Education is a cornerstone of this mission. It empowers individuals with knowledge, equips us to recognize potential threats, understand the tactics employed by those who seek to harm us, as well as make informed decisions that safeguard our surroundings.

Prevention is the second pillar of our mission. It is equally vital. Through proactive measures, we can reduce the vulnerability of our communities. This emphasis on prevention represents a shift from a reactive mindset to a proactive one that aligns with a modern understanding of security as a shared responsibility.

Vision 2028 embodies the idea that our safety is not solely in the hands of a few but rather a collective endeavor that demands the participation of everyone.

Let us commit to being proactive learners and preventers in our journey toward a more secure and resilient Illinois.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia S. Tate-Nadeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Alicia Tate-Nadeau**  
Homeland Security Advisor & IEMA-OHS Director

# LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR



**CLAIRE MORAVEC**

Deputy Homeland Security  
Advisory & IEMA-OHS Deputy  
Director of Homeland Security

”

*Together, we are  
forging a safer, more  
resilient future for  
Illinois.*

Vision 2028 is more than just a document; it represents our collective commitment to safeguarding the lives, properties, and values that define us as a community in Illinois. Within these pages, you will find a roadmap that embraces inclusivity, preparedness, and innovation.

It also reflects the core values and principles that underpin our Homeland Security mission in Illinois - education, prevention, collaboration, and resilience. Education empowers us with knowledge, prevention allows us to avert crises before they strike, and resilience ensures we endure and emerge stronger from adversity. My hope is that we continue to explore innovative approaches, strengthen our partnerships, and elevate our educational and preventive initiatives to even greater heights.

As we embark on the critical task of executing our State's Homeland Security Strategy, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the dedication and resilience that each one of you brings to this critical mission. It is through this unwavering commitment, diligent work, and collaboration that we can build a safer and more resilient Illinois.

In the years to come, we are committed to investing in the education and preparedness of all Illinoisans, strengthening our partnerships, and adapting to emerging threats. We will measure our success not merely by the absence of crisis, but by the resilience and unity of our State in the face of challenges.

**Claire Moravec**  
Deputy Homeland Security Advisor &  
IEMA-OHS Deputy Director of Homeland Security

# PUBLIC SAFETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety Executive Committee serves as a cornerstone of Illinois' Homeland Security infrastructure, enhancing coordination and cooperation among stakeholders to better protect and serve the people of Illinois in times of crisis. This Committee serves as a vital advisory body to the HSA, playing an indispensable role in shaping the State's Homeland Security preparedness and response efforts.

Composed of representatives from State Agencies, Boards, and Commissions involved in public safety and emergency response, the Committee fosters collaboration and coordination across diverse sectors. Its primary function is to provide expert advice and guidance to the HSA, ensuring a cohesive, comprehensive and unified approach to addressing a spectrum of emergencies and Homeland Security threats.

Through its collaborative framework, the Committee facilitates the exchange of insights, recommendations, and expertise on matters pertaining to public safety, emergency preparedness, and Homeland Security policy and strategy. By leveraging the collective knowledge and resources of its members, the Committee contributes to the development of unified and effective strategies to safeguard the well-being and security of all Illinoisans.

## ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (IL-HSAC)



The Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council (IL-HSAC) comprises representatives from State and Local Government, the private sector, and nongovernmental entities. These entities are appointed to the IL-HSAC through nomination by the Homeland Security Advisor (HSA) and approval by the Governor.

The IL-HSAC is tasked with several duties: serving as the State Advisory Committee for funds received via Federal Homeland Security Grant programs, providing recommendations to the HSA on issues related to Federal Funding usage in preventing, protecting against, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from acts of Terrorism and other threats, and offering recommendations on various aspects of Homeland Security such as appropriate training, fund application and usage, public safety preparedness, Mutual Aid strategies, resource coordination, and necessary changes in State statutes, administrative regulations, or the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan.

# VISION 2028

Vision 2028, Illinois' Homeland Security Strategy for 2024-2028, aims to bridge gaps, build capacity, and integrate initiatives across various State Agencies, Commissions, and Boards, utilizing a comprehensive approach to prepare for, prevent, and respond to Homeland Security threats. This unified approach to Homeland Security allows State Agencies, Commissions, and Boards throughout Illinois to maintain autonomy over their respective programs while aligning key initiatives with the strategic goals, objectives, and outcomes outlined in Vision 2028.

Illinois stands at a critical juncture in safeguarding its residents and critical infrastructure against the diverse and evolving threats of our time. As we reflect on recent tragedies and challenges, it is evident that a comprehensive approach to Homeland Security, rooted in education, prevention, and proactive preparedness, is imperative.

With Vision 2028 guiding our efforts, we are committed to building a safer, more resilient Illinois that actively prevents crises and ensures the security of future generations.

**01 |** Promote Inclusive Community Safety Across Illinois Through Targeted Violence Prevention.

**02 |** Foster Inclusive and Resilient Communities Across Illinois to Prevent Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.

**03 |** Enhance the Safety and Resiliency of all Illinoisans Against Threats to Public Safety.

**04 |** Implement Trauma-Informed, Whole-Child Initiatives Aimed at Preventing Violence on Illinois' Schools and Campuses.

**05 |** Enhance Intelligence Development and Collaboration.

**06 |** Foster a United and Resilient Illinois Through Platform Integrity.

**07 |** Strengthen Critical Infrastructure Resilience.

**08 |** Advance and Enhance Illinois' Cybersecurity Posture.

**09 |** Strengthen Election Security and Integrity in Illinois.

**10 |** Foster a Safer Illinois Through Effective Public Safety Communications and Interoperability.

**11 |** Enhance Illinois' All Hazard Preparedness.

**12 |** Enhance First Responder Training to Elevate Preparedness and Response Capabilities.



# DEVELOPMENT

Vision 2028 was developed after a thorough evaluation of the State's existing Homeland Security Strategy, [Vision 2025](#). It incorporates key elements of Vision 2025, while addressing gaps, presenting a comprehensive and unified approach to protect Illinois residents, critical infrastructure, and resources from various threats.

Additionally, Vision 2028 aligns with strategies adopted by other States, and reflects the practices of the most advanced State Homeland Security systems across the country. The Development of Vision 2028 occurred over several phases:

- **Situational Analysis:** The Office of Homeland Security conducted a detailed review of Vision 2025, identifying gaps and the need for a unified approach to Homeland Security in Illinois.
- **Goal Identification:** Strategic goals were established to address the identified gaps in Vision 2025, and align with National priorities, reflecting a comprehensive approach to Homeland Security.
- **Objective and Key Outcome Development:** Each goal was broken down into specific, measurable, achievable and relevant objectives and key outcomes.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The Office of Homeland Security actively engaged with key stakeholders to include State Agencies, Commissions and Boards, the Public Safety Executive Committee and Homeland Security Advisory Council, gathering input to ensure Vision 2028's final product is reflective of an inclusive and collaborative Homeland Security strategy.

In early January 2024, the D/HSA disseminated a draft of Vision 2028 to the Public Safety Executive Committee. On or around January 24, 2024, the HSA and D/HSA met with the Public Safety Executive Committee about Vision 2028, and after a thorough discussion, voted unanimously in the affirmative of implementing Vision 2028 Statewide.

At the February 7, 2024, full Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) membership meeting, the HSA, D/HSA and HSAC Chair Pro-Temp outlined Vision 2028's primary goals, objectives and key outcomes. Following a thorough discussion and roll-call vote, the HSAC voted in the affirmative of implementing Vision 2028 Statewide.

On March 1, 2024, the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor provided approval to implement Vision 2028 Statewide.

On April 8, 2024, the Office of the Governor provided approval to implement Vision 2028 Statewide.

# IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION

Implementation Vision 2028 will commence Statewide under the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor (HSA), supported by direct organizational engagement of the Deputy Homeland Security Advisor (D/HSA) in coordination with State Agencies, Commissions and Boards throughout Illinois. Administrative support will be provided by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) via the Office of Homeland Security (OHS).

State Agencies, Commissions, and Boards play a pivotal role in executing and implementing a unified, whole-of-State Homeland Security strategy like Vision 2028. Their collaboration ensures efficient allocation of resources and enhances the State's ability to respond effectively to threats and emergencies.

The Office of Homeland Security will employ a combination of the following qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate and report on progress annually.

- **Qualitative Assessments:** Gather feedback from key stakeholders (i.e., community leaders, law enforcement, health/mental health professionals, educators, etc.) to assess the effectiveness of prevention programs and community engagement efforts.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** Establish KPIs to measure success.
- **Research/Validation:** Where appropriate, partner with research institutions to formally measure the efficacy of projects and initiatives.
- **Benchmarking:** Compare Illinois' efforts outlined in Vision 2028, and the State's performance, against other States of similar size and threat environments, as well as best practices. While these benchmarks may not directly measure progress, they provide valuable context and insights for improvement.
- **Case Studies/Success Stories:** Document and distribute case studies or success stories that highlight progress towards strategic goals, objectives, and outcomes. These narratives offer qualitative evidence of impact and achievement.
- **Expert Assessments:** Seek input from subject matter experts to provide an external perspective on progress and offer recommendations for improvement.
- **Regular Reviews:** Provide regular updates to the Public Safety Executive Committee to assess actions taken and plan for continued success.
- **Annual Illinois Homeland Security Summit:** Host an annual Illinois Homeland Security Summit to serve as a pivotal event for key stakeholders across the State to review the progress made in implementing Vision 2028. This event provides a platform for stakeholders to share valuable lessons learned from various initiatives and projects undertaken throughout the year. Fostering collaboration and strengthening partnerships is essential for enhancing the State's overall preparedness and resilience against potential threats.

# PRIVACY, CIVIL RIGHTS & CIVIL LIBERTIES

In developing Vision 2028, a paramount consideration is the commitment to safeguarding the principles of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. Striking a balance between ensuring public safety and preserving individual freedoms is essential for a resilient and just society. Our strategy recognizes the need to deploy effective security measures while respecting the fundamental rights of our residents. While emphasizing transparency, accountability, and adherence to legal frameworks, we aim to protect the privacy of individuals from unwarranted intrusion. Moreover, a steadfast commitment to upholding civil rights and liberties ensures that security measures are fair, unbiased, and nondiscriminatory. By integrating these principles into Vision 2028, we not only enhance the effectiveness of our security efforts but also demonstrate a profound dedication to the core values that define our democratic society. This approach not only safeguards our communities from potential threats but also reinforces the foundation of trust between the government and its residents.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Recognizing the diverse needs within communities throughout Illinois, we strive to implement strategies that guarantee equal access to information and services for all Illinoisans. This includes prioritizing inclusivity for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), limited literacy, and/or disabilities by providing language assistance services, such as translated materials and interpretation services, to facilitate effective communication with LEP individuals. Additionally, we are committed to the creation of accessible materials and digital content, ensuring compatibility with assistive technologies for individuals with disabilities. By adopting these inclusive communication practices, we reinforce our dedication to fostering an environment where everyone, regardless of their language proficiency or ability, can fully engage with and benefit from our initiatives.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

We are steadfastly committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as foundational principles of Illinois' Homeland Security operation. In Illinois, we recognize that ensuring the safety and security of our communities requires a comprehensive approach that values and respects the unique perspectives, experiences, and needs of all individuals. Therefore, we prioritize DEI considerations in every aspect of our Homeland Security operation, from policy development to program implementation. This commitment extends to fostering diverse representations within decision-making processes, engaging with and serving all communities equitably, and actively seeking out opportunities to address systemic inequalities within the realm of Homeland Security. By embracing diversity, promoting equity, and championing inclusion, we aim to build trust, foster resilience, and enhance the safety and well-being of individuals across our State.

# TARGETED VIOLENCE

Over two decades following the September 11th attacks, the threat landscape across the United States has noticeably evolved, presenting a continuing and severe danger to the Homeland.

While Terrorism is a term widely recognized, the concept of Targeted Violence may be less familiar. Though the two share similarities, acts of Targeted Violence and Terrorism are distinct in their motivations, characteristics, and underlying ideologies.

