



HOMELAND SECURITY ANNUAL REPORT

STATE OF ILLINOIS

2024

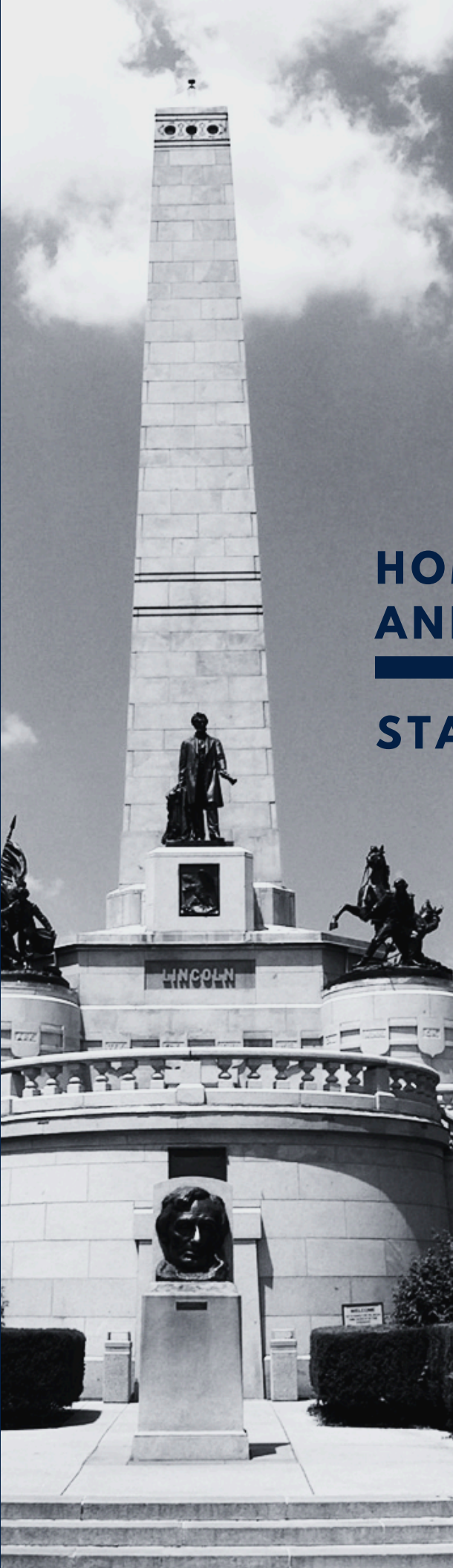


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreward	3
Letter from the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor	4
Vision 2028 in Action: Advancing Homeland Security and Building Resilient Communities Across Illinois	5–6
Bridging the Gaps: Opportunities for Strategic Investment and Expansion in Illinois' Homeland Security	7–9
Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council (IL-HSAC)	10–26
A Whole-of-State Approach to Homeland Security: Strengthening Preparedness, Prevention, and Resilience Across Illinois	27–43
Conclusion	44

Over the past year, partners across Illinois have made significant progress in strengthening the State's Homeland Security, enhancing community safety, and bolstering Statewide resilience. Guided by Vision 2028, our mission is to create a secure and inclusive Illinois through proactive prevention, collaboration, and public awareness. Recognizing the interconnected nature of public safety, State Agencies, Commissions, and Boards across Illinois have voluntarily committed to aligning their efforts with Vision 2028, ensuring a unified and coordinated approach to Homeland Security priorities. This collective effort underscores our shared responsibility to advance public safety, resilience, and preparedness across every sector.

This commitment is exemplified in our efforts to prevent Targeted Violence by fostering early intervention strategies and strengthening community partnerships (Goal 1). Additionally, we remain steadfast in combatting Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism, empowering communities through education, engagement, and comprehensive prevention measures (Goal 2).

Our dedication to public safety extends beyond these critical priorities. Illinois has implemented strategic initiatives to address human trafficking, opioid misuse, and gun violence, leveraging innovative solutions and cross-sector partnerships to mitigate these threats (Goal 3). We have also embraced a trauma-informed, whole-child approach to school and campus safety, ensuring that students, faculty, and staff can thrive in secure and well-prepared learning environments (Goal 4).

Enhancing intelligence capabilities and strengthening public-private collaboration remain key priorities. These initiatives will allow Illinois to improve threat response and facilitate seamless information sharing (Goal 5). As technology continues to evolve, we are also committed to equipping residents with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the digital landscape safely, reinforcing security awareness and digital resilience across our communities (Goal 6).

Critical infrastructure resilience is fundamental to Illinois' Homeland Security strategy. We continue to invest in strengthening essential services against potential disruptions while implementing cutting-edge measures to safeguard public assets and operations (Goals 7 and 8). Protecting the integrity of our electoral process also remains a cornerstone of our Democracy, ensuring that every eligible voter can participate safely and confidently (Goal 9).

To advance Statewide preparedness, Illinois has reinforced public safety communications infrastructure and established a unified vision for interoperability, ensuring a coordinated response to natural, technological, and human-caused threats (Goals 10 and 11). Moreover, we are committed to equipping first responders with comprehensive, up-to-date training, ensuring they are prepared to address evolving security challenges (Goal 12).

These initiatives reflect Illinois' unwavering commitment to safeguarding every community and strengthening our collective resilience. Through innovation, collaboration, and strategic investment, we are building a safer, stronger, and more inclusive Illinois that is prepared to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.



LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR'S HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR



ALICIA TATE-NADEAU

I am honored to present this year's Annual Homeland Security Report, which reflects Illinois' unwavering commitment to safeguarding our communities through a whole-of-state approach. Guided by Vision 2028, our strategy prioritizes prevention, resilience, and collaboration, ensuring that every Illinoisan plays a vital role in building a secure and resilient State.

I am also privileged to support Governor Pritzker's Homeland Security vision, which unites our State's efforts to address evolving threats and strengthen our collective preparedness. His steadfast leadership and commitment to the safety and security of all Illinoisans have been instrumental in advancing our mission, fostering innovation, and enhancing our ability to protect communities across the State.

Recognizing the interconnected nature of public safety, State Agencies, Commissions, and Boards across Illinois have voluntarily aligned their efforts with Vision 2028, fostering a unified and coordinated approach to Homeland Security priorities.

This collective commitment reflects our shared responsibility to enhance public safety, resilience, and preparedness across all sectors. By proactively integrating their strategies, agencies at every level are strengthening coordination, bolstering operational readiness, and cultivating a culture of continuous improvement to adapt to evolving security challenges.

Over the past year, Illinois has taken proactive steps to address a rapidly evolving threat landscape—from preventing Targeted Violence and Terrorism to strengthening our critical infrastructure. Significant progress has been made in fostering a culture of preparedness and resilience. Strategic investments have equipped communities across Illinois with the tools, resources, and knowledge needed to identify, prevent, and mitigate threats effectively. These efforts underscore our shared commitment to public safety as a collaborative endeavor, uniting State agencies, local governments, and the community.

Our whole-of-state approach has enhanced local capabilities and reinforced critical partnerships with public and private sector allies. Through these collaborations, we have strengthened our threat response posture, safeguarded critical infrastructure, and enhanced our ability to withstand and adapt to emerging threats. Together, we are preparing Illinois to navigate the complexities of an ever-changing security landscape, guided by safety, unity, and resilience principles.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: to protect and empower all who call Illinois home. This report highlights our achievements over the last year and outlines our continued commitment to advancing Illinois' Homeland Security and resilience. I am grateful to our dedicated partners and every Illinoisan contributing to this mission.

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

Alicia Tate-Nadeau
Governor's Homeland Security Advisor
Chair, Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council



VISION 2028 IN ACTION: ADVANCING HOMELAND SECURITY AND BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES ACROSS ILLINOIS

Each day, Illinoisans navigate a range of domestic and international threats that impact daily life, from active shooter incidents to disruptions of critical infrastructure. Addressing these evolving threats requires proactive strategies that enhance local response capabilities and strengthen community preparedness. Illinois' Homeland Security mission is to create a safer, more resilient State by prioritizing prevention and education and equipping residents, communities, and organizations with the tools to identify, mitigate, and prevent potential risks.

Over the past year, State Agencies, Commissions, and Boards, alongside the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council, have demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the State's Homeland Security priorities. Recognizing the interconnected nature of public safety, these entities reinforced a unified, strategic approach to resilience, preparedness, and emergency response by voluntarily aligning their efforts with Vision 2028. This collective effort underscores Illinois' dedication to safeguarding communities, strengthening public safety, and addressing natural and human-caused threats through proactive and inclusive initiatives.