Targeted Violence refers to acts of violence where a known or knowable attacker deliberately selects a specific target prior to the violent attack. What sets Targeted Violence apart is its potential to lack a clearly discernible political, ideological, or religious motivation. Unlike Terrorism, which is often driven by explicit political, religious, or ideological goals, Targeted Violence may occur without such a discernible motive. Recognizing the difference is crucial for effective policy-making, response planning, and preventative measures within the realm of Homeland Security. It allows for a more nuanced understanding of the varied threats and informs strategies tailored to address each distinct challenge.

Nevertheless, these acts exhibit a level of severity and magnitude indicative of an intent to inflict mass injury, destruction, or death comparable to known Terrorist tactics. In the Homeland, Targeted Violence significantly impacts the safety and security of our communities, schools, faith-based organizations, places of worship, and other public gatherings.

Recognizing the increasing threat of Targeted Violence across the Nation, the Office of Homeland Security's first strategic goal in Vision 2028 is to Promote Inclusive Community Safety Through Targeted Violence Prevention.

By zeroing in on the specific challenges posed by Targeted Violence, these strategic initiatives aim to proactively mitigate and manage risks, safeguarding the safety and security of Illinois' residents.



# 1.0 PROMOTE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACROSS ILLINOIS THROUGH TARGETED VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

Create a secure and resilient Illinois that actively prevents Targeted Violence by fostering collaboration, awareness, and intervention.

## 1.1

### **Enhance Community Support and Early Intervention Efforts.**

*Enhance the ability to identify individuals exhibiting signs of radicalization or potential involvement in Targeted Violence and implement timely and appropriate interventions.*

## 1.2

### **Promote Education and Awareness Among Individuals and Communities.**

*Equip individuals and communities with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to recognize, prevent, and respond effectively to acts of Targeted Violence, fostering a proactive and vigilant society.*

## 1.3

### **Empower Youth and Communities Through Engagement and Prevention.**

*Empower youth and communities as active agents of change by fostering engagement, dialogue, and education that counteracts the allure of violence and extremist ideologies, creating a resilient and cohesive society.*

## 1.4

### **Cultivate Effective Partnerships for Targeted Violence Prevention.**

*Establish collaborative partnerships that leverage the expertise, resources, and perspectives of diverse entities to facilitate a comprehensive and well-coordinated strategy for preventing Targeted Violence.*

### **1.1 Enhance Community Support and Early Intervention Efforts.**

- 1.1.1: Establish guidance for the sharing of information and conducting comprehensive threat assessments to identify individuals at risk of engaging in Targeted Violence.
- 1.1.2: Improve accessibility to, and enhance resources and support services for, individuals who have experienced Targeted Violence.

### **1.2 Promote Education and Awareness Among Individuals and Communities.**

- 1.2.1: Develop and disseminate comprehensive resources, toolkits, and easily accessible online materials focused on Targeted Violence prevention.
- 1.2.2: Launch and promote public awareness campaigns to educate the public on how to recognize signs of Targeted Violence and the importance of promptly reporting concerns to relevant authorities.
- 1.2.3: Create and execute public awareness campaigns that champion values of tolerance, empathy, and inclusivity.
- 1.2.4: Develop and implement culturally sensitive Targeted Violence prevention programs tailored to address the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities, ensuring inclusivity and effectiveness in prevention efforts.
- 1.2.5: Conduct workshops, seminars, and training sessions focused on conflict resolution, empathy development, and Targeted Violence prevention, equipping individuals with skills to peacefully address conflicts and thwart potential threats.
- 1.2.6: Enhance preparedness by conducting drills and simulations to ensure efficient responses to potential threats and emergencies.
- 1.2.7: Provide training and education to communities and First Responders on identifying indicators of violence mobilization and utilizing proper tools for reporting suspicious activities.

### **1.3 Empower Youth and Communities Through Engagement and Prevention.**

- 1.3.1: Create, support and promote dedicated platforms that offer young people opportunities to participate in constructive activities that promote positive values, leadership skills, and active community involvement.
- 1.3.2: Empower youth to take an active role in preventing Targeted Violence within their peer groups and communities, providing them with the skills to identify potential threats and intervene effectively.
- 1.3.3: Organize community events, discussions, and workshops designed to address social issues like hate speech and discrimination, which may contribute to Targeted Violence, fostering a culture of tolerance and understanding.

### **1.4 Cultivate Effective Partnerships for Targeted Violence Prevention.**

- 1.4.1: Collaborate with educational institutions, community centers, religious organizations, workplaces, and public health entities to facilitate comprehensive training programs covering threat recognition, conflict resolution, and cultural awareness, establishing a network of informed and prepared stakeholders.
- 1.4.2: Forge partnerships with law enforcement agencies, intelligence organizations, and academic institutions to jointly identify potential hotspots, vulnerable populations, and emerging trends linked to Targeted Violence.
- 1.4.3: Collaborate with public and mental health professionals to support resources for individuals at risk of engaging in Targeted Violence.

# TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

The International Terrorism (IT) threat in the United States remains a critical concern post 9/11, marked by the evolving landscape of Homegrown Violent Extremism (HVE) and Domestic Violent Extremism (DVE). Recognizing the increased threat of Terrorism and Extremism across the Nation, the Office of Homeland Security's second strategic goal in Vision 2028 is to Foster Inclusive and Resilient Communities to Prevent Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.

Today, we see IT Organizations like al-Qa'ida and ISIS are seeking to rebuild overseas, and maintain worldwide networks of supporters that could seek to target the Homeland. They continue to engage with supporters online to solicit funds, create and share media, and encourage attacks while their affiliates in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East prioritize local goals. Among state actors, we expect Iran to remain the primary sponsor of Terrorism and continue its efforts to advance plots against individuals in the United States.

While external actors and IT organizations continue to pose challenges, the rise of HVEs adds a distinctive dimension to the overall security landscape. HVEs, often radicalized within the U.S., and are individuals who adopt or develop extremist ideologies, influenced by a spectrum of factors including religious, political, or social grievances. This form of radicalization, facilitated in part by online platforms, presents a complex challenge for Counterterrorism efforts.

The interconnected nature of global ideologies and the ease of information dissemination contribute to the potential for individuals becoming radicalized without direct external influence. Addressing the IT threat in the U.S. necessitates a comprehensive approach that not only disrupts external plots but also focuses on radicalization prevention. Collaboration between State, Local and Federal partners is crucial for identifying and mitigating IT and HVE threats, contributing to the Nation's overall National Security posture.

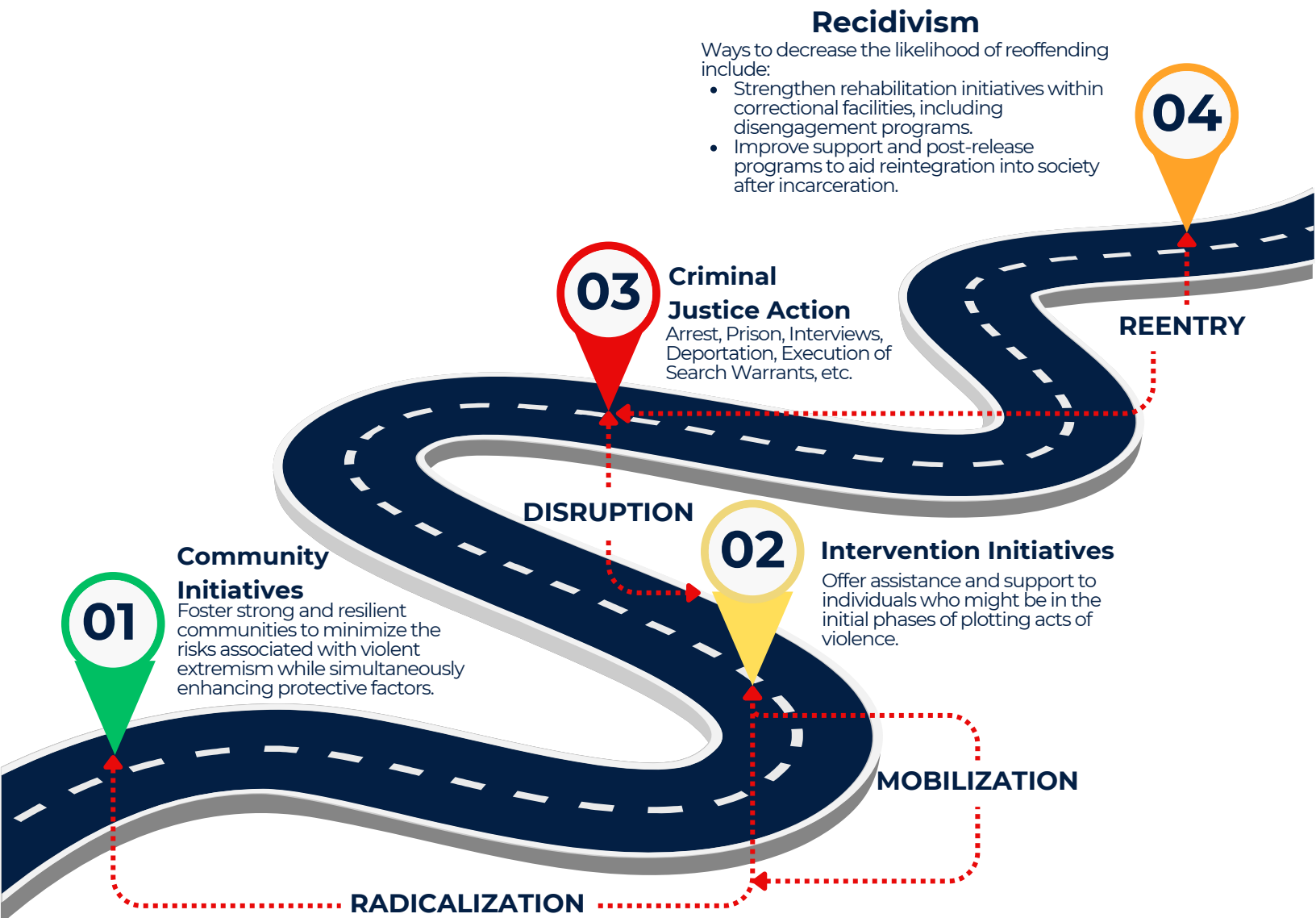
Similarly, Domestic Violent Extremism (DVE) presents a multifaceted and alarming challenge in the United States. This form of extremism is characterized by acts of violence committed by individuals or groups within the country, with motivations stemming from a diverse range of ideologies. The landscape of the DVE threat is intricate and encompasses the following groups as identified by the U.S. Government: Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists; Anti-Government or Anti-Authority Violent Extremists like Anarchist Violent Extremists, Militia Violent Extremists, and Sovereign Citizen Violent Extremists; Animal Rights/Environmental Violent Extremists; and Abortion-Related Violent Extremists. Recent years have witnessed a surge in DVE incidents, underscoring the urgency of addressing this multifaceted threat. The interconnected nature of online platforms has also facilitated the spread of extremist ideologies, further amplifying the challenges faced in countering this phenomenon.

Through a concerted, collaborative, and forward-thinking approach, Illinois seeks to cultivate resilience, ensuring the State is well-prepared to confront evolving threats and prioritize the safety and security of its residents.



# THE CRITICAL PATHWAY

to Terrorism and Violent Extremism





# 2.0 FOSTER INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES ACROSS ILLINOIS TO PREVENT TERRORISM AND DOMESTIC VIOLENT EXTREMISM.

Develop and implement strategies and initiatives to empower, educate, and engage communities across Illinois in preventing Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.

## 2.1

### **Foster Education and Awareness Among Individuals and Communities to Prevent Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.**

*Systematically educate individuals and communities, equipping them with the knowledge and skills required to recognize, prevent, and respond to acts of Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.*

## 2.2

### **Empower Youth Through Engagement and Prevention.**

*Empower youth and as active agents of change by fostering engagement, dialogue, and education that counteracts the allure of extremist ideologies, creating a resilient and cohesive society.*

## 2.3

### **Establish Collaborative Partnerships for Preventing Extremism.**

*Forge partnerships that support a comprehensive and coordinated approach to preventing Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.*

## **2.1 Foster Education and Awareness Among Individuals and Communities to Prevent Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.**

- 2.1.1: Initiate awareness campaigns aimed at challenging and countering Terrorist propaganda and extremist ideologies, promoting tolerance and empathy.
- 2.1.2: Develop and disseminate accessible resources on preventing Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism to communities throughout Illinois.
- 2.1.3: Organize town hall meetings, workshops, training sessions, and forums to engage the public in discussions about preventing Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.
- 2.1.4: Implement training programs covering threat recognition, conflict de-escalation, and intercultural understanding.
- 2.1.5: Facilitate specialized training sessions, drills, and simulations to enhance readiness, coordination, and community engagement.

## **2.2 Empower Youth Through Engagement and Prevention.**

- 2.2.1: Establish, support and promote platforms that offer young people opportunities to participate in constructive activities fostering positive values, leadership skills, and active community involvement to counter extremism.
- 2.2.2: Enable youth to actively engage in countering extremism, encouraging them to become advocates within their peer groups and communities.

## **2.3 Establish Collaborative Partnerships for the Preventing Extremism.**

- 2.3.1: Collaborate with religious and community leaders, institutions, and organizations to promote messages of peace, tolerance, and mutual respect.
- 2.3.2: Collaborate with educational institutions, community centers, religious organizations to facilitate trainings and workshops aimed at preventing extremism.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING, OPIOIDS & GUN VIOLENCE

The Governor's Homeland Security Advisor has identified human trafficking, the opioid crisis and gun violence as critical threats to public safety and Homeland Security in Illinois. This is reflected in Vision 2028's third strategic goal, Enhance the Safety and Resiliency of all Illinoisans Against Threats to Public Safety.

These growing risks to public safety underscore the need for concerted efforts to address underlying root causes, enhance prevention measures, and strengthen intervention and support services for affected individuals and communities. It is imperative to implement holistic strategies to combat these interconnected challenges. By prioritizing proactive and collaborative approaches, communities can work towards mitigating these growing risks to public safety and fostering safer and healthier environments for all.

**Human Trafficking** is a crime and form of modern-day slavery. It threatens our physical and virtual borders, our immigration and customs systems, prosperity, National Security, as well as personal and public safety. It is also a National priority in the United States to end Human Trafficking. This heinous crime involves the exploitation and coercion of individuals for forced labor or commercial sex, and it persists as a grave violation of human rights. Victims, often vulnerable populations including women, children, and immigrants, endure physical and psychological abuse, manipulation, and captivity. Traffickers exploit gaps in social support systems, employment opportunities, and immigration policies, making the issue particularly insidious. For these reasons, the first objective in Vision 2028's third goal is to Mitigate Human Trafficking in Illinois.

**The Opioid Crisis** in the United States remains a pervasive and complex public health challenge. Characterized by a surge in the misuse of prescription painkillers, such as oxycodone and hydrocodone, as well as the illicit use of substances like heroin and synthetic opioids like fentanyl, the crisis has led to a staggering increase in addiction, overdoses, and fatalities. Factors contributing to the epidemic include the over prescription of pain medications, the availability of potent illicit drugs, and a lack of accessible and affordable addiction treatment options. The crisis touches every demographic, spanning urban and rural areas alike, transcending socioeconomic boundaries. Efforts to address the epidemic involve a combination of public health initiatives, increased access to addiction treatment and recovery services, heightened regulatory measures on opioid prescriptions, and law enforcement actions against illicit drug trafficking. Despite these efforts, the opioid crisis underscores the need for a comprehensive, compassionate, and sustained approach to confront the multifaceted challenges associated with substance abuse in the United States. For these reasons, the second objective in Vision 2028's third goal is to Mitigate Opioid Deaths in Illinois.

**Gun Violence** poses a significant and multifaceted public safety threat that transcends the geographical boundaries of Illinois and affects communities across the Nation. The pervasive nature of gun violence encompasses various forms, including homicides, mass shootings, armed robberies, and domestic violence incidents, resulting in devastating consequences for individuals, families, and society. Beyond the loss of life and physical injuries, gun violence inflicts profound emotional and psychological trauma on survivors and witnesses, perpetuating a cycle of fear and insecurity within communities. Moreover, the accessibility and proliferation of firearms exacerbate the risk of gun violence, with illegal firearms trafficking, unregulated firearm sales, and the presence of firearms in the hands of individuals prohibited from possessing them contributing to the problem. The enduring impact of gun violence extends beyond immediate casualties to erode trust in public safety institutions, strain healthcare and emergency response systems, and undermine the social fabric of neighborhoods and cities. For these reasons, the third objective in Vision 2028's third goal is to Create Safer Communities Across Illinois by Reducing Gun Violence.

# 3.0 ENHANCE THE SAFETY AND RESILIENCY OF ALL ILLINOISIANS AGAINST THREATS TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

Enhance the safety and resiliency of all Illinoisans against critical threats to public safety, including human trafficking, opioids, and gun violence, by implementing proactive measures, fostering community collaboration, and prioritizing innovative strategies to mitigate risks.

## 3.1

### **Implement a Multidisciplinary Approach to Mitigate Human Trafficking in Illinois.**

*Prevent human trafficking, protect vulnerable individuals, and bring perpetrators to justice across Illinois.*

## 3.2

### **Mitigate Opioid Deaths in Illinois.**

*Systematically reduce opioid-related deaths across the Illinois through prevention and education.*

## 3.3

### **Create Safer Communities Across Illinois by Reducing Gun Violence.**

*Create safer communities across Illinois by reducing gun violence through comprehensive measures focused on prevention and community engagement, ensuring the safety, well-being, and resilience of all Illinoisans.*

### **3.1 Mitigate Human Trafficking in Illinois.**

- 3.1.1: Develop and implement comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate communities about the signs of human trafficking, its prevalence, and reporting mechanisms.
- 3.1.2: Enhance legislation to provide stronger legal tools for the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking crimes, including the protection of victims.
- 3.1.3: Foster partnerships with community organizations, faith-based groups, and local leaders to engage communities in the prevention of human trafficking.

### **3.2 Mitigate Opioid Deaths in Illinois.**

- 3.2.1: Forge partnerships with Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies to share best practices and coordinate efforts to combat drug overdose deaths.
- 3.2.2: Coordinate with Governmental and Non-Governmental partners to launch comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate communities about the risks of opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose that align with the [State Overdose Action Plan \(SOAP\)](#), a comprehensive, equity-centric outline for combatting the opioid epidemic.
- 3.2.3: Expand access to harm reduction services.

### **3.3 Create Safer Communities Across Illinois by Reducing Gun Violence.**

- 3.3.1: Develop and implement evidence-based violence prevention programs targeting at-risk individuals and communities.
- 3.3.2: Foster partnerships with local organizations, faith-based groups, civic leaders, academic institutions, health and mental health professionals, as well as State Agencies, to engage residents in gun violence prevention efforts.
- 3.3.3: Develop and disseminate comprehensive resources, toolkits, and easily accessible online materials focused on gun violence prevention.
- 3.3.4: Launch and promote public awareness campaigns aimed at educating the public on the public safety threat of gun violence.
- 3.3.5: Develop and implement culturally sensitive prevention programs pertaining to gun violence tailored to address the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities, ensuring inclusivity and effectiveness in prevention efforts.
- 3.3.6: Conduct workshops, seminars, and training sessions focused on conflict resolution and empathy development, equipping individuals with skills to peacefully address conflicts and thwart potential incidents of gun violence.
- 3.3.7: Empower youth to take an active role in preventing gun violence within their peer groups and communities.
- 3.3.8: Collaborate with public and mental health professionals, as well as State Agencies, to support resources for individuals at risk of engaging in, or those who are victims of, gun violence.
- 3.3.9: Reduce gun violence through targeted community investments.

# SCHOOL AND CAMPUS SAFETY

On any given day, a tens of million students across the country embark on their journey to schools and campuses, which serves as the backdrop for some of the most crucial and impactful experiences in their lives. These educational institutions play a pivotal role in helping students establish the foundation for future educational and career aspirations, fostering lifelong social and emotional skills, and forging essential connections with peers and mentors.

The commencement of a new school year also holds a significant importance for parents and caregivers. During this time, families and communities entrust schools with the critical responsibility of ensuring the safety of their children in the face of various emergency events. It is also imperative to underscore the role that educators and administrators play in shaping the landscape of School and Campus safety. Educators and administrators are not merely purveyors of knowledge; they are frontline guardians of our educational institutions, entrusted with the vital responsibility of fostering a secure and conducive environment. Their influence extends far beyond the realms of academia, as they serve as mentors, advisors, and, in times of crisis, indispensable leaders and have sacrificed their own lives for that of their students.

The unpredictability of emergencies and their potential to occur at any moment pose challenges for Schools and Campuses in crafting comprehensive and effective prevention and emergency response plans. To put it simply, many Schools and Campuses do not even know where to begin as they are grappling with a dynamic set of threats, hazards, and security challenges. Schools and Campuses confront these challenges with limited resources and expertise, and the nature of risks can vary significantly based on the institution's geographical location and characteristics. Striking a delicate balance between safety, teaching and learning, School and Campus operations, community engagement, K-12 and Higher Ed navigate a truly complex environment with incredibly diverse priorities.

Recognizing this intricate landscape, The Office of Homeland Security's fourth strategic goal in Vision 2028 is to Implement Trauma-Informed, Whole-Child Initiatives Aimed at Preventing Violence on Illinois' Schools and Campuses. These strategic initiatives aim to create a proactive and adaptive response to the diverse security challenges faced by educational institutions. Through a collaborative and forward-thinking approach, Illinois endeavors to cultivate resilient and secure educational environments, ensuring that schools and campuses are equipped to address evolving threats and safeguard the well-being of students, educators, and staff.



# 4.0 IMPLEMENT TRAUMA-INFORMED, WHOLE-CHILD INITIATIVES AIMED AT PREVENTING VIOLENCE IN ILLINOIS' SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES.

Develop and implement holistic strategies and initiatives focused on proactively enhancing the safety and security of educational institutions across Illinois, ensuring preparedness and fostering a resilient response to safeguard students, faculty, and staff.

## 4.1

### **Enhance School and Campus Safety Through Comprehensive Threat Assessments.**

*Proactively identify, assess, and mitigate potential threats to educational institutions, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment for students, faculty, and staff.*

## 4.2

### **Provide Schools and Campuses with Resources to Enhance Security Measures and Infrastructure.**

*Create a safer environment for students, faculty, and staff, ensuring educational institutions are better prepared to prevent, respond to, and mitigate threats.*

## 4.3

### **Empower School and Campus Communities with Effective Emergency Preparedness and Response Training.**

*Empower students, faculty, staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively respond to emergencies, ensuring the well-being and security of educational institutions.*

## 4.4

### **Strengthen School and Campus Safety Through School-Community Partnerships and Enhanced Parent and Guardian Engagement.**

*Create a collaborative and informed network that supports and contributes to the security and well-being of educational institutions, students, and staff.*

## 4.5

### **Foster Safe and Supportive School and Campus Environments Through Anti-Bullying and Drug Awareness Programs.**

*Create an environment that is free from bullying, provides necessary support to students, and raises awareness about the risks associated with substance abuse, ultimately ensuring the physical and emotional security of students and staff.*

## 4.6

### **Establish and Sustain Reporting Mechanisms to Ensure Physical and Mental Health Safety Across Schools and Campuses.**

*Ensure that students, faculty, and staff have effective channels for reporting and addressing safety issues, thereby fostering a secure and supportive learning environment.*

#### **4.1 Enhance School and Campus Safety Through Comprehensive Threat Assessments.**

- 4.1.1: Offer cost-free uniform threat assessment training to all schools and campuses across Illinois, providing flexibility in training formats such as online or in-person sessions, allowing educational institutions to choose the method that aligns with their specific requirements.
- 4.1.2: Foster partnerships with law enforcement, mental health experts, and educators to detect potential threats and create efficient response strategies.
- 4.1.3: Promote the sharing of information among schools, campuses, and communities to enhance overall safety and awareness.

#### **4.2 Provide Schools and Campuses with Resources to Enhance Security Measures and Infrastructure.**

- 4.2.1: Create comprehensive guidance for standardizing, executing, and enforcing site, safety, and security evaluations.
- 4.2.2: Formulate comprehensive guidance for standardizing, implementing, and enforcing access control, surveillance systems, and emergency communication protocols.
- 4.2.3: Develop comprehensive guidance for utilizing technology in real-time threat detection and response.
- 4.2.4: Enhance School and Campus Safety through effective interoperable communications.