Image used under license from Shutterstock.com

Vision 2028 outlines a clear strategy for closing gaps, building capacity, and uniting efforts across the State. This comprehensive framework emphasizes innovation, collaboration, and resilience, positioning Illinois as a leader in Homeland Security while enhancing the State's readiness to address threats through prevention, preparedness, and response. The Governor's Homeland Security Advisor (HSA) coordinates this mission across the State. This integrated approach allows organizations to maintain programmatic autonomy while aligning key initiatives with shared goals, strengthening Illinois' Homeland Security posture and ensuring adaptability in an evolving threat landscape.

This report highlights Illinois' leadership in Homeland Security by showcasing Illinois' whole-of-state achievements over the past year and detailing strategic investments aligned with Vision 2028. These efforts focus on building safer, more resilient communities and equipping residents with the tools and knowledge necessary to thrive in a secure environment. The report also identifies critical gaps and areas for growth, providing insight into how the State can further strengthen its Homeland Security efforts in the face of emerging threats and challenges.



BRIDGING THE GAPS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND EXPANSION IN ILLINOIS' HOMELAND SECURITY

In 2024, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) announced a nationwide nine percent (9%) reduction in funding across all Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness grant programs for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (FFY24). This decrease significantly impacted key grants such as the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

Illinois's reduction was even more significant, with a ten percent (10%) decrease in its Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness grant allocations. Since 9/11, Illinois has relied heavily on Federal grant funding to support its Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness efforts. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) is the State Administrative Agency (SAA) for these grants, which fund critical programs and initiatives.

Impact of FFY24 Funding Reductions

The FFY24 funding reductions posed a significant challenge to Illinois' ability to sustain and strengthen Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness programs, impacting the State's resilience and capacity to respond to current and emerging threats. These budget cuts hindered Illinois' ability to launch new initiatives to address evolving threats and strained resources needed to maintain existing programs. The reductions directly impacted critical areas such as first responder training, with a cut affecting the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and fire service training. Law enforcement Mutual Aid through the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) faced a reduction limiting essential equipment, training, and staffing. Additionally, the State Weapons of Mass Destruction Team (SWMDT) and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams experienced a funding loss, reducing operational readiness and restricting equipment maintenance.

Further compounding the challenge, the Statewide Fusion Center (STIC), a key intelligence-sharing hub, also saw a reduction. At the same time, fire Mutual Aid through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) suffered a funding cut significantly hindering Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capabilities. School and campus safety programs, which play a critical role in preparedness and prevention, were also reduced, compromising security efforts across educational institutions. Emergency response communications also faced a reduction, diminishing the ability to coordinate and disseminate critical information effectively. Lastly, Emergency Management preparedness was impacted, delaying technology upgrades and personnel replacements essential for maintaining Statewide readiness. These funding reductions collectively weakened Illinois' ability to protect its communities, respond effectively to crises, and adapt to an increasingly complex threat environment.

Strengthening Illinois' Homeland Security: Strategic Investments for a Resilient Future

To address the challenges and gaps posed by reduced Federal funding, it is recommended that Illinois make a strategic State investment in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. This funding will ensure the continuation of vital programs, enhance community safety in an increasingly complex threat landscape, and support new initiatives to combat emerging risks. Recommended investments include:

- **Homeland Security Training and Public Awareness:** Funding would support workshops, training exercises, and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) focused on Terrorism, Targeted Violence, Domestic Violent Extremism, critical infrastructure protection, and school safety. This investment will equip local governments and community members with the knowledge and skills to effectively prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from potential threats.
- **Statewide Active Shooter Incident Management & Reunification Training:** Funding would support regional, Statewide Active Shooter Incident Management and Reunification Training to enhance first responder preparedness and interagency collaboration across Illinois.

- **Increase Funding for the Illinois Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP-IL):** Increase funding for the NSGP-IL to help faith-based organizations and houses of worship enhance physical security, support training efforts, and bolster preparedness against growing threats of Terrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.
- **Funding Mutual Aid (ILEAS, MABAS, and Urban Search and Rescue Team):** Funding would support the long-term sustainment and capability development of law enforcement and fire Mutual Aid through the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) and Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). This would enhance operational readiness, facilitate rapid deployment, and support specialized rescue operations Nationwide, including the MABAS Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team.
- **Regional Homeland Security Program Staff:** Investing in regional Homeland Security Program staff at IEMA-OHS would strengthen Statewide education and prevention efforts, align with best practices in other States, and enhance initiatives focused on preventing Targeted Violence, Terrorism, and Domestic Violent Extremism. These staff members would also support critical infrastructure protection and promote school and campus safety.
- **Increase Funding for the Preparedness and Response (PAR) Grant Program:** Expanding the PAR Grant Program will enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities for State agencies, public universities, and local governments, ensuring sustained public safety efforts, improved Mutual Aid, and strengthened operational readiness across Illinois.

These recommended investments are essential for Illinois to maintain public safety, respond effectively to emergencies, and enhance resilience against emerging threats. By prioritizing State-level investments, Illinois can foster a self-reliant and proactive approach to addressing its communities' diverse security needs. This strategic allocation will strengthen the State's ability to independently manage a wide range of challenges while ensuring the safety and security of all Illinois residents.

Moreover, the investments align with the priorities outlined in Vision 2028, Illinois' 2024-2028 Homeland Security Strategy, and Executive Order 2303, Section B-II. This directive charges IEMA-OHS with addressing legislative priorities, fostering collaboration with Federal and local agencies, conducting training and exercises, securing funding from Federal and State sources, and providing public risk communications related to Homeland Security. These efforts underscore Illinois' commitment to a comprehensive, State-led approach to Homeland Security.

ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (IL-HSAC)



Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI): Strengthening Regional Security

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS)

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI)

Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN)

Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board – Executive Institute

Illinois School and Campus Safety Program at Western Illinois University (WIU)

Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT)

URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI): STRENGTHENING REGIONAL SECURITY

Cook County and the City of Chicago are the only jurisdictions in Illinois federally designated as Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) regions. This distinction underscores their critical role in both national and Homeland Security. This designation is based on population density, economic significance, and vulnerability to potential threats, making them pivotal to State and National preparedness efforts. As UASI regions, Cook County and Chicago receive targeted Federal funding to enhance their ability to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of Terrorism and other catastrophic events.

The UASI grant program enables these areas to implement advanced security measures, strengthen regional collaboration, and develop innovative Emergency Management programs. These initiatives focus on protecting critical infrastructure, improving public safety, and fostering community engagement to create a comprehensive approach to evolving security threats. While the UASI program is Federally managed, it operates closely with State governments to align with broader State Homeland Security strategies. In Illinois, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) serve as the State Administrative Agency (SAA), overseeing the allocation and management of UASI funds to ensure alignment with Federal and State priorities.

UASI programs collaborate with Statewide Security Advisors, Emergency Management Directors, and other key public safety officials to ensure seamless integration with Statewide security efforts. This coordination ensures that resources are used efficiently while complementing Illinois' broader Homeland Security Strategy. A key component of this effort is the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG), a collaborative body responsible for planning and overseeing Homeland Security initiatives within designated urban areas.

Comprised of representatives from State and Local agencies, the UAWG ensures strategic planning, resource allocation, and the implementation of preparedness and response efforts. It is critical in directing UASI funding toward infrastructure protection, emergency response capabilities, and Terrorism prevention. By fostering interagency collaboration and aligning with Vision 2028, the UAWG enhances regional security and resilience against evolving threats. Coordinating planning and training strengthens Illinois' overall preparedness and response capacity, ensuring the State remains equipped to address complex and dynamic security challenges.



As a key member of the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) and one of Illinois' Federally designated Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASIs), **Cook County** is critical in strengthening the State's homeland security. Through strategic investments, regional collaboration, and innovative emergency preparedness initiatives, Cook County continues to enhance public safety, protect critical infrastructure, and improve coordination among local, state, and federal partners. Over the past year, UASI funding has supported comprehensive training programs, expanded emergency response capabilities, and implemented technology-driven solutions to mitigate evolving threats.

Cybersecurity Enhancements

Cook County's Information Security Office (ISO) significantly advanced cybersecurity resilience, protecting critical infrastructure and improving incident response across county agencies.

- The County's Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) system processed over 151 billion auditable events, 3,180 of which required analyst triage, leading to 546 incident investigations. To strengthen election security, the Cook County ISO collaborated with the Cook County Clerk's Office to safeguard the 2024 Presidential Primary and General Election.
- A comprehensive security assessment of the Cook County Information Security Framework included nine security control assessments, 148 interview sessions, and an evaluation of 2,962 controls, enhancing the county's overall security posture. Recognizing the impact of emerging technologies, Cook County ISO initiated a Generative AI Risk Management Policy to address cybersecurity risks associated with artificial intelligence. Additionally, a county-wide cybersecurity tabletop exercise was conducted to refine incident response protocols.
- To promote cybersecurity awareness, Cook County ISO led initiatives such as recognizing Cybersecurity Awareness Month, issuing newsletters, hosting discussions with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and distributing educational materials. The ISO also enhanced cybersecurity training by incorporating additional courses for individuals with elevated system privileges.