#### **4.3 Empower School and Campus Communities with Effective Emergency Preparedness and Response Training.**

- 4.3.1: Train educators, students, and staff around emergency response protocols.
- 4.3.2: Formulate guidance for conducting regular drills and simulations to ensure readiness for diverse crisis scenarios.
- 4.3.3: Establish guidance for fostering collaboration between schools, campuses, and first responders during emergency situations.
- 4.3.4: Conduct collaborative exercises and training sessions to enhance coordination efforts among schools, campuses, and first responders.

#### **4.4 Foster Safe and Supportive School and Campus Environments Through Anti-Bullying and Drug Awareness Programs.**

- 4.4.1: Implement anti-bullying initiatives across schools and campuses, promoting positive behavior through education and awareness.
- 4.4.2: Implement anti-drug programs across schools and campuses, encouraging positive behavior through education and awareness initiatives.
- 4.4.3: Promote collaboration between all relevant State agencies to implement statewide trauma-informed, trauma-responsive, whole child initiatives.

#### **4.5 Establish and Sustain Reporting Mechanisms to Ensure Physical and Mental Health Safety Across Schools and Campuses.**

- 4.5.1: Enhance and maintain Safe2Help Illinois.
- 4.5.2: Establish and maintain the Handle With Care reporting system for First Responders.
- 4.5.3: Develop and distribute promotional materials for Safe2Help Illinois, to be prominently displayed in Illinois schools and campuses to make its reporting program easily recognizable to students and the community.

#### **4.6 Enhance School and Campus Safety through Effective Crisis Reunification Procedures.**

- 4.6.1: Develop detailed and standardized crisis reunification guidance for schools and campuses that cover various emergency scenarios, ensuring clarity and consistency.
- 4.6.2: Provide training and education to school staff, students, parents, and guardians on crisis reunification procedures, roles, and responsibilities.
- 4.6.3: Engage with parents, guardians, and the community to foster understanding of and participation in the reunification process.



# INTELLIGENCE

The fusion of intelligence from various sources enhances the State’s situational awareness, enabling a proactive and collaborative approach to safeguarding critical infrastructure, communities, and the overall well-being of Illinois’ residents. In Illinois, this is will be achieved by the fifth strategic goal in Vision 2028, Enhance Intelligence Development and Collaboration.

Intel plays a paramount role in supporting a Homeland Security mission, serving as the bedrock for informed decision-making and proactive threat mitigation. In the dynamic landscape of evolving security challenges, timely and accurate intelligence is essential for anticipating, preventing, and responding to potential threats. It provides critical insights into emerging risks, vulnerabilities, and the activities of individuals or groups that may pose a danger to the State. Intelligence enables key stakeholders to assess the severity of threats, allocate resources effectively, and coordinate responses with law enforcement and emergency management entities. Moreover, intelligence serves as the linchpin for strategic planning, helping to formulate comprehensive prevention and response plans.

Robust Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) also serve as an integral piece of the intelligence puzzle, and enhance our State and Nation’s collective ability to address and mitigate threats by fostering collaboration, education, and information-sharing. This two-way exchange of information equips the private sector with the knowledge, information, and resources to protect their respective organizations, while the State benefits from private sector engagement, insight, and expertise that can help prevent Terrorism, cybercrime, espionage, and more. This is integral to Illinois’ Homeland Security mission.

These partnerships enable a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing complex security challenges. Private sector entities bring valuable expertise, technology, and resources that complement the capabilities of government agencies, allowing for a more holistic and effective response to threats such as natural disasters, Terrorist attacks, and cyber incidents.

P3s facilitate information sharing and collaboration, which are essential components of effective emergency preparedness and response. By working together, government agencies and private sector organizations can exchange critical intelligence, threat assessments, and best practices, enabling faster and more informed decision-making during emergencies. This collaboration helps identify emerging risks, vulnerabilities, and gaps in security measures, allowing for proactive mitigation strategies to be implemented.

Lastly, P3s enhance community resilience by engaging local businesses, organizations, and residents in preparedness efforts. By involving stakeholders at all levels, these partnerships foster a sense of shared responsibility and ownership. Through joint training exercises, public awareness campaigns, and community outreach programs, P3s empower individuals and organizations to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, ultimately strengthening the overall resilience of communities.



**FEMA's Four Phases of a P3**

# 5.0 ENHANCE INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATION.

Elevate the quality and effectiveness of Intelligence and Public-Private Partnerships in Illinois.

## **Enhance Intelligence Operations in Illinois.**

### **5.1**

*Provide access to, analysis of, and timely sharing of open-source, unclassified and classified information, suspicious activity reports, tips/leads, and actionable intelligence on indicators and behaviors to accurately identify, assess and mitigate a wide array of threats to which Illinois is most vulnerable, including Terrorism, targeted violence, and other threats to life.*

### **5.2**

## **Foster Collaborative Preparedness Efforts Through Public-Private Partnerships.**

*Enhance resilience and improve the State's ability to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters by fostering robust public-private partnerships.*

## **5.1 Enhance Intelligence Operations in Illinois**

- 5.1.1: Implement activities that integrate intelligence into operational functions and drive actions to mitigate all threats to the Homeland.
- 5.1.2: Collaborate with all levels of Government to fill critical information and intelligence gaps.
- 5.1.3: Produce intelligence products that facilitate intelligence-driven decision making.
- 5.1.4: Deliver access to data and systems, infrastructure and analytic expertise, mission readiness services and intelligence community capabilities.
- 5.1.5: Maintain a cadre of high-performing Intelligence professionals.
- 5.1.6: Develop and mature partnerships with law enforcement and public safety entities through outreach and engagement.

## **5.2 Foster Collaborative Preparedness Efforts Through Public-Private Partnerships.**

- 5.2.1: Establish and maintain communication channels and coordination mechanisms between government agencies, private sector organizations, and community stakeholders to facilitate information sharing and collaborative planning for emergency preparedness and response.
- 5.2.2: Conduct joint training exercises, workshops, and drills involving public and private sector partners to enhance readiness and coordination in responding to natural and human-made disasters.
- 5.2.3: Develop protocols and mechanisms for sharing critical information, threat assessments, and situational awareness between government agencies and private sector partners to facilitate timely decision-making and response coordination.
- 5.2.4: Establish resource-sharing agreements and Mutual Aid arrangements between public and private entities to ensure the efficient allocation and utilization of assets, personnel, and capabilities during emergencies.
- 5.2.5: Conduct outreach initiatives and public awareness campaigns in collaboration with private sector partners to educate the community about natural and man-made disasters and threats, and the importance of public-private partnerships in enhancing resilience.
- 5.2.6: Establish community-based forums and working groups involving public and private stakeholders to foster dialogue, share best practices, and solicit feedback on preparedness initiatives/efforts.

# PLATFORM INTEGRITY

Integrity in the digital world poses a significant and evolving Homeland Security threat as technology is increasingly intertwined with our daily lives. The spectrum of this threat encompasses various dimensions to include online safety and the responsible use of AI.

As such, the sixth strategic goal in Vision 2028 is to Foster a United and Resilient Illinois Through Platform Integrity.

## Online Safety

The birth – and subsequent boom – of social media has provided malicious actors a new, and frequently anonymous, playground to operate in. Platforms that were created with the intention of sharing information, fostering connection and creativity among users, and allowing for the creation and promotion of user-generated content (UGC), have been weaponized by bad actors who seek to bring harm to individuals, organizations, critical infrastructure, Nations, and Democracy.

Over the last decade, the weaponization of social media has had a debilitating effect on Homeland Security, national economic security, national public health, and safety in several different ways in the United States alone through:

- **Dissemination of Extremist Ideologies:** Social media platforms have facilitated the rapid spread of extremist ideologies, enabling individuals or groups to promote radicalization, recruit members, and plan or inspire acts of Terrorism.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:** Social media platforms are vulnerable to cybersecurity threats, including hacking, data breaches, and the spread of malware. These threats can potentially compromise critical infrastructure, government systems, or private networks, posing risks to national security and public safety.
- **Foreign Influence Operations:** Social media has been exploited by foreign actors to conduct influence operations aimed at manipulating public opinion, sowing discord, and interfering in U.S. elections. Such activities can have significant implications for national security, democratic processes, and public trust.
- **Mis-/Disinformation:** Social media platforms have become hotbeds for the spread of mis- and disinformation. False or misleading information can quickly circulate, potentially causing panic, undermining public confidence, or inciting civil unrest. Addressing the challenges of mis- and disinformation has become crucial for maintaining national security and public resilience.
- **Privacy Concerns:** The extensive collection of personal data by social media platforms raises privacy concerns. The use of such data for surveillance or tracking purposes can infringe upon individuals' rights and civil liberties, prompting debates on the balance between privacy and security.

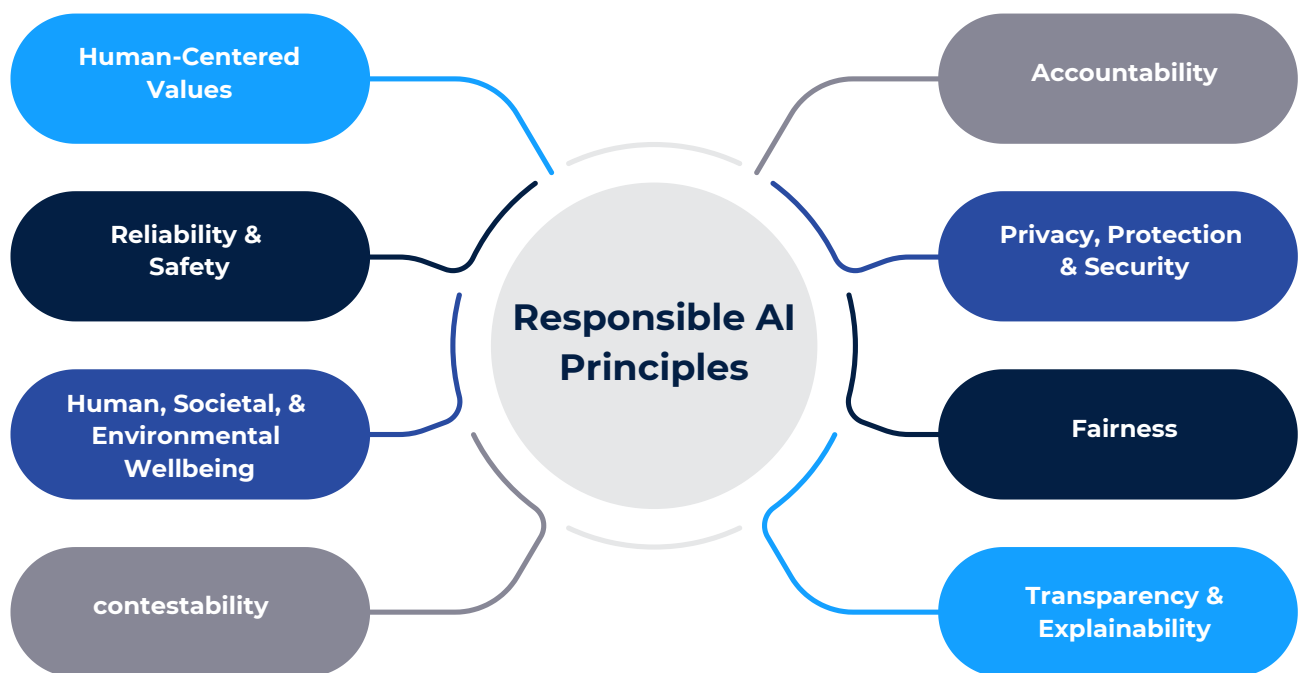
Perhaps the most notable example involves the social media war Russia launched against the United States. This multifaceted digital assault on the United States involved everything from targeted mis- and disinformation campaigns aimed at influencing the 2016 and 2020 U.S. Presidential Elections, whereby online influence actors affiliated with Russia endeavored to shape public perceptions of the U.S. Presidential candidates, concurrently advancing Moscow's longstanding goals of undermining confidence in U.S. election processes and increasing sociopolitical divisions among the American people.

## Safe and Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI poses a complex and multifaceted Homeland Security threat, stemming from its potential application in various malicious activities. As AI systems become more sophisticated, there is an increasing concern about their exploitation for cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns, and autonomous offensive operations. The rapid evolution of AI capabilities introduces challenges in predicting and mitigating security risks, as these technologies can adapt and learn in real-time. The use of AI in deepfakes further exacerbates the threat landscape by enabling the creation of highly convincing fraudulent content for deceptive purposes. Moreover, the dependency on AI in critical infrastructure systems raises concerns about vulnerabilities that could be exploited to disrupt essential services. The security challenges accompanying AI echos the cybersecurity issues seen in earlier generations of software, where manufacturers often neglected to prioritize security by design, placing the onus on the end-users.

While AI software systems may differ from traditional software, the application of fundamental security practices remains crucial. Acknowledging this, Executive Order 14110, "Safe, Secure, And Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)," signed on October 30, 2023, emphasizes the imperative for AI to be both safe and secure. In this context, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), functioning as the Nation's Cyber Defense Agency and the key coordinator for critical infrastructure security and resilience, will assume a pivotal role in addressing and managing the intersection of risks involving AI, cybersecurity, and critical infrastructure at the National-level.

Effectively addressing the Homeland Security implications of AI requires a proactive approach, combining technological advancements with robust regulations and international collaboration to stay ahead of potential threats.



# 6.0 FOSTER A UNITED AND RESILIENT ILLINOIS THROUGH PLATFORM INTEGRITY.

Educate and empower all Illinoisans to make informed decisions about navigating online environments and emerging technologies safely.

## **Promote Digital Literacy and Online Safety Awareness.**

### 6.1

*Empower individuals and communities with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital landscape safely and responsibly, fostering a digitally empowered, informed, and resilient Illinois.*

## **Enhance Cyberbullying Prevention and Intervention Efforts.**

### 6.2

*Develop and implement comprehensive strategies to prevent and address cyberbullying effectively.*

## **Promote Digital Guardianship for Safer Online Environments.**

### 6.3

*Implement comprehensive initiatives to promote digital guardianship, equipping parents, guardians, and educators with the knowledge and tools to create safer online environments for children and adolescents across Illinois.*

## **Empower Informed and Ethical Adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI).**

### 6.4

*Encourage informed AI awareness and responsible adoption through public awareness campaigns, fostering discussions on AI's applications and ethical considerations, assessing its potential to enhance security and emergency response, and fostering partnerships with agencies to create AI-driven tools for early threat detection and disaster management.*

## **6.1 Promote Digital Literacy and Online Safety Awareness.**

- 6.1.1: Develop comprehensive guidance encompassing essential digital literacy skills, including online etiquette, privacy awareness, misinformation detection, responsible social media usage, etc.
- 6.1.2: Launch public awareness campaigns targeting individuals of all ages to educate them about the potential risks associated with social media and online interactions.
- 6.1.3: Conduct workshops, seminars, and training sessions focused on enhancing online safety, practicing cyber hygiene, promoting responsible digital citizenship, and identifying potential online threats.
- 6.1.4: Tailor resources and workshops to address the specific needs of older adults, ensuring their awareness of common online scams, fraud prevention techniques, and safe online banking practices.

## **6.2 Enhance Cyberbullying Prevention and Intervention Efforts.**

- 6.2.1: Launch comprehensive cyberbullying awareness campaigns.
- 6.2.2: Foster a collaborative approach by working with educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, social media platforms, and community organizations to combat cyberbullying collectively.

## **6.3 Promote Digital Guardianship for Safer Online Environments.**

- 6.3.1: Develop and disseminate resources and guidance for parents, guardians, and educators to foster safe online behavior among children and adolescents.
- 6.3.2: Offer training programs and workshops to enhance the digital literacy of parents, guardians, and educators, equipping them with the tools to navigate and guide children in the digital landscape.
- 6.3.3: Provide educators with the necessary tools and materials to effectively teach online safety concepts, ensuring students develop responsible digital citizenship from an early age.

## **6.4 Empower Informed and Ethical Adoption of AI.**

- 6.4.1: Raise awareness by launching comprehensive campaigns to introduce AI concepts, benefits, and potential challenges to residents of all ages.
- 6.4.2: Facilitate discussions on the applications, implications, and ethical considerations of AI, ensuring a well-informed and responsible AI adoption.
- 6.4.3: Explore the use of AI technologies in enhancing emergency response and security measures, optimizing resource allocation, and mitigating potential threats.
- 6.4.4: Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop AI-driven tools for early detection of threats and efficient disaster management, promoting rapid and effective response in crisis situations.

# CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

There are 16 Critical Infrastructure Sectors which are part of a complex, interconnected ecosystem, and any threat to these sectors could have potentially debilitating impacts on National Security, economic, and public health, or safety.

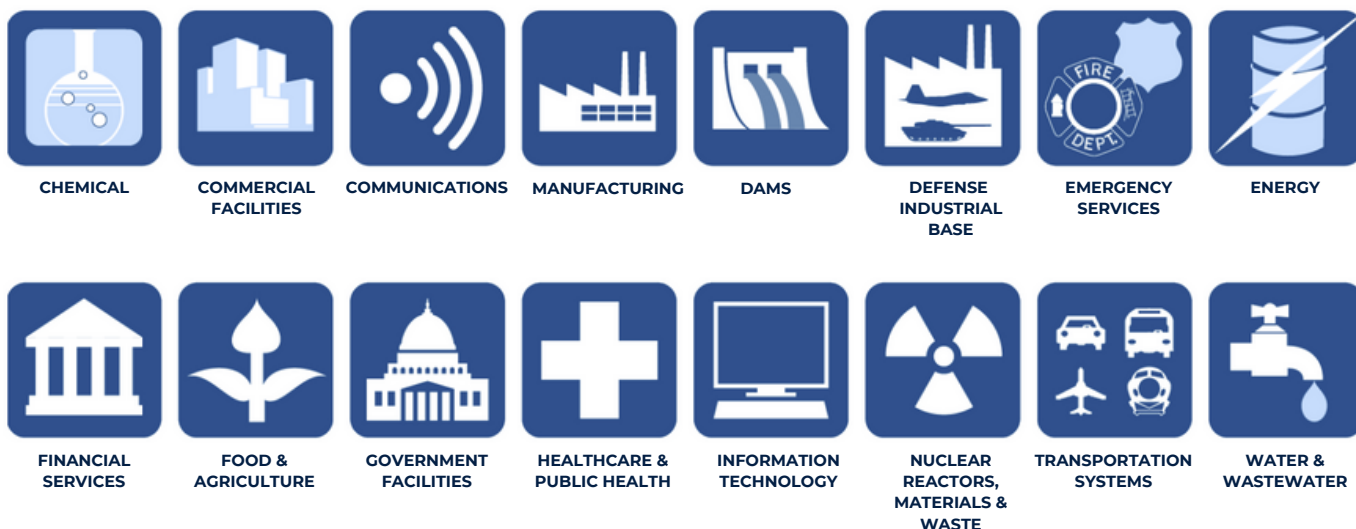
These Sectors – spanning energy, transportation, water, and communication – are susceptible to a range of threats, including cyberattacks, physical sabotage, and Terrorism.

Cyber threats are particularly pronounced, as malicious actors seek to exploit vulnerabilities in digital systems, aiming to disrupt operations, steal sensitive information, or compromise the integrity of Critical Infrastructure components. The interconnected nature of these systems amplifies the potential cascading effects, where an attack on one sector could lead to widespread disruptions, impacting National Security, public safety, and economic stability.

Physical threats, such as acts of Terrorism or sabotage, also loom large as potential dangers against Critical Infrastructure. Facilities like power plants, transportation hubs, and water treatment plants are vulnerable to targeted attacks that could result in significant damage and disruption. Mitigating these threats requires a comprehensive approach that combines robust cybersecurity measures, enhanced physical security protocols, and strategic coordination among Federal, State, and local authorities.

As technology continues to evolve, the landscape of threats against Critical Infrastructure evolves as well, necessitating ongoing efforts to adapt and fortify defenses to safeguard the Nation's vital systems.

For all of these reasons, the seventh strategic goal in Vision 2028 is to Strengthen Critical Infrastructure Resilience.





# 7.0 STRENGTHEN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE.

Enhance the ability of Illinois' critical infrastructure to withstand and recover from all hazards.

## 7.1

### **Protect Critical Infrastructure Across Illinois.**

*Implement preparedness, training, prevention, and protection activities that harden Illinois' critical infrastructure, making sectors more secure and resilient.*

## 7.2

### **Secure Illinois' Special Events.**

*Ensure a strong emergency response presence at designated special events.*

## 7.3

### **Foster Community Engagement and Public Awareness.**

*Foster community engagement and public awareness through initiatives, outreach programs, and information dissemination, creating a resilient and vigilant society actively committed to safeguarding our vital infrastructure assets.*

## 7.4

### **Strengthen Threat Awareness and Information Sharing.**

*Establish a comprehensive, collaborative network that enables timely threat detection, analysis, and dissemination among relevant stakeholders, enhancing our collective ability to proactively defend and safeguard critical infrastructure assets.*

## **7.1 Protect Critical Infrastructure Across Illinois.**

- 7.1.1: Develop and implement resilience-building programs that target critical infrastructure sectors, enhancing their ability to withstand and recover from various threats and hazards.
- 7.1.2: Conduct regular assessments to identify vulnerabilities and prioritize investments in infrastructure hardening.
- 7.1.3: Develop specialized training programs tailored to address sector-specific security challenges and vulnerabilities.
- 7.1.4: Promote the adoption of physical and cybersecurity best practices, standards, and technologies across sectors.
- 7.1.5: Develop and implement guidance for vetting and monitoring suppliers, contractors, and third-party vendors to prevent supply chain-related vulnerabilities.

## **7.2 Secure Illinois' Special Events.**

- 7.2.1: Coordinate with State, Local, and Federal partners to implement comprehensive event security planning which identifies designated special events and assesses their unique security requirements.
- 7.2.2: Ensure preparedness through regular drills and exercises to test emergency response capabilities.

## **7.3 Foster Community Engagement and Public Awareness.**

- 7.3.1: Educate the public about the significance of critical infrastructure and encourage the reporting of suspicious activities.
- 7.3.2: Collaborate with the private-sector organizations to raise awareness of potential threats to critical infrastructure, promoting a culture of vigilance.
- 7.3.3: Implement awareness campaigns to inform the public and private sector about the critical importance of infrastructure protection and the role of public-private partnerships in achieving resilience.
- 7.3.4: Amplify Federal Government services and resources for protecting critical infrastructure.

## **7.4 Strengthen Threat Awareness and Information Sharing.**

- 7.4.1: Establish mechanisms for sharing threat intelligence and best practices among critical infrastructure sectors.
- 7.4.2: Collaborate with Intelligence Agencies and Law Enforcement partners to maintain awareness of emerging threats to critical infrastructure.

# CYBERSECURITY

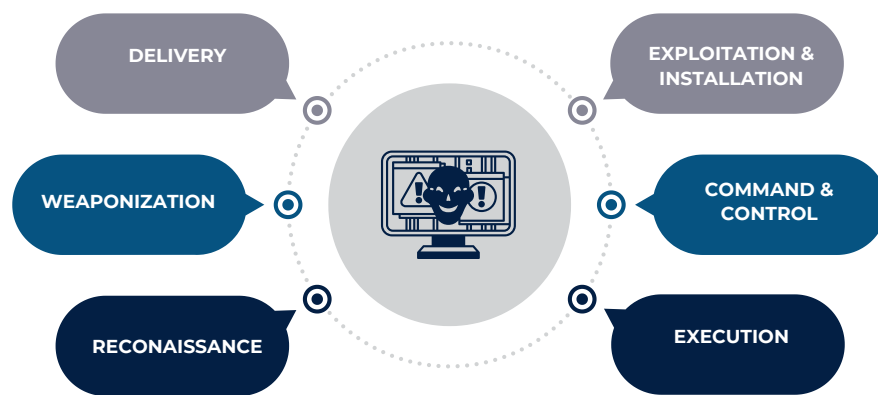
Cybersecurity threats stand at the forefront of Homeland Security concerns, posing a dynamic and ever-evolving challenge to the United States. Malicious actors, ranging from nation-states to criminal organizations and individual hackers, exploit vulnerabilities in digital systems to compromise sensitive information, disrupt essential services, and undermine National Security.