Intelligence Sharing and Emergency Operations

The Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS) continues to expand its Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which serves as a critical coordination hub for incident management. Technology investments have enhanced virtual participation, ensuring seamless coordination across agencies.

- A mass notification system enables real-time alerts to county departments, first responders, and partner jurisdictions via text, email, and voice messaging. The expansion of WebEOC has improved situational awareness by allowing municipalities to report emerging events and lifeline status updates, informing resource allocation decisions. In 2024, EMRS issued 247 Daily Situation Reports, 174 Situational Awareness Updates, and 101 public alerts, onboarding 19 new public safety partners to expand the system's reach further.
- EMRS also strengthened mobile asset communications, including satellite and repeater systems, ensuring uninterrupted emergency communication. Additionally, the agency partnered with the FBI and Cook County Sheriff's Office to provide Terrorism Officer Liaison Training, enhancing law enforcement's ability to counter Domestic Violent Extremism.

Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places

In 2024, Cook County EMRS supported suburban municipalities in bolstering security infrastructure and acquiring critical protective equipment. Nineteen suburban communities received sub-grants to enhance public safety through anti-vehicle barriers, drone technology, and first responder training.

Cook County EMRS played a key role in security operations for the 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC), a Federally Declared National Special Security Event (NSSE).

- 37 UASI-funded physical assets and personnel were deployed across four emergency command centers, and 46 training sessions prepared over 1,000 personnel for emergency response.
- Additionally, UASI funding enabled the procurement of a refrigerated morgue/autopsy trailer for the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, enhancing mass fatality response capabilities.

Community Preparedness and Resilience

Cook County EMRS prioritized community engagement, participating in 149 preparedness outreach events to educate residents and strengthen ties between emergency agencies and the public. To enhance readiness, EMRS hosted five and participated in six cross-discipline emergency response exercises. The agency also provided Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and sustained six active municipal CERT programs.

A key milestone was the inaugural EMRS Training and Preparedness Summit, attended by representatives of 58 municipalities and organizations. Additionally, EMRS collaborated with the City of Chicago to update the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), ensuring regional preparedness for significant hazards. Over 3,600 individuals participated in 139 training events, totaling 50,875 training hours.

Statewide Mutual Aid and Specialized Response Teams

Through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) subgrant, Cook County enhanced training and equipment for urban area-based response teams. The county supported Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Water Rescue Team training, including a September mobilization exercise at Apple Canyon Lake. In October 2024, Cook County's Swift Water Rescue Teams deployed to North Carolina to assist in Hurricane Helene response efforts.

UASI-funded training and equipment supported hazardous materials (HAZMAT) teams, biological agent detection capabilities, and emergency response efforts for the 2024 DNC. Thirty-three (33) specialized certification courses trained over 1,000 response team members, providing 11,280 student hours of instruction.

Interoperable Communications

Cook County maintained and upgraded its radio communication systems, supporting the Sheriff's Department, municipal agencies, and 135 local jurisdictions. Maintenance of the 800 MHz simulcast system, microwave backhaul networks, and dispatch consoles ensured uninterrupted communications. The system handled up to 90,000 daily transmissions across 160 talk groups, supporting 12,000 subscriber units. Infrastructure enhancements, including natural gas-powered generators, HVAC system upgrades, and structural integrity inspections of radio towers, further bolstered resilience. During the 2024 DNC, Cook County's radio system outperformed U.S. Secret Service equipment, demonstrating superior audio quality and reliability. The system remains a critical resource for smaller municipalities with limited public safety budgets.

Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places

Cook County EMRS supported suburban municipalities in strengthening their security infrastructure and acquiring critical protective equipment. In 2024, 19 suburban communities and government partners received subgrants focusing on enhancing public safety. Many of these awards supported the purchase of anti-vehicle barriers, drone technology, and first-responder training to protect large gatherings and high-profile locations.

Additionally, Cook County EMRS invested in new assets to protect significant public events. This funding expanded the availability of anti-vehicle barriers as a Mutual Aid resource for all suburban partners, ensuring access to enhanced security measures when needed.

- Cook County EMRS played a key role in security operations in preparation for the 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC), a Federally Declared National Special Security Event (NSSE). To support safety and coordination efforts for this NSSE, 37 UASI-funded physical assets and personnel were deployed to four emergency command centers. To further bolster preparedness, Cook County EMRS facilitated 46 first-responder training sessions ahead of the 2024 DNC, training over 1,000 personnel in key emergency response protocols.
- Cook County EMRS also invested in UASI funding to procure a 26-foot refrigerated morgue/autopsy trailer for the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office (MEO). This specialized asset, designed for rapid deployment during mass fatality incidents, is equipped with an autopsy table and a body cooler, significantly enhancing the MEO's ability to respond efficiently to emergencies that impact public health and safety.

These strategic investments reflect Cook County's ongoing commitment to enhancing security, strengthening emergency preparedness, and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors during high-profile events and critical incidents.

Orland Fire Protection District Training Initiatives

- The Orland Fire Protection District leveraged UASI funding to provide specialized training for first responders. In 2024, 600 students completed 68 courses, with 80% of training dedicated to Cook County personnel. Offerings included rescue and HAZMAT courses, National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) programs to improve response to domestic violent extremism and active shooter incidents.
- Community preparedness efforts expanded through the "Stop the Bleed" program, equipping at-risk populations with bleeding control training. Increased demand for NIMS/ICS courses underscored the county's commitment to emergency response readiness.

Cook County's strategic investments in cybersecurity, emergency management, public safety, and community preparedness reinforce its leadership in homeland security. Through regional collaboration, cutting-edge technology, and robust training initiatives, Cook County continues to strengthen resilience against emerging threats, ensuring the safety of residents and critical infrastructure. The county remains committed to proactive security measures, fostering partnerships, and leveraging UASI funding to enhance emergency response capabilities Statewide.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by Cook County have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.1.1; 1.2: 1.2.1, 1.2.6; 1.4: 1.4.2), Goal 2 (2.1: 2.1.2, 2.1.5), Goal 3 (3.3: 3.3.3, 3.3.9), Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.6; 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.6), Goal 6 (6.4: 6.4.2), Goal 7 (7.1: 7.1.1-7.1.5; 7.2: 7.2.1, 7.2.2; 7.3: 7.3.1, 7.3.2, 7.3.4; 7.4: 7.4.1, 7.4.2), Goal 8 (8.1: 8.1.1-8.1.5; 8.3: 8.3.1; 8.5: 8.5.1), Goal 9 (9.1: 9.2.1, 9.2.2), Goal 10 (10.1: 10.1.1, 10.1.2; 10.2: 10.2.1-10.2.4; 10.3: 10.3.1-10.3.3; 10.4: 10.4.2, 10.4.3; 10.5: 10.5.1-10.5.4; 10.6: 10.6.1-10.6.5), Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1-11.1.6; 11.3: 11.3.1-11.3.8; 11.5: 11.5.1, 11.5.3; 11.6: 11.6.1-11.6.6) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.1, 12.2.2; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

The **City of Chicago**, as a key member of the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) and one of Illinois' Federally designated Urban Areas Security Initiatives (UASI), plays a pivotal role in enhancing Homeland Security through strategic investments, regional collaboration, and innovative emergency preparedness programs. Over the past year, Chicago has advanced initiatives to improve public safety, secure critical infrastructure, and strengthen coordination among local, State, and Federal partners. Leveraging UASI funds, the City has expanded emergency response capabilities, enhanced training programs, and adopted technology-driven solutions to address evolving threats. Through its leadership in interagency coordination, emergency planning, and public safety efforts, Chicago remains at the forefront of Illinois' resilience against terrorism, natural disasters, and other security challenges.

Safe Chicago Initiative

Safe Chicago, launched in 2021 by the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) in collaboration with the Chicago Fire Department (CFD), Chicago Police Department (CPD), and the Department of Fleet & Facility Management (2FM), aims to enhance public safety by equipping every City-owned or leased facility with bleeding control kits. Partnering with the American College of Surgeons and other agencies, the program has distributed over 1,100 kits to more than 350 locations. In 2024 alone, over 700 individuals received training in 39 sessions, bringing the total number of trained City employees to more than 3,500. This initiative also includes Narcan distribution, reinforcing the city's commitment to life-saving emergency preparedness.