The scope of these threats encompasses a wide array of tactics, including ransomware attacks, phishing campaigns, and sophisticated malware deployments. The interconnected nature of modern infrastructure, coupled with the increasing reliance on digital technologies, amplifies the potential impact of cyber threats on critical sectors such as energy, healthcare, finance, and government operations.

The potential consequences of successful cyberattacks extend beyond financial losses, encompassing threats to public safety, the integrity of democratic processes, and the overall resilience of the Nation. As technology advances, so do the tactics employed by cyber adversaries, making it imperative for Homeland Security efforts to stay ahead of the curve. Coordination between Government agencies, private-sector entities, and international partners becomes crucial in developing and implementing robust cybersecurity measures. Additionally, fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness and investing in the development of a skilled cybersecurity workforce are essential components of a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the ever-present and evolving threat landscape in the digital domain.

To address the dynamic nature of cybersecurity threats, Homeland Security initiatives must adopt a proactive stance, continually updating defenses, investing in cutting-edge technologies, and fostering collaboration across sectors. By prioritizing cybersecurity as a fundamental aspect of National defense, the United States can better safeguard Critical Infrastructure, protect sensitive information, and ensure the resilience of its digital landscape against emerging and persistent threats.

As such, the eighth strategic goal in Vision 2028 is to Advance and Enhance Illinois' Cybersecurity Posture.



**ANATOMY OF A CYBER ATTACK**

# 8.0 ADVANCE AND ENHANCE ILLINOIS' CYBERSECURITY POSTURE.

Continuously advance Illinois' cybersecurity capabilities by implementing innovative solutions that not only bolster the security and functionality of critical infrastructure and core capabilities, but also mitigate the risk of intentional acts intended to disrupt, destroy, or threaten the delivery of essential services, impair the operation of critical infrastructure, or undermine the sustainability of community lifelines, whether through exploitation or sabotage in both physical and cyberspace domains.

## 8.1

### **Build a Culture of Cyber Awareness in Illinois.**

*Build and enhance awareness of cybersecurity threats to the public.*

## 8.2

### **Strengthen Illinois' Cybersecurity Resiliency.**

*Implement a comprehensive and adaptive framework that safeguards critical infrastructure, enhances incident response capabilities, fosters collaboration, and empowers individuals and organizations to defend against cyber threats, ensuring the security and continuity of our digital ecosystem.*

## 8.3

### **Support Community Organizations and Local Governments in Strengthening their Cybersecurity Resiliency.**

*Empower and support community organizations and local governments in enhancing their cybersecurity resiliency through education, resource allocation, and collaborative partnerships, ensuring the protection of critical services, data, and the overall well-being of our communities in the face of evolving cyber threats.*

## 8.4

### **Build a Cyber Workforce in Illinois.**

*Promote the improvement and advancement of a well-trained cyber workforce.*

## 8.5

### **Collaborate and Share Information to Enhance Illinois' Cybersecurity Posture.**

*Create and expand partnerships to foster continual learning and information sharing to ensure the safety and resiliency of Illinois' cybersecurity posture.*

## **8.1 Build a Culture of Cyber Awareness in Illinois.**

- 8.1.1: Launch cybersecurity awareness campaigns.
- 8.1.2: Develop and distribute sector- and stakeholder-specific cybersecurity resources.
- 8.1.3: Develop and implement sector- and stakeholder-specific cybersecurity trainings, workshops, and events.
- 8.1.4: Develop and launch comprehensive Insider Threat awareness training.
- 8.1.5: Amplify Federal Government services and resources for mitigating cybersecurity threats.

## **8.2 Strengthen Illinois' Cybersecurity Resiliency.**

- 8.2.1: Develop and maintain incident response and recovery plans across State networks to ensure a swift recovery from cyberattacks.
- 8.2.2: Conduct regular drills and exercises to test cyber incident response plans across State networks.
- 8.2.3: Modernize State networks according to Zero-Trust principles.
- 8.2.4: Expand and implement robust access controls across State networks.
- 8.2.5: Expand and deploy intrusion detection systems and security analytics across State networks.
- 8.2.6: Expand simulated phishing exercises across State networks to educate State employees about email security and enhance their ability to recognize phishing attempts.
- 8.2.7: Expand and perform penetration testing and vulnerability scanning across State networks to proactively identify and remediate security weaknesses.

## **8.3 Support Community Organizations and Local Governments in Strengthening their Cybersecurity Resiliency.**

- 8.3.1: Support local organizations with access to tools and services to mitigate real-time cyber threats and incidents.
- 8.3.2: Support communities in establishing Cyber Incident Response Plan guidance.
- 8.3.3: Encourage local Governments to adopt cybersecurity frameworks such as the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and a Zero Trust Architecture to standardize and improve their cybersecurity posture.
- 8.3.4: Collaborate with communities to conduct Cybersecurity Risk Assessments for assets and critical infrastructure.

## **8.4 Build a Cyber Workforce in Illinois.**

- 8.4.1: Establish partnerships with educational institutions and industry organizations to promote cybersecurity education and research.
- 8.4.2: Develop community-based cybersecurity training programs and boot camps to upskill residents and provide them with the knowledge and skills needed for entry-level cybersecurity positions.

## **8.5 Collaborate and Share Information to Enhance Illinois' Cybersecurity Posture.**

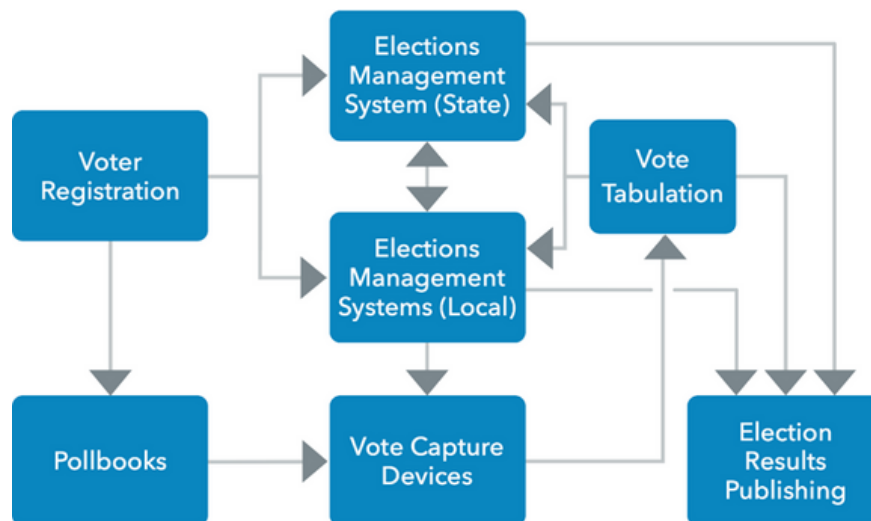
- 8.5.1: Develop policies, procedures and workflows for real-time information sharing among key public and private stakeholders.

# ELECTION SECURITY AND INTEGRITY

The foundation of American Democracy rests on the principles of fair and free elections, representing a cornerstone of civic participation and governance. The confidence that the American people place in the value of their vote is fundamentally tied to the security and resilience of the infrastructure that facilitates the Nation's electoral processes. This infrastructure encompasses a complex network of systems, ranging from voter registration databases and polling places to the technology supporting ballot counting and reporting. As such, safeguarding the integrity of this electoral infrastructure is paramount to upholding the core tenets of Democracy and ensuring that every resident's voice is accurately and securely represented in the Democratic process. For these reasons, Vision 2028's ninth goal is to Ensure Election Security and Integrity in Illinois.

The security of U.S. elections faces a dual threat landscape, encompassing both physical and cyber threats. Physically, elections are vulnerable to acts of Terrorism, tampering with voting equipment, physical attacks, threats against poll workers, and attempts to disrupt polling places. All of this compromises the sanctity of the electoral process. Protecting against physical threats involves robust security measures at polling locations, comprehensive training for poll workers, and coordination between law enforcement agencies to ensure a safe and secure environment for voters.

On the cyber front, the increasing reliance on digital technologies in election processes has exposed vulnerabilities to malicious cyber activities. Cyber threats include attempts to infiltrate and manipulate voter registration databases, disrupt electronic voting systems, and spread mis- and disinformation. Foreign adversaries have demonstrated capabilities to exploit these vulnerabilities, highlighting the need for robust cybersecurity measures, regular audits of election systems, and public awareness campaigns to mitigate the impact of mis- and disinformation. Enhancing cybersecurity resilience at every stage of the election process, from voter registration to result reporting, is imperative to safeguard the integrity of U.S. elections in an era where technological advancements are accompanied by escalating cyber threats.



# 9.0 ENSURE ELECTION SECURITY AND INTEGRITY IN ILLINOIS.

Protect the integrity of Illinois' electoral process, and ensure that every eligible voter can participate safely with confidence in the Democratic system.

## 9.1

### **Promote a Culture of Awareness Surrounding Election Security and Integrity in Illinois.**

*Promote a Culture of Awareness Surrounding Election Security and Integrity in Illinois to ensure transparent, fair, and secure electoral processes.*

## 9.2

### **Strengthen Cybersecurity Measures to Ensure Election Integrity in Illinois.**

*Strengthen Cybersecurity Measures to Ensure Election Integrity in Illinois, safeguarding the electoral process against cyber threats and ensuring the trust and integrity of the democratic process.*

## 9.3

### **Strengthen Physical Security Measures to Ensure Election Integrity in Illinois.**

*Strengthen Physical Security Measures to Ensure Election Integrity in Illinois, safeguarding the physical infrastructure and processes involved in elections to uphold the integrity and credibility of the democratic process.*

## **9.1 Promote a Culture of Awareness Surrounding Election Security and Integrity in Illinois.**

- 9.1.1: Develop and launch public awareness campaigns surrounding election security and integrity.
- 9.1.2: Conduct workshops, seminars, and training sessions focused on election security and integrity.
- 9.1.3: Collaborate with schools, civic organizations, and community groups to promote voter education and engagement and election security and integrity.
- 9.1.4: Amplify Federal Government services and resources pertaining to election security and integrity.
- 9.1.5: Provide election officials, poll workers, and relevant staff with training in election security best practices focused on cyber and physical security.

## **9.2 Strengthen Cybersecurity Measures to Ensure Election Integrity in Illinois.**

- 9.2.1: Conduct regular cybersecurity risk assessments of election systems and infrastructure to identify potential vulnerabilities and develop incident response plans to mitigate cyber threats.
- 9.2.2: Conduct regular cybersecurity exercises and drills to ensure readiness and a coordinated response to election-related security issues.

## **9.3 Strengthen Physical Security Measures to Ensure Election Integrity in Illinois.**

- 9.3.1: Conduct regular physical risk assessments of election systems and infrastructure to identify potential vulnerabilities and develop incident response plans to mitigate physical security threats.
- 9.3.2: Conduct regular physical security exercises and drills to ensure readiness and a coordinated response to election-related security issues.



# STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY

Interoperable Communications plays a pivotal role in preparing for and responding to Homeland Security threats by ensuring seamless coordination and information exchange among diverse agencies and jurisdictions. For these reasons, the tenth strategic goal in Vision 2028 is to Foster a Safer Illinois Through Effective Public Safety Communications and Interoperability.

During a crisis or emergency, all levels of Government, as well as various response organizations, must collaborate effectively to mount a swift and cohesive response. Interoperable Communications enable these disparate entities to communicate in real-time, share critical information, and coordinate their efforts efficiently. This Interoperability is particularly crucial during large-scale incidents, natural disasters, or acts of Terrorism when rapid and coordinated responses are essential.

Effective Interoperable Communications enhance situational awareness, allowing stakeholders to have a comprehensive understanding of the evolving threat landscape. This shared awareness enables timely decision-making and ensures that resources are allocated strategically based on accurate and up-to-date information. Whether it's coordinating First Responders, managing evacuations, or disseminating public safety information, Interoperable Communications facilitate a unified response, reducing response time and enhancing the overall effectiveness of Homeland Security efforts. Furthermore, interoperability supports the scalability of response efforts, enabling seamless integration of additional resources and personnel as the situation evolves.