Specialized Homeland Security Training and Exercises

CFD's Specialized Operations Teams, including HAZMAT, Collapse, and Air/Sea Rescue units, undergo rigorous training to maintain certifications and preparedness for complex emergency responses. These teams are equipped to handle threats such as active shooter incidents, IEDs, high-rise terrorism, and fire as a weapon. Large-scale exercises simulate mass casualty events, urban search and rescue (USAR), radiological emergencies, and specialized EMS operations. These efforts ensure that CFD remains ready to respond swiftly to emerging security challenges.

Suspicious Activity Reporting and Fusion Center Operations

Chicago continues to enhance its capabilities in detecting and managing suspicious activity through its fusion center's all-crimes approach. The Crime Prevention Information Center (CPIC) has strengthened its technological infrastructure, including license plate readers, GIS mapping tools, and mobile workstations. Investments in software licenses and analyst training ensure continued expertise in cyber threats, intelligence analysis, and suspicious activity reporting (SAR) protocols, further bolstering public safety.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Detection Technology

OEMC's UAS drone detection program, launched in 2020, strengthens emergency management and public safety efforts through passive detection of drone activity. Drones are deployed at major events such as NASCAR, Lollapalooza, the Chicago Marathon, and the Pride Parade, supporting crowd monitoring, vehicular traffic assessments, and thermal imaging for large-scale fires. Using up to eight drones enhances situational awareness and safety during planned and unplanned events.

Search and Rescue (SAR) Equipment

CFD has strengthened SAR capabilities by equipping teams with advanced tools, such as seismic detection technology and SearchCam Recon devices, which improves operational efficiency in rescue efforts.

Special Event Security

Chicago continues to enhance special event security through partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies. In 2024, OEMC coordinated security efforts for over 1,000 special events and led workshops on extreme weather preparedness and large-scale event planning. Key events included the 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC), Memorial Day Weekend, and Mexican Independence Day celebrations. OEMC collaborated with the U.S. Secret Service, CPD, and CFD to develop a comprehensive public safety plan for the DNC, operating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Joint Information Center (JIC) to ensure seamless stakeholder coordination.

Law Enforcement Special Response Capabilities

Chicago sustains critical law enforcement capabilities by equipping CPD's specialized units, including SWAT, the Bomb Squad, Canine Unit, and Marine and Helicopter Units. Investments in advanced tactical gear, bomb detection equipment, explosives detection canines, and state-of-the-art communication tools enhance the city's ability to respond to terrorism threats. Funding also supports joint training exercises in WMD mitigation and active assailant response in collaboration with CFD and OEMC.

Public Safety Communication Modernization

Chicago has prioritized enhancing City-wide interoperability to ensure seamless information sharing across agencies. Investments include:

- **Portable Radios:** 400 new radios will be procured to replace outdated models, ensuring reliable communication among first responders.
- **Emergency Command Communication:** OEMC equips command staff with interoperable radios and headsets for coordinated responses during large-scale incidents.
- **Strengthening encrypted, secure communications** across public safety agencies through long-term modernization efforts.
- **Dispatch Infrastructure Upgrades:** Implementation of advanced Series Dispatch Consoles at OEMC and the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) to improve coordination.

Liaison Officer Outreach and Community Preparedness

Chicago continues to strengthen its Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) and Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) programs, training first responders and private sector partners to recognize and report suspicious activity. The Chicago Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), overseen by OEMC, has expanded its volunteer force to over 300 members, prioritizing outreach in historically underserved communities.

Special Operations Tactical Medical Unit

Chicago established a Special Operations Tactical Medical Unit to provide on-site physician consultation for complex incidents, aligning with national models to enhance medical support during emergencies.

Public and Private Partnerships

Through the Chicago Public and Private Partnership (CP3) initiative, CPD, CFD, and OEMC collaborate with businesses to enhance emergency preparedness. The CP3 portal enables private sector partners to share critical infrastructure details with first responders, streamlining emergency responses and improving security across the city.

Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection

The City is expanding cybersecurity capabilities to protect critical infrastructure, including government facilities, transportation networks, and water/wastewater systems. Key initiatives include:

- Threat Intelligence Development: Strengthening situational awareness through collaboration with state and federal agencies.
- Operational Technologies Security: Protecting essential infrastructure from cyber threats.
- Next-Generation Firewall Expansion: Enhancing resilience against evolving cybersecurity risks.
- CLEAR Modernization: Upgrading CPD's data management system for crime tracking, intelligence sharing, and evidence-based policing.
- Public Safety Camera Network Upgrades: Maintaining and expanding Chicago's network of approximately 6,000 surveillance cameras and license plate readers to improve situational awareness and public safety.

Public Safety Warning System Enhancements

Chicago is upgrading its public safety warning systems to improve mass notification capabilities.

Enhancements include:

- RF-Based Call Box Integration: Strengthening emergency response coordination.
- Public Announcement System Upgrades: Modernizing notification systems at beaches and parks to improve public safety during emergencies.

Chicago's continued investment in homeland security, emergency preparedness, and public safety infrastructure ensures that the City remains resilient against evolving threats. Through strategic planning, interagency collaboration, and cutting-edge technology, Chicago strengthens its position as a national leader in urban security and emergency management, safeguarding residents and visitors.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the City of Chicago have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.2.1; 1.2: 1.2.2, 1.2.4-1.2.7; 1.4: 1.4.1-1.4.3), Goal 2 (2.1: 2.1.1-2.1.5; 2.3: 2.3.1, 2.3.2), Goal 3 (3.2: 3.2.1-3.2.3; 3.3: 3.3.1-3.3.9), Goal 4 (4.2: 4.2.4), Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.6; 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.6), Goal 7 (7.1: 7.1.5; 7.2: 7.2.1, 7.2.2; 7.3: 7.3.1-7.3.4; 7.4: 7.4.1, 7.4.2), Goal 8 (8.1: 8.1.1, 8.1.5; 8.5: 8.5.1), Goal 10 (10.1: 10.1.1, 10.1.2; 10.2: 10.2.1-10.2.4; 10.3: 10.3.1, 10.3.2; 10.5: 10.5.1-10.5.4; 10.6: 10.6.1-10.6.5), Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1-11.1.6; 11.2: 11.2.1-11.2.4; 11.3: 11.3.1-11.3.8; 11.4: 11.4.1-11.4.4; 11.5: 11.5.1-11.5.3, 11.5.5, 11.5.6; 11.6: 11.6.1-11.6.5) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.1, 12.2.2; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT ALARM SYSTEM

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) is the largest law enforcement mutual aid organization in the U.S., uniting over 900 agencies across Illinois' 102 counties under the "Strength Through Cooperation." Through a Statewide mutual aid agreement, it facilitates no-cost resource sharing and law enforcement deployments.

Statewide Communications & Command Capabilities

The ILEASCOM-UASICOM program enhances emergency communication and coordination, managing:

- 2,500 pre-programmed radios for state and federal emergency frequencies.
- Nine Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications Suites (ITECS) and 13 Unified Command Post (UCP) vehicles.
- A fleet of RapidCom vehicles, one operational and two more in development.
- Regular training exercises ensuring interoperability and rapid response readiness.

Training & Interoperability Readiness

The ILEAS Training Center in Urbana serves as the organization's headquarters, hosting:

- Over 200 training events in the past year for 3,885 students, totaling 37,734 training hours.
- 45 interoperability training classes in 2024 alone, engaging approximately 800 law enforcement personnel.

Specialized Law Enforcement Response

The ILEASSRT-UASISRT program deploys multi-jurisdictional teams Statewide, including:

- Five WMD/SRT teams (SWAT-certified officers for hazardous environments).
- Ten Mobile Field Force (MFF) teams for crowd control and disaster response.
- Eight FBI-coordinated bomb squads equipped with robots and bomb suits.

In 2024, ILEAS units responded to 165 known incidents, including:

- 61 EOD operations (ordnance recovery, protective sweeps, threat responses).
- 104 critical incidents, such as armed barricaded subjects, high-risk warrants, and demonstrations.
- Notable deployments at the 2024 DNC in Chicago and 2024 RNC in Milwaukee.

Opioid Overdose Prevention & Public Safety Expansion

ILEAS partners with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) on opioid prevention, distributing:

- 25,135 NARCAN boxes and 3,981 Leave-Behind Kits, with 9,159 kits deployed in 2024.
- Collaborating with 109 election boards to enhance emergency preparedness in public spaces.