The ability to communicate seamlessly across different platforms and systems is essential not only during emergencies but also in the preparedness and planning phases. Standardized and Interoperable Communication protocols help ensure that technologies from different agencies and jurisdictions can work together cohesively, reducing the risk of communication breakdowns during critical moments. By investing in and prioritizing Interoperable Communications, State's strengthen their capacity to respond effectively to a wide range of threats, ultimately enhancing the Nation's resilience and preparedness in the face of diverse Homeland Security challenges.



**CISA-NCSWIC**

# 10.0 FOSTER A SAFER ILLINOIS THROUGH EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY.

Establish a shared vision for emergency communications across Illinois, and assists those who plan for, coordinate, invest in, and use operable and interoperable communications for response and recovery operations.

## 10.1

### **10.1 Strengthen Illinois' Statewide Interoperable Communication Infrastructure for Seamless Connectivity.**

*Establish a robust, reliable, and resilient communication network that supports effective cross-agency collaboration and information exchange during emergencies and critical incidents, thereby improving the State's overall preparedness and response capabilities.*

## 10.2

### **Empower First Responders with Interoperable Communication Tools and Resources.**

*Identify innovative ways to fund and sustain emergency communications systems and activities pertinent to State, local stakeholders.*

## 10.3

### **Promote Interagency Training and Exercises to Strengthen Statewide Interoperability.**

*Foster a culture of collaboration and preparedness among public safety and emergency response entities, ensuring that they can effectively communicate and coordinate during crises, thereby bolstering the State's overall resilience and response capabilities.*

## 10.4

### **Facilitate Statewide Governance and Coordination to Advance Interoperability.**

*Establish a robust governance structure fostering effective coordination mechanisms to ensure seamless interoperability among public safety and emergency response agencies across the State.*

## 10.5

### **Secure Resilient Interoperable Communication Systems through Cybersecurity and Data Protection.**

*Enhance the State's ability to maintain effective communication during emergencies while mitigating cybersecurity risks.*

## 10.6

### **Empower Resilience through Comprehensive Outreach and Education for Interoperable Communication.**

*Empower public safety organizations to effectively navigate interoperable communication systems, enabling them to make informed decisions and take proactive steps to enhance their safety and resilience.*

## **10.1 Strengthen Illinois' Statewide Interoperable Communication Infrastructure for Seamless Connectivity.**

- 10.1.1: Upgrade and maintain a robust and resilient communication infrastructure capable of supporting interoperable communication across all public safety and emergency response agencies.
- 10.1.2: Implement backup and redundant communication systems to ensure continuity of operations during system failures or natural disasters.
- 10.1.3: Regularly test and evaluate Statewide communication networks to identify weaknesses and address them promptly.

## **10.2 Empower First Responders with Interoperable Communication Tools and Resources.**

- 10.2.1: Disseminates information on appropriations and new funding sources available to the public safety community at all levels of government.
- 10.2.2: Identify methods to fund and sustain emergency communications priorities, including Statewide Interoperability Governance and support throughout the system lifecycle, and disseminate to decision-makers and elected officials.
- 10.2.3: Understand changes to the emergency communications funding environment and create guidance to assist decision-makers with budget considerations.
- 10.2.4: Ensure interoperable communication devices are compatible with existing systems and can seamlessly integrate into the Statewide network.

## **10.3 Promote Interagency Training and Exercises to Strengthen Statewide Interoperability.**

- 10.3.1: Develop and conduct regular training programs that focus on interoperability procedures and best practices.
- 10.3.2: Facilitate joint exercises and drills involving multiple agencies to test and improve interoperable communication capabilities.
- 10.3.3: Establish a Statewide Incident Command System to streamline coordination during emergencies, emphasizing interoperability.

## **10.4 Facilitate Statewide Governance and Coordination to Advance Interoperability.**

- 10.4.1: Establish a robust governance structure fostering effective coordination mechanisms to ensure seamless interoperability among public safety and emergency response agencies across the State.
- 10.4.2: Share best practices, success stories, and lessons learned (i.e., manage emergency communications technology and policy issues, develop agreements across organizations/jurisdictions., etc.), and promote relationship building.
- 10.4.3: Identify adaptive governance strategies to address the rapid evolution of technologies, capabilities, and risks.
- 10.4.4: Collaborate with local jurisdictions and neighboring States to ensure Cross-Border Interoperability.
- 10.4.5: Support the development of cooperative cross-jurisdictional, multi-State, or multiorganizational agreements (i.e., Memorandum of Understanding, Memorandum of Agreement, Mutual-Aid Agreements)
- 10.4.6: Identify and address legislative and regulatory issues associated with emerging communications technologies, issues, and needs that affect the public safety community.

## **10.5 Secure and Resilient Interoperable Communication Systems through Cybersecurity and Data Protection.**

- 10.5.1: Implement robust Cybersecurity measures to safeguard communication networks and prevent cyberattacks on interoperable systems.
- 10.5.2: Establish data encryption and authentication standards to protect sensitive information shared during interoperable communications.
- 10.5.3: Develop incident response plans specific to cybersecurity incidents affecting interoperable communication networks.
- 10.5.4: Collaborate across organizations to consolidate and disseminate strategies to manage risk and increase resilience of public safety technologies, tools, and networks.

## **10.6 Empower Public Resilience through Comprehensive Outreach and Education for Interoperable Communication.**

- 10.6.1: Educate public safety professionals on how to access emergency services and information during disasters using interoperable communication channels.
- 10.6.2: Promote the use of public alert and warning systems that are compatible with interoperable networks.
- 10.6.3: Understand and emphasize the intersection of human factors with planning, training, and exercise activities.
- 10.6.4: Collaborate with stakeholders to ensure diverse emergency management experiences are incorporated into future training and exercise products and initiatives.
- 10.6.5: Ensure that all public safety agencies are trained in and adhere to the standardized communication protocols.

# ALL HAZARD PREPAREDNESS

All-Hazards Preparedness is a foundational concept within Homeland Security that recognizes the necessity of a comprehensive and adaptable approach to address a wide range of potential threats and emergencies. This approach involves the development of flexible plans, robust training programs, and the establishment of effective communication protocols to ensure a coordinated response to any situation that may threaten the safety and security of the Nation and our State.

Within the context of Homeland Security, All-Hazards Preparedness acknowledges the dynamic and evolving nature of threats, emphasizing the need for proactive measures to enhance resilience and response capabilities. By adopting a broad perspective that considers various potential hazards, the State can better allocate resources, streamline response efforts, and foster collaboration among different levels of Government, the private sector, and the community. This approach not only maximizes efficiency in emergency response but also cultivates a culture of preparedness that permeates all aspects of society, contributing to a more resilient and secure homeland.

The Governor's Homeland Security Advisor has identified the following threat areas as part of Illinois' All-Hazards Homeland Security strategy, reflected with Vision 2028's eleventh strategic goal, Enhance Illinois' All Hazard Preparedness.

- Natural Disasters
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
- Epidemics/Pandemics
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
- Mutual Aid

## Natural Disasters

Natural disasters, ranging from hurricanes and tornados to floods and wildfires, have the potential to cause widespread devastation, disrupt critical infrastructure, and pose significant risks to public safety and security. These events can result in loss of life, displacement of communities, and economic disruption, underscoring the importance of robust preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. By prioritizing natural disaster preparedness within Vision 2028, we ensure effective coordination among Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as private sector partners and community organizations, to mitigate risks, enhance resilience, and protect lives and property in the face of these unpredictable and often catastrophic events. This includes investing in early warning systems, infrastructure hardening, evacuation planning, emergency response training, and public education campaigns to empower individuals and communities to prepare for and respond to natural disasters effectively. Additionally, fostering partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions, international partners, and humanitarian organizations can facilitate timely and coordinated response efforts during large-scale disasters, ensuring a unified and comprehensive approach to safeguarding public safety and preserving the well-being of our communities. For these reasons, the first objective in Vision 2028's eleventh goal is to Enhance Illinois' Preparedness and Resilience to Natural Disasters.

## **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**

A WMD is a nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological, or other device that is intended to harm many people. As Terrorism evolves, our defensive efforts pertaining to anticipate, identify and assess current and emerging WMD threats must also evolve, as well as our ability to strengthen detection and disruption efforts. For these reasons, the second and third objectives in Vision 2028's eleventh goal are to Enhance Illinois' Preparedness and Response Capabilities to Minimize the Impact of Radiological and Nuclear Incidents and Enhance Illinois' Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and/or Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Capabilities.

## **Epidemics/Pandemics**

The risk of Epidemics and Pandemics in the United States remains a critical concern, given the interconnected nature of our globalized world and the potential for rapid disease spread. The emergence of novel infectious agents, as witnessed with the COVID-19 pandemic, underscores the vulnerability of societies to health crises. Factors such as international travel, urbanization, and climate change contribute to the increased likelihood of infectious diseases crossing borders. The U.S. healthcare system, while advanced, faces challenges in terms of preparedness, resource allocation, and equitable access to healthcare. Robust surveillance, early detection, and coordinated response mechanisms are imperative to mitigate the impact of potential epidemics and pandemics. Investments in research, public health infrastructure, and international collaboration are essential for bolstering the Nation's resilience against emerging infectious threats, ensuring a swift and effective response to safeguard public health and well-being. For these reasons, the fourth objective in Vision 2028's eleventh goal is to Strengthen Illinois' Interagency Planning for Epidemics/Pandemics.

## **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)**

The increased malicious use of UAS, or drones, poses both opportunities and risks to public safety and national security in the United States. While drones offer innovative applications such as surveillance, search and rescue, and infrastructure inspection, their misuse or malicious intent presents significant challenges. Concerns include the potential for unauthorized surveillance, privacy infringements, and the use of drones for criminal activities or acts of Terrorism. National Security is also at risk as UAS can be exploited to gather intelligence, disrupt critical infrastructure, or carry out aerial attacks. Ensuring effective regulation and oversight of drone operations is essential to strike a balance between harnessing the benefits of this technology and safeguarding public safety and National Security interests. Ongoing efforts to develop comprehensive regulatory frameworks, technological countermeasures, and public awareness campaigns are crucial components of managing the evolving risks associated with the widespread adoption of UAS. For these reasons, the fifth objective in Vision 2028's eleventh goal is to Protect Illinois Against The Malicious Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

## Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid partnerships are indispensable in bolstering all-hazard and Homeland Security preparedness, offering a multitude of benefits that enhance the State's ability to respond effectively to emergencies and disasters. These partnerships allow jurisdictions to pool together resources, expertise, and capabilities, enabling them to address a wide range of hazards comprehensively. By leveraging the collective strengths of multiple agencies and organizations, jurisdictions can overcome resource limitations and bolster their preparedness and response capabilities, ensuring a more robust and resilient approach to managing emergencies.

Furthermore, Mutual Aid partnerships enhance coordination and interoperability among diverse response entities, leading to more efficient and effective emergency response efforts. Clear communication channels, standardized protocols, and mutual aid agreements streamline coordination mechanisms, allowing for a unified and cohesive response to disasters. This seamless coordination ensures faster response times, optimized resource allocation, and improved overall management of emergency operations, ultimately minimizing the impact of disasters on communities and enhancing the safety and well-being of residents.

In addition to strengthening emergency response capabilities, Mutual Aid partnerships also foster collaboration and information sharing among jurisdictions, enhancing situational awareness and facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of potential threats and hazards. By exchanging best practices, lessons learned, and critical information, jurisdictions can better prepare for and respond to emergencies, leveraging the collective knowledge and experience of their Mutual Aid partners to enhance their overall preparedness and resilience.

Moreover, Mutual Aid partnerships provide increased flexibility and adaptability in responding to dynamic and evolving security threats. In times of crisis, jurisdictions may face overwhelmed capacities or resource constraints, making it challenging to mount an effective response independently. Mutual Aid partnerships enable jurisdictions to quickly mobilize additional resources and support from neighboring agencies or organizations, allowing for a more agile and responsive approach that can adapt to changing circumstances and needs.

Overall, Mutual Aid partnerships play a pivotal role in strengthening all-hazard and Homeland Security preparedness by fostering resource sharing, enhancing coordination and interoperability, facilitating collaboration and information sharing, and providing flexibility and adaptability in responding to emergencies and security threats. By fostering strong and collaborative partnerships with Mutual Aid entities, jurisdictions can enhance their overall preparedness posture and ensure a more effective and resilient response to emergencies and security challenges.