ILEAS remains dedicated to strengthening partnerships, expanding emergency response capabilities, and enhancing public safety initiatives throughout Illinois, ensuring a safer future for all communities.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 3 (3.2: 3.2.1, 3.2.3), Goal 4 (4.4: 4.2.4), Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.6; 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.4), Goal 7 (7.2: 7.2.1, 7.2.2), Goal 9 (9.3: 9.3.2), Goal 10 (10.1: 10.1.1-10.1.3; 10.2: 10.2.1-10.2.4; 10.3: 10.3.1-10.3.3; 10.4: 10.4.4; 10.6: 10.6.1, 10.6.3-10.6.5), Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1, 11.1.2, 11.1.5, 11.1.6; 11.3: 11.3.1-11.3.8) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.1, 12.2.2; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

The **Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)** is a Statewide mutual aid network supporting over 1,100 fire departments and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies across Illinois and neighboring states. Organized into 69 divisions within eight regions, MABAS coordinates resources for large-scale emergencies, including fires, natural disasters, special rescues, and hazardous materials (HAZMAT) incidents. It manages specialized response teams, including thirty-one HAZMAT Response Teams, twenty-nine Technical Rescue Teams (TRTs), sixteen Water Rescue Teams, and Illinois Task Force 1 (IL-TF 1) Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team.

MABAS leverages grant funding to provide training, equipment, and maintenance, ensuring specialized disaster response capabilities remain available Statewide. To enhance communication, resource sharing, and preparedness, it partners with agencies such as the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS), Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (Cook County EMRS), and Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS). Standardized operations follow governance documents, including the Policies and Procedures Manual, Field Operating Guide, and Preparedness Workbook.

Illinois Task Force 1 (IL-TF 1) Urban Search and Rescue Team

IL-TF 1, based at the MABAS Readiness Center in Wheeling, Illinois, is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type I USAR Task Force. The team specializes in structural collapse, rope rescue, vehicle extrication, confined space, trench and excavation, water operations, and hazardous materials (HAZMAT) incidents, including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) defensive operations. IL-TF 1 serves as a Mobile Support Team (MST) and Illinois' primary Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) response unit, deploying both in-state and nationally.

In 2024, IL-TF 1 supported the State's Solar Eclipse Response Plan, participated in a mobilization exercise with Wisconsin Task Force 1 (WI-TF 1) for the 2024 Republican National Convention (RNC), and deployed personnel for the 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC). The team also responded to Hurricane Helene in North Carolina as a FEMA NIMS Type II Swift Water/Flood Search and Rescue (SAR) Team, conducting thousands of structure searches and flood rescues. Additionally, IL-TF 1 coordinated a Fire Engine Strike Team deployment for Hurricane Milton in Florida.

Beyond deployments, IL-TF 1 conducted monthly skills maintenance training, participated in a May Mobilization Exercise (MOBEX) in Kane County and collaborated with the Illinois National Guard (ILNG) and Illinois State Police (ISP) Joint Hazard Assessment Team (JHAT).

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Response Teams

MABAS' 31 deployable HAZMAT teams responded to forty-one incidents in 2024, handling CBRNE threats, hazardous leaks, and radiological surveys. Each team is comprised of at least twenty qualified personnel, with a minimum of ten trained to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration/National Fire Protection Association (OSHA/NFPA) HAZMAT Technician level. Teams have atmospheric monitors, radiation detectors, Level A entry suits, and decontamination capabilities. Significant 2024 responses included the DNC, a Matteson train derailment, and hazardous substance incidents at Southern Illinois correctional facilities.

Technical Rescue Teams (TRTs)

MABAS' 29 deployable TRTs responded to seventeen incidents in 2024, specializing in surface, below-grade, elevated, confined space, mass transportation, and structural collapse rescues. These TRTs also serve as Illinois WMD response teams, supporting the DNC and regional tornado responses.

Water Rescue Teams

MABAS' 16 Water Rescue Teams responded to 28 incidents in 2024, conducting surface, subsurface (dive), ice, and swift water rescues. Notable responses included flooding events along the Kankakee River and Nashville, Illinois, as well as deployments for Hurricane Helene. The teams also conducted key training exercises to improve efficiency.

Special Event Support

MABAS provided mutual aid for significant events, including the 2024 Solar Eclipse, the RNC, the DNC, the Chicago Marathon, the NASCAR Race, the Pride Parade, and the Illinois State Fair. Support included emergency response planning, resource deployment, and collaboration with IEMA-OHS, Cook County EMRS, and the U.S. Secret Service.

Interoperability and Communications

MABAS operates 69 dispatch centers connected via two data networks, with VHF backup and satellite communication capabilities. The MABAS Communications Committee oversees policy updates to maintain operational readiness.

Unified Mutual Aid Network

In 2024, MABAS enhanced regional emergency response by implementing a Master MABAS Agreement, uniting all 1,100-member fire departments under a coordinated mutual aid system. This agreement strengthens resource-sharing, efficiency, and interoperability across state lines.

MABAS continues to evolve as a leader in mutual aid and disaster response, reinforcing its commitment to protecting communities through preparedness, collaboration, and innovation. MABAS remains dedicated to ensuring a rapid and effective emergency response across Illinois and beyond by enhancing interoperability, expanding training, and strengthening partnerships.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 2 (2.1: 2.1.3, 2.1.5), Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.6; 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.6), Goal 7 (7.1: 7.1.1, 7.1.3; 7.2: 7.2.1, 7.2.2; 7.3: 7.3.1, 7.3.2; 7.4: 7.4.1, 7.4.2), Goal 10 (10.1: 10.1.1-10.1.3; 10.2: 10.2.1-10.2.4; 10.3: 10.3.1-10.3.3; 10.4: 10.4.2-10.4.6; 10.5: 10.5.1-10.5.4; 10.6: 10.6.1-10.6.5), Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1-11.1.6; 11.2: 11.2.1, 11.2.2, 11.2.4, 11.2.5, 11.2.8, 11.2.11; 11.3: 11.3.1, 11.3.6; 11.6: 11.6.1-11.6.5) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.2; 12.3: 12.3.1; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) delivered extensive training programs to over 700 organizations Statewide, enhancing Illinois' emergency response capabilities. Key initiatives included Basic and Advanced Active Shooter Incident Management training, where 383 organizations benefited from courses designed to improve coordination, medical intervention, and survivability. IFSI also reached 398 organizations with School Safety & Violent Event Incident Management Reunification Courses, providing a structured approach to managing violent school events. National Incident Management System (NIMS) training strengthened response planning, while rescue operations training in rope, trench, and confined space rescue prepared 230 organizations for high-risk situations. Specialized fire suppression courses reached 165 organizations, Responder Intervention Team (RIT) training enhanced firefighter rescue skills for forty-three (43) organizations, and technical skills training supported 137 organizations in vehicle, machinery, and structural collapse rescue.

These programs underscore IFSI's commitment to a robust, coordinated emergency response framework across Illinois. Through comprehensive training, IFSI has equipped responders to handle complex emergencies and bolstered community resilience. These initiatives reflect IFSI's sustained commitment to public safety, strengthened response capabilities, and increased resilience across the State.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Illinois Fire Services Institute (IFSI) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.1.1; 1.2: 1.2.7; 1.3: 1.3.2; 1.4: 1.4.2, 1.4.3), Goal 2 (2.1: 2.1.2; 2.2: 2.2.1; 2.3: 2.3.2), Goal 3 (3.1: 3.1.3; 3.2: 3.2.1; 3.3: 3.3.9), Goal 4 (4.1: 4.1.2, 4.1.3; 4.2: 4.2.4; 4.3: 4.3.3; 4.4: 4.4.1; 4.5: 4.5.1, 4.5.3), Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.6; 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.3), Goal 6 (6.1: 6.1.2; 6.2: 6.2.2), Goal 7 (7.1: 7.1.4; 7.2: 7.2.1, 7.2.2; 7.3: 7.3.2, 7.3.4; 7.4: 7.4.1, 7.4.2), Goal 8 (8.1: 8.1.5; 8.3: 8.3.1; 8.5: 8.5.1), Goal 9 (9.1: 9.1.5; 9.2: 9.2.2; 9.3: 9.3.1), Goal 10 (10.1: 10.1.1; 10.2: 10.2.4), Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1; 11.3: 11.3.1, 11.3.3-11.3.5; 11.4: 11.4.2; 11.5: 11.5.1-11.5.3; 11.6: 11.6.1, 11.6.3) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

ILLINOIS PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID NETWORK

The **Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN)** advanced its mission over the last year to provide Mutual Aid in emergencies with over 470 member agencies Statewide. Expanding beyond traditional debris management, IPWMAN supported high-profile events such as the 2024 Solar Eclipse and the 2024 Democratic National Convention (2024 DNC). Key initiatives included launching a GIS-based debris management system for improved recovery tracking across Illinois. Over the last year, IPWMAN facilitated multiple training sessions and event coordination calls, engaging around 200 participants, and responded to seven (7) missions with sixty-one (61) participants, including storm cleanups in Beecher, Kirkland, and Geneva, delivering critical aid valued at over \$115,000. These efforts ensure a robust, unified response to disasters across Illinois.

These programs underscore IPWMAN's dedication to a resilient, coordinated emergency response framework Statewide. These activities underscore IPWMAN's commitment to safeguarding Illinois communities and strengthening preparedness for any emergency.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 7 (7.4: 7.4.1), Goal 8 (8.3: 8.3.2), Goal 10 (10.3: 10.3.1) and Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1; 11.6: 11.6.1, 11.6.2, 11.6.3, 11.6.4, 11.6.5).

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD - EXECUTIVE INSTITUTE

The **Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute (ILETSB-EI)**, established in 1992, advances law enforcement leadership by addressing current and emerging policing challenges. Education, training, research, and evaluation enhance law enforcement standards and professional growth, supporting supervisors, managers, and executives committed to policing excellence.

ILETSB-EI fosters collaboration among law enforcement agencies and educational institutions to promote public service excellence. Cultivating continuous learning and innovation equips law enforcement professionals to navigate evolving public safety challenges while maintaining integrity, efficiency, and community trust. Key Homeland Security Initiatives over the last year include:

- **Mobile Training Units (MTUs):** ILETSB-EI oversees thirteen MTUs serving all 102 Illinois counties. These nonprofit, governmental entities provide in-service training tailored to regional needs, enhancing officers' skills and accessibility to training.
- **Domestic Violent Extremism and Targeted Violence Prevention:** ILETSB-EI provides State and local public safety officials with Homeland Security training on targeted violence prevention, community threat assessment, cybersecurity, soft targets/crowded spaces, and active threat response. A monthly Homeland Security newsletter is distributed.
- **Statewide Homeland Security Training:** Training addresses emerging threats and aligns with the Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment/Stakeholder Preparedness Review (THIRA/SPR) and Vision 2028. In 2024, ILETSB-EI and MTUs hosted 47 Homeland Security and end-user courses, training 905 officers. Active Threat Master Instructors conducted over 150 additional courses. Executive summits covered human trafficking and election security.
- **Soft Target Protection:** Active threat training through MTUs covers high-risk operations, rapid deployment, police-paramedic collaboration, and counterterrorism capabilities. The Active Threat Master Instructor Certification Program expands the instructor pool.
- **Cybersecurity:** ILETSB-EI strengthens cyber awareness and training for law enforcement and fosters partnerships to enhance digital infrastructure safety and resiliency.
- **Active Assailant Response:** The Illinois Active Threat Master Instructor Certification Program—the first of its kind in the U.S.—provides standardized training endorsed by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, Illinois State Police, Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System, and Illinois Tactical Officers Association. This program ensures that law enforcement officers share common tactics, terminology, and operational capabilities Statewide, improving coordinated responses to violent incidents in schools, places of worship, businesses, and communities. The four-week certification program trains Master Instructors in high-risk tactics, including tactical vehicle stops, building searches, active threat/rapid deployment, solo officer response, and rescue task force operations.

Through these initiatives, ILETSB-EI remains dedicated to enhancing public safety, strengthening law enforcement capabilities, and fostering collaboration across agencies. By prioritizing innovation, professional development, and preparedness, ILETSB-EI ensures that Illinois law enforcement is equipped to meet evolving challenges and uphold the highest service standards to communities Statewide.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board - Executive Institute (ILETSB-EI) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.2: 1.2.6, 1.2.7), Goal 2 (2.1: 2.1.3, 2.1.5), Goal 3 (3.1: 3.1.3), Goal 4 (4.1: 4.1.2; 4.3: 4.3.4), Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.4, 5.1.6), Goal 6 (6.1: 6.1.3), Goal 7 (7.2: 7.2.1, 7.2.2; 7.4: 7.4.2), Goal 8 (8.2: 8.2.2), Goal 9 (9.1: 9.1.2, 9.1.4, 9.1.5) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.1, 12.2.2; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

ILLINOIS SCHOOL AND CAMPUS SAFETY PROGRAM AT WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

The **Illinois School and Campus Safety Program**, a collaboration between the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council and Western Illinois University, is managed by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute. It enhances emergency preparedness and response through training, technical assistance, and resource distribution for schools, higher education institutions, and law enforcement agencies. The program maintains the Illinois School and Campus Safety Resource Center, offering resources on threat assessment, violence prevention, emergency operations planning, and crisis communication. It also distributes weekly email updates to over 23,000 stakeholders and actively engages in conferences and community events to promote school safety best practices.

Over the past year, the program has facilitated multiple specialized training courses, strengthening school safety and homeland security efforts:

- **Threat Assessment Team Training:** A two-day course on multidisciplinary teams, targeted violence, and case management. Ten sessions trained 345 attendees.
- **Campus Threat Assessment and Management:** A two-day course on early identification, assessment, and intervention in threatening behavior cases. Seven sessions trained 259 attendees.
- **Digital Threat Assessment:** A one-day online threats, geolocation tracking, and social media analysis course. Four sessions trained 175 attendees.
- **Advanced Digital Threat Assessment:** A one-day hands-on course expanding digital threat assessment capabilities. Two sessions trained 59 attendees.
- **Behavioral and Digital Threat Assessment:** A one-day training integrating behavioral and digital assessment methodologies. Two sessions trained 52 attendees.
- **Preventing Targeted Violence Through Leakage and Cyber Investigations:** A two-day course on identifying and investigating online threats. Six sessions trained 143 attendees.
- **Crisis Communication Principles: This one-day training on communication before, during, and after critical incidents trained 101 attendees in four sessions.**
- **Site Safety Security Assessment:** A one-day course on multidisciplinary site safety evaluations. Four sessions trained 105 attendees.
- **Preparing for the Unimaginable: Trauma Recovery and Resilience:** A four-hour training for school safety stakeholders on wellness and trauma recovery. One session trained 103 attendees.
- **Grooming and Sexual Assault Awareness: This one-day course identifies grooming behaviors and provides** intervention strategies. Two sessions trained 57 attendees.
- **Standard Response Protocol and Standard Reunification Method Train-the-Trainer: This was a** one-day training on all-hazards crisis response and student reunification. Two sessions trained 194 attendees.
- **Standard Reunification Method—Reunification Exercise:** A two-day training on implementing reunification processes post-crisis. Two sessions trained 121 attendees.

Statewide Engagement and Outreach

The program participates in conferences and summits, sharing expertise on best practices for school safety. In 2024, it contributed to the Northern Illinois School Safety Summit, the Illinois School Safety Conference, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security Annual Training Summit. It was also presented at the National Campus Safety Conference in Houston, Texas. Community outreach efforts included human trafficking awareness training at the Elmwood Park Back to School Celebration and active threat incident management sessions at regional emergency response summits.

Technical Assistance and Strategic Support

The program provides ongoing guidance to schools and public safety entities, supporting strategic planning for reunification exercises, security hardening, and emergency preparedness. It has advised the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission GIS Safety Commission on school safety initiatives and assisted multiple school districts and Regional Offices of Education in developing full-scale training exercises.

The Illinois School and Campus Safety Program continues to enhance safety and emergency preparedness across the State through training, outreach, and expert support.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Illinois School and Campus Safety Program at Western Illinois University have advanced the following goals, objectives, and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.1.2; 1.2: 1.2.6; 1.4: 1.4.1), Goal 2 (2.3: 2.3.2), Goal 4 (4.1: 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3; 4.2: 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.4; 4.3: 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4; 4.6: 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.3), Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1; 11.6: 11.6.3, 11.6.4) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.1; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2)

ILLINOIS MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The **Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT)** mobilizes a trained volunteer team of healthcare providers and mission support specialists from across Illinois, including those in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) regions (Cook County and City of Chicago), to assist local healthcare during emergencies. This multi-disciplinary team, composed primarily of emergency healthcare professionals and logistics, IT, communications, and safety experts, provides triage and interim medical care for survivors and evacuees during medical disasters. In addition to emergency response, IMERT strengthens community resilience through education and training initiatives to enhance Illinois's capability to manage disasters and mass casualty events.

This year, IMERT deployed a nineteen (19) member medical strike team to Lawrenceville during the 2024 Solar Eclipse to support the area's limited medical resources in anticipation of a large influx of visitors. The team set up an alternate care site at the local hospital, and while no significant incidents occurred, the experience strengthened IMERT's collaboration with rural communities. IMERT also conducted training for team members, including six (6) clinical and logistics sessions for alternate care site operations, a three-day deployment exercise at Fort Massac, mass casualty training at Naval Station Great Lakes, and a STOP the Bleed session at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) Training Summit.

These efforts underscore IMERT's commitment to protecting Illinois communities and enhancing Statewide preparedness.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 7 (7.4: 7.4.1), Goal 8 (8.3: 8.3.2), Goal 10 (10.3: 10.3.1) and Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1; 11.6: 11.6.1, 11.6.2, 11.6.3, 11.6.4, 11.6.5).