For these reasons, the sixth objective in Vision 2028's eleventh goal is to Expand Illinois' Statewide Mutual Aid Network.

# 11.0 ENHANCE ILLINOIS' ALL HAZARD PREPAREDNESS.

Maintain and enhance an integrated, trained and equipped operational structure to address preparedness across the mission areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery activities as they relate to current, rapidly evolving, and emerging natural, technological, and human-caused threats.

## 11.1

### **Enhance Illinois' Preparedness and Resilience to Natural Disasters.**

*Ensure effective coordination and response capabilities to natural disasters in order to mitigate risks, protect lives, and preserve critical infrastructure.*

## 11.2

### **Enhance Illinois' Preparedness and Response Capabilities to Minimize the Impact of Radiological and Nuclear Incidents.**

*Protect Communities and the Environment by Preventing Unnecessary Exposure to Ionizing Radiation from Events Involving Radiological Devices (RD) or Nuclear Detonations (ND).*

## 11.3

### **Enhance Illinois' Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and/or Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Capabilities.**

*Equip First Responders with the knowledge, tools, and resources necessary to effectively prevent, prepare for, and respond to incidents involving WMDs and IEDs, ultimately ensuring the safety and security of the State and its residents.*

## 11.4

### **Strengthen Illinois' Interagency Planning for Epidemics/Pandemics.**

*Enable a swift and effective response to public health emergencies, safeguarding the health and well-being of the State's residents.*

## 11.5

### **Protect Illinois Against The Malicious Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).**

*Safeguard critical infrastructure, public safety, and privacy while effectively countering harmful or unlawful Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) activities within the State.*

## 11.6

### **Expand Illinois' Statewide Mutual Aid Network.**

*Expand Illinois' extensive network of multijurisdictional mutual aid systems, through integrated planning, training, equipping, and exercising, capable of supporting local, regional and Statewide events under a unified operational structure and available to all communities throughout the State of Illinois.*



## **11.1 Enhance Illinois' Preparedness and Resilience to Natural Disasters.**

- 11.1.1: Increase the ability to coordinate and deploy emergency management capabilities through Mutual Aid structures at the local, County, regional, and State levels.
- 11.1.2: Increase emergency management training, professional development, and credentialing capacity.
- 11.1.3: Enhance Emergency Services Disaster Agencies' (ESDA) threat/risk analysis, to include incorporating climate change effects and considerations.
- 11.1.4: Enhance ESDA's emergency operations planning, to include incorporation of Access and Functional Needs requirements.
- 11.1.5: Promote opportunities for Hazard Mitigation projects and Recovery programs through engagement and education.
- 11.1.6: Promote volunteerism to assist communities in response and recovery efforts.

## **11.2: Enhance Illinois' Preparedness and Response Capabilities to Minimize the Impact of Radiological and Nuclear Incidents.**

- 11.2.1: Provide all decision makers with decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the radiological/nuclear event, any cascading effects, and the status of the response.
- 11.2.2: Continue to establish and regularly update response plans and protocols for various scenarios involving RDs and NDs.
- 11.2.3: Enhance information-sharing to improve detection and response to radiological/nuclear events.
- 11.2.4: Identify and implement advanced technologies and equipment for detecting, responding to, and identifying potential radiological/nuclear materials and events.
- 11.2.5: Enhance coordination with Federal, State, and local agencies to facilitate a unified response to radiological/nuclear events.
- 11.2.6: Promote public awareness and preparedness through education, training, and community awareness campaigns on radiological/nuclear risks and protective measures.
- 11.2.7: Collaborate with Federal agencies, laboratories, and research institutions to leverage cutting-edge research and technologies. This includes enhancing IEMA-OHS Office of Nuclear Safety Radiochemistry and Nuclear Calibration Laboratories.
- 11.2.8: Enhance the Radiological Task Force through staffing, training, and exercising for RDD and ND events.
- 11.2.9: Ensure the safe and secure use of radioactive materials by maintaining and enhancing Office of Nuclear Safety regulatory programs; enforcing security regulations; ensuring accountability of radioactive sources; license and inspect radioactive material users; environmental and compliance monitoring; maintaining low level radioactive waste, Technically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material, and Orphan Source Programs; inspect and escort Spent Nuclear Fuel, Highway Route Controlled Quantities of radioactive material, and transuranic waste shipments; and conduct enforcement activities.
- 11.2.10: Conduct responses to radiological complaints, allegations, events, and ensure radiological assistance is available to first responders.
- 11.2.11: Prepare for and coordinate the State's multi-agency response to and recovery from radiological/nuclear events.

### **11.3 Enhance Illinois' Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and/or Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Capabilities.**

- 11.3.1: Maintain specialized response teams trained to handle WMD and IED incidents.
- 11.3.2: Establish and regularly update response plans and protocols for various scenarios involving WMDs and IEDs.
- 11.3.3: Implement activities to support a community's ability to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from WMD and IED events, including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) devices.
- 11.3.4: Strengthen intelligence-sharing mechanisms to improve early detection and prevention of WMD and IED threats.
- 11.3.5: Implement advanced technologies and equipment for detecting and identifying potential WMD and IED materials.
- 11.3.6: Enhance coordination with Federal, State, and local agencies to facilitate a unified response to WMD and IED incidents.
- 11.3.7: Promote public awareness and preparedness through educational campaigns on WMD and IED risks and protective measures.
- 11.3.8: Collaborate with Federal agencies, laboratories, and research institutions to leverage cutting-edge research and technologies.

### **11.4 Strengthen Illinois' Interagency Planning for Epidemics/Pandemics.**

- 11.4.1: Support multi-agency training for State and local representatives addressing capabilities and capacity to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate threats to health and safety from the spread of infectious disease.
- 11.4.2: Enhance communication and information sharing among public health, emergency management, and other relevant agencies pertaining to Epidemics/Pandemics.
- 11.4.3: Develop and maintain a comprehensive Epidemic/Pandemic response plan that addresses various scenarios and contingencies.
- 11.4.4: Develop public awareness campaigns to educate residents about preventive measures, vaccination, and response actions pertaining to Epidemics/Pandemics.

### **11.5 Protect Illinois Against The Malicious Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).**

- 11.5.1: Deploy advanced detection technologies to identify unauthorized or suspicious UAS activities near critical locations within the State.
- 11.5.2: Develop clear response guidance for State and local agencies to address UAS threats and potential security breaches.
- 11.5.3: Conduct regular drills and exercises to test and improve the State's ability to respond effectively to UAS incidents.
- 11.5.4: Enhance or clarify legislation and regulations concerning the use of UAS as a tool to carry out illegal activities, including privacy protection measures.
- 11.5.5: Educate the public and UAS operators about the legal and responsible use of drones.
- 11.5.6: Provide guidance to critical infrastructure owners and operators on UAS threat assessments and protective measures.

## **11.6 Expand Statewide Mutual Aid.**

- 11.6.1: Implement and support Mutual Aid functions representing local jurisdictions with the responsibility to develop routine and specialized Mutual Aid resources and systems throughout Illinois, ensuring comprehensive Statewide availability for emergency and disaster response.
- 11.6.2: To ensure their deployability across the entire State, all Mutual Aid Teams must successfully, and consistently, complete a standard validation exercise process.
- 11.6.3: Collaborate with Statewide Mutual Aid organizations to develop complementary management systems that address required resources during emergency or potential emergency operations.
- 11.6.4: Ensure that State and local public safety officials have access to the most current and comprehensive training and education available to prepare them for any realized and/or emerging threats to facilitate the standardized and safe implementation of response and recovery duties.
- 11.6.5: Implement a system to ensure interoperability and sustainment of equipment across various teams and agencies throughout the State by establishing minimum standards across all disciplines.
- 11.6.6: Partner and coordinate with organizations to ensure the availability and accessibility of adequate and reliable blood supply to meet the needs of individuals affected by emergencies or disasters.

# FIRST RESPONDER PREPAREDNESS

First Responders play a critical role in safeguarding the homeland, responding to emergencies, and mitigating the impact of evolving threats. The importance of ongoing training, continuing education, and professional development for First Responders cannot be overstated. In an ever-changing landscape of risks, including natural disasters, acts of Terrorism, and public health emergencies, staying abreast of the latest technologies, methodologies, and best practices is essential. Rigorous training equips first responders with the skills and knowledge necessary to handle diverse and complex scenarios, ensuring they can adapt to emerging threats effectively.

Continuing education is particularly crucial in enhancing the resilience and versatility of First Responders. Regular updates on emerging technologies, changes in response protocols, and evolving threat assessments enable them to make informed decisions under high-pressure situations. Furthermore, professional development opportunities allow First Responders to hone their leadership and communication skills, fostering a collaborative and coordinated approach to emergency situations. Interdisciplinary training that involves collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders is vital for creating a seamless and effective response network.

Investing in the professional growth of First Responders not only enhances their individual capabilities but also strengthens the collective resilience of the entire emergency response system. Well-trained and continuously educated First Responders are better equipped to protect lives, property, and the overall security of the homeland, creating a more robust and adaptable defense against the ever-evolving threats that the nation may face.

For these reasons, the twelfth goal in Vision 2028 is to Enhance First Responder Training to Elevate Preparedness and Response Capabilities.



# 12.0 ENHANCE FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING TO ELEVATE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES.

Ensure that all Illinois first responders receive comprehensive and up-to-date training that aligns with emerging Homeland Security threats and best practices.

## 12.1

### **Elevate Training Quality and Relevance for First Responders.**

*Ensure that all training initiatives meet the highest standards, incorporating the latest security threats, emerging best practices, and practical, scenario-based learning experiences.*

## 12.2

### **Promote Equitable Access and Expansion of First Responder Training.**

*Ensure that all responders, regardless of location or affiliation, have convenient access to high-quality training.*

## 12.3

### **Facilitate Interagency Collaboration and Cohesion Through First Responder Training.**

*Create a cohesive training environment that encourages joint exercises, cross-discipline learning, and effective communication between agencies.*

## 12.4

### **Promote a Culture of Lifelong Learning Among Illinois' First Responders.**

*Encourage ongoing learning, skill development, and knowledge sharing throughout their careers.*

### **12.1 Elevate Training Quality and Relevance for First Responders.**

- 12.1.1: Ensure training programs are designed to address the unique needs and challenges of diverse First Responder roles and disciplines.
- 12.1.2: Incorporate real-world scenarios and practical exercises into First Responder training modules to enhance hands-on learning and skill development.

### **12.2 Promote Equitable Access and Expansion of First Responder Training.**

- 12.2.1: Increase the availability of First Responder training programs and courses by leveraging online platforms and distance learning options.
- 12.2.2: Promote training opportunities for volunteers, auxiliary responders, and community-based organizations to strengthen local resilience.

### **12.3 Facilitate Interagency Collaboration and Cohesion Through First Responder Training.**

- 12.3.1: Support joint training exercises and simulations that involve multiple First Responder disciplines and agencies.
- 12.3.2: Support cross-discipline training initiatives that promote a holistic understanding of response efforts and improve communication among First Responders.

### **12.4 Promote a Culture of Lifelong Learning Among Illinois' First Responders.**

- 12.4.1: Encourage First Responders to pursue continuous professional development through ongoing training opportunities.
- 12.4.2: Foster a culture of information sharing and knowledge transfer among experienced and newer First Responders.

# CONCLUSION

Vision 2028 embodies Illinois' shared commitment to safeguarding our State and its residents from a wide range of threats and hazards. By delineating strategic priorities, coordinating resources, and fostering collaboration, we established a framework for a more resilient and secure future.

As we commence the implementation of Vision 2028, it is crucial to maintain vigilance, adaptability, and proactivity in our approach to Homeland Security. Through sustained dedication, innovation, and collaboration, we can ensure that Illinois is well-prepared to effectively, prepare for, respond to, and recover from, any crisis or emergency.

The success of Vision 2028 hinges on our collective unity of purpose and unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our communities. Ultimately, Illinois' Homeland Security strength lies in our combined determination and resilience. By uniting efforts, we can overcome challenges, bolster our defenses, and pave the way for a safer, more secure future for all Illinoisans.

Let us move forward with confidence, recognizing that by embracing the principles outlined in Vision 2028, we can safeguard our communities, uphold our values, and secure the prosperity and well-being of generations to come.