A WHOLE-OF-STATE APPROACH TO HOMELAND SECURITY: STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS, PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE ACROSS ILLINOIS

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)

Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA)

Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) &
The Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes (CDHC)

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS)

Illinois State Police (ISP)

Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)





Illinois' State agencies, commissions, and boards are vital in advancing the State's Homeland Security education, prevention, and preparedness efforts, which the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor coordinates. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) leads Statewide preparedness initiatives, coordinating emergency response efforts across agencies. The Illinois State Police (ISP) and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) enhance public safety through law enforcement coordination and response, fire prevention and response, and emergency response training. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) facilitates intelligence-sharing and develops criminal justice strategies to mitigate threats. At the same time, the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) implements security measures within correctional facilities to prevent extremist radicalization and organized crime activities.

Additionally, agencies such as the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) and the Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes (CDHC), along with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), play a critical role in ensuring equitable access to emergency resources and providing support for vulnerable populations during disasters. The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) safeguards the State's food supply and agricultural infrastructure from threats, including Bioterrorism and natural disasters. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) helps mitigate flood risks and strengthens environmental security efforts. Meanwhile, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) contributes to economic resilience by supporting workforce stability.

These organizations enhance Illinois' ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Homeland Security threats through interagency collaboration. Their collective efforts in training, emergency response, intelligence sharing, and infrastructure protection ensure a cohesive and adaptive security framework that strengthens resilience across the State.

ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

The **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)**, established in 1983, works to enhance justice administration by uniting leaders, stakeholders, and experts to evaluate programs, address challenges, and recommend solutions that promote efficiency, effectiveness, and equity. ICJIA also supports Illinois' whole-of-state Homeland Security mission.

ICJIA administers and provides expertise to task forces that address public safety challenges and develop evidence-based solutions:

- Statewide **Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee** establishes regional teams to improve domestic violence-related death investigations and drive systemic reform.
- **Firearm Prohibitors and Records Improvement Task Force** enhances firearm prohibitor data reporting to the Illinois State Police and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by assessing gaps and coordinating federal grant applications.

ICJIA leads initiatives to reduce violence and support under-resourced communities through evidence-based programs:

- **Adult Redeploy Illinois (ARI)** funds alternatives to incarceration for individuals with behavioral health needs. In 2024, ARI allocated over \$10 million to 27 sites operating more than 50 diversion programs across 45 counties, serving 2,500 individuals and saving the State an estimated \$75 million.
- **Institute 2 Innovate (i2i)** builds capacity for community-based organizations by providing training, funding, and operational support. Fifty organizations have received technical assistance, 10 have completed the program, and \$1.5 million has been allocated to capacity-building.
- **Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program** funds grassroots organizations addressing violence, economic disinvestment, and justice inequities, providing planning grants, training, and capacity-building support.

Additional initiatives include:

- **Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Services Program** fosters stakeholder collaboration to provide essential resources.
- **State Crisis Intervention Program** supports firearm restraining order implementation.
- Street Intervention and Violence Prevention Programs fund outreach and conflict mediation in high-need areas.
- **Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council (IFVCC)** improves responses to family violence, including intimate partner abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and abuse against people with disabilities.

ICJIA also manages funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and leads the **Government Alliance for Safe Communities**, aligning State, county, and city resources to maximize violence prevention efforts. In 2024, this initiative launched three funding opportunities totaling \$100 million for capacity-building across Illinois.

Since 1985, ICJIA has managed federal and state grants, driving systemic improvements. The 2020-2024 Statewide Violence Prevention Plan aligns with the Governor's priorities to break cycles of violence, address systemic inequities, and foster resilient communities. Key programs supporting these goals include:

- **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)** funds state and local agencies addressing law enforcement, prosecution, corrections, drug treatment, and crime victim services.
- **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT)** supports treatment programs for incarcerated individuals to reduce recidivism.
- **Bullying Prevention Grant Program** funds evidence-based bullying prevention initiatives in K-12 schools.
- **Safe From the Start Program** provides early intervention for children exposed to violence, serving 924 children and adults in 2024.

Through collaboration, innovation, and evidence-based strategies, ICJIA remains committed to fostering a safer, more equitable Illinois while advancing public safety and Homeland Security priorities.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.1.2; 1.2: 1.2.1-1.2.7; 1.3: 1.3.1-1.3.3; 1.4: 1.4.1-1.4.3), Goal 3 (3.1: 3.1.1; 3.2: 3.2.1, 3.2.3; 3.3: 3.3.1-3.3.9) and Goal 4 (4.4: 4.4.1-4.4.3).

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The **Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA)** supports Illinois' whole-of-state Homeland Security mission by enhancing safety, preparedness, and resilience in the agricultural sector. Over the past year, IDOA has focused on improving safety protocols for handling anhydrous ammonia, a high-risk agricultural chemical.

Through its **Anhydrous Ammonia Certified Competent Attendant Training**, conducted in partnership with the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, IDOA equipped fertilizer facility employees with essential emergency response and reporting skills, granting a three-year certification. Illinois has 5,680 certified competent attendants, with 2,220 newly certified in the past year.

IDOA's Bureau of Agricultural Products Inspection also administers the **Anhydrous Ammonia Certified Grower and Grower Farm Operator Training**, which educates growers and farm operators on safe handling, response, and reporting procedures. Since its launch in 2022, the program has issued 12,292 active certifications, with 808 growers completing training this year through online and in-person sessions. To date, 14,077 training instances have been recorded, encompassing new and renewal certifications.

By providing both in-person and online training, IDOA has strengthened Statewide preparedness and response capabilities, reinforcing the safety of Illinois's agricultural sector, a critical component of the State's infrastructure.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 5 (5.2: 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3), Goal 7 (7.1: 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4; 7.4: 7.4.1, 7.4.2), Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.1; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The **Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)** promotes public safety through secure and humane confinement while emphasizing rehabilitation and reentry support to reduce recidivism. The department focuses on evidence-based practices, education, vocational training, and mental health services to help individuals prepare for reintegration. IDOC also prioritizes transparency, accountability, and stakeholder collaboration to improve correctional outcomes Nationwide.

As part of its efforts to combat human trafficking, IDOC participates in the **Joint Human Trafficking Working Group** alongside the Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Human Services, and other agencies. IDOC has been tasked with developing a standardized screening tool to assess individuals for human trafficking victimization upon entry into the correctional system and establishing follow-up protocols to provide targeted reentry services. These initiatives align with the department's trauma-informed, victim-centered approach to rehabilitation and public safety.

Over the past year, IDOC expanded its Medication for **Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Program** to support recovery, reduce overdose deaths, and ensure access to evidence-based treatment. The department assessed its 2023 pilot MOUD program at two women's facilities, which provides methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone to individuals already on MOUD or diagnosed with opioid use disorder near release. To maintain continuity of care, individuals receive two weeks of take-home medication, a two-week prescription with one refill, and information on Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR NOW) upon release. Narcan is also offered to all individuals exiting custody.

To further expand MOUD access, IDOC partnered with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's GAINS Center Policy Academy and received support from the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery. The department has since developed a strategy to introduce MOUD into men's facilities Statewide. Additionally, IDOC issued interim guidelines requiring that individuals prescribed MOUD in county jails continue receiving treatment upon entering IDOC custody unless medically contraindicated.

IDOC remains committed to advancing rehabilitation initiatives that promote long-term public safety and successful community reintegration.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

The **Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)** supports Illinois' Homeland Security mission by fostering collaboration, innovation, and community-driven solutions. Through partnerships with key stakeholders, IDES addresses workforce challenges, expands access to resources, and promotes equitable opportunities Statewide. Over the past year, IDES has advanced this mission through outreach efforts, human trafficking prevention, and modernization initiatives, strengthening Illinois' workforce and contributing to a safer, more resilient State.

Key initiatives in the past year include:

- Under the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title III/Wagner-Peyser program, IDES conducts **outreach to migrant and seasonal farmworkers** at worksites and housing locations. In 2024, outreach staff visited 1,062 locations, providing information on workforce services and employment opportunities. Staff receive training on human and labor trafficking to better support and protect this vulnerable population.
- Across approximately 35 American Job Centers and IDES local offices, private areas such as restrooms feature **signage with hotline resources for human and labor trafficking and opioid overdose support**.
- In collaboration with the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (IL-DoIT), IDES **implements integrity measures and educates the public on scams**, including government impersonation and cybersecurity threats.
- IDES is **modernizing its services** through integrity-focused and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-funded projects, improving fraud detection, identity verification, and unemployment insurance system upgrades to ensure equitable access to resources.
- IDES administers and provides information on the **Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance** program.
- Partnering with WIOA collaborators, IDES supports economic growth by **linking the workforce to education, training, and employment opportunities**. Through data-driven reemployment practices and collaboration with state and local partners, IDES enhances workforce system outcomes and service delivery.

IDES continues to strengthen Illinois' workforce system through these initiatives, ensuring individuals can access the resources and support needed to succeed. IDES is crucial in advancing economic resilience and security across the State by prioritizing innovation, integrity, and collaboration. A strong workforce is essential to Illinois' whole-of-state Homeland Security efforts, as economic stability, access to opportunity, and protections for vulnerable workers contribute to overall community resilience.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS & ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON DISCRIMINATION AND HATE CRIMES

The **Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR)** enforces the Illinois Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, financial credit, public services, accommodations, and education. The agency investigates, mediates, and conciliates complaints across more than 25 protected classes. The **Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes (CDHC)**, housed within IDHR, advises the Governor on strengthening hate crime responses, supporting victims, and preventing future incidents. IDHR and CDHC advance civil rights through victim support, community engagement, education, enforcement, and coordination. Key initiatives from the past year include:

- **Help Stop Hate** – Launched in 2024, this initiative provides a reporting mechanism for individuals and communities experiencing or witnessing acts of hate. The program connects victims to resources, supports prevention efforts, and reinforces that acts of hate will not be ignored.
- **Building a Network to Combat Hate** – IDHR and CDHC are cultivating partnerships across Illinois to help local governments address hate crimes. In 2024, CDHC collaborated with a Boston Children's Hospital research team to conduct interviews and a community convening in an Illinois metropolitan area with over 230,000 residents. The effort provides data-driven strategies to prevent radicalization.
- **Education as a Primary Prevention Tool** – Research in violence prevention highlights the importance of addressing injustices and fostering a sense of belonging. IDHR's enforcement of the Human Rights Act, one of the strongest in the nation, helps ensure justice for all, regardless of identity or financial resources.
- **Fair Housing Training Program**—This program, Offered four times per year, educates property owners, managers, and industry professionals on fair housing laws, ensuring equal access to housing.
- **Training Institute** – Provides courses on workplace discrimination, harassment prevention, and compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act.
- **Museum of Tolerance Programs**—With funding from the Illinois General Assembly, IDHR supports the Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance (MOT) in delivering K-12 educational programs on civil rights, hate, and digital literacy. The Mobile Museum of Tolerance, a 32-seat Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)- accessible classroom, provides immersive learning experiences. MOT is also expanding its Combat Hate program, a digital media literacy workshop for students.
- **Public Programs on Conflict and Violence Prevention** – CDHC hosted two events featuring journalist Amanda Ripley on high conflict and Curtis Toler on fostering civil discourse.
- **Hate Crimes Training for Law Enforcement** – In 2024, CDHC partnered with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) to enhance hate crimes training. Three informational sessions brought together 62 participants, including representatives from law enforcement agencies, community organizations, elected offices, State agencies, and universities. Sessions featured insights from the Illinois Attorney General's Office, law enforcement leaders, and legislative experts.

IDHR and CDHC are critical in Illinois' whole-of-state Homeland Security efforts by protecting civil rights and combating discrimination. Strengthening protections against hate and bias enhances community resilience and safety across the State.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) and Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes (CDHC) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.1.2; 1.2: 1.2.1-1.2.5, 1.2.7; 1.3: 1.3.1-1.3.3; 1.4: 1.4.1-1.4.3), Goal 2 (2.1: 2.1.1-2.1.4; 2.2: 2.2.1, 2.2.2; 2.3: 2.3.1, 2.3.2) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.1, 12.2.2; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The **Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)**, established in 1997, provides streamlined access to integrated services for Illinois residents. Its focus is on economic independence and self-sufficiency. Over the past year, the following key initiatives have supported violence prevention, public safety, and community resilience.

Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP)

The OFVP plays a central role in Governor Pritzker's Homeland Security vision, addressing the root causes of gun violence and strengthening community-based interventions. Illinois is advancing a national model for firearm violence prevention, justice reform, and public safety. Since its creation, firearm victimizations have declined across the State. From January 2021 to December 2024, Chicago saw a 36% decrease, while Greater Illinois experienced a 29% reduction. In 2024 alone, approximately 80% of Chicago's Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) communities saw declines in firearm victimizations compared to 2023.

- **Community Violence Intervention (CVI):** Illinois, Cook County, and the City of Chicago committed \$100 million to expand CVI programs, with Illinois investing \$46.8 million. These programs engage individuals at the highest risk of firearm violence through outreach, case management, and victim services. In 2024, OFVP served approximately 43,000 individuals through 264 grantees, including 7,935 receiving trauma-informed behavioral health support, 14,620 benefiting from CVI and violence prevention services, and 13,861 participating in youth development programs. Additionally, 1,213 Peacekeepers conducted 2,466 mediations to resolve conflicts.
- **Peacekeepers Program:** IDHS invested \$34.5 million in the Peacekeepers Program under RPSA, deploying trained community members to mediate conflicts and prevent violence. Over the past year, 1,213 Peacekeepers participated, conducting 2,466 mediations to de-escalate tensions.
- **Peacekeepers Housing Support Initiative:** In collaboration with the Illinois Office to Prevent & End Homelessness, this pilot program provides rental assistance and emergency housing for Returning Citizen Peacekeepers at risk of gun violence. A \$2 million grant funds housing support for approximately 450 individuals from December 2024 to July 2025.
- **Youth and Behavioral Health:** Gun violence is a public health crisis disproportionately affecting communities of color. In 2024, OFVP invested \$25.9 million in trauma-informed behavioral health services, serving 7,935 individuals. Funded programs focus on trauma recovery, mental health therapy, psycho-education, and community training to recognize and address signs of trauma.
- **Technical Assistance and Capacity Building:** A \$7.5 million investment in 2024 supported training and capacity-building programs for organizations serving diverse communities. These efforts included 490 training sessions and 296 technical assistance sessions to enhance service delivery and sustainability.
- **Emergency Victims Support Flex Fund:** A \$2 million fund provides immediate financial assistance to victims of gun violence and their families. Managed by Community Conveners, this program ensures swift economic support during critical moments.

- **Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA):** Funded with \$250 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), RPSA supports violence prevention initiatives in 42 Illinois communities. As of June 2025, total projected awards are expected to reach \$342 million, with expenditures estimated between \$260 million and \$270 million.
- **Illinois Justice Cabinet:** This newly formed body integrates violence prevention, reentry support, and justice reform. It focuses on reducing justice system involvement through early prevention, economic opportunities, mental health services, and workforce reintegration.
- **Interagency Collaboration:** OFVP partners with the Illinois State Police (ISP), the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to share data and implement targeted violence prevention efforts.
- **Enhancing Mental Health Response to Mass Firearm Violence:** IDHS' Division of Mental Health, in partnership with OFVP and the University of Illinois at Chicago, developed a comprehensive mental health response plan for mass firearm violence. Key components include a Statewide response network, crisis navigation services, and a structured response blueprint.

Division of Family and Community Services (FCS)

IDHS' Division of Family and Community Services connects Illinois residents with essential programs to improve well-being and self-sufficiency. Key contributions to the state's public safety and social welfare efforts include:

- **Youth Employment Programs (IYIP & IYIP-SJP):** Providing employment opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24, IDHS funds 76 youth employment grants across 10 Illinois counties.
- **After-School Programs (Teen REACH):** Teen REACH operates at 209 locations Statewide and provides structured after-school programming for at-risk youth ages 6 to 17.
- **Community Youth Services (CYS):** CYS is designed to prevent juvenile delinquency and violence by engaging community members in addressing local issues. Currently, 20 grantees serve 85 communities across 33 counties.
- **Redeploy Illinois:** This program reduces juvenile incarceration by offering community-based alternatives focused on rehabilitation. There are 13 active Redeploy programs covering 43 counties, with additional counties eligible for funding on a case-by-case basis.
- **Prisoner Pre-Release Program:** Implemented in July 2020, this program allows incarcerated individuals to apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits before release, ensuring food security upon reentry.
- **Joint Human Trafficking Working Group:** Co-chaired by ISP and IDHS, this initiative received a \$1.5 million U.S. Department of Justice grant to enhance the State's response to human trafficking. Efforts include developing Statewide victim-centered protocols, implementing screening tools, and strengthening training and data collection practices.

IDHS remains committed to advancing public safety, supporting economic opportunities, and improving community resilience across Illinois.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.1.2; 1.2: 1.2.4; 1.3: 1.3.1, 1.3.2; 1.4: 1.4.1-1.4.3), Goal 2 (2.2: 2.2.1, 2.2.2; 2.3: 2.3.1, 2.3.2), Goal 3 (3.1: 3.1.1, 3.1.3; 3.3: 3.3.1-3.3.9), Goal 4 (4.4: 4.4.1-4.4.3) and Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.4, 5.1.5; 5.2: 5.2.1, 5.2.3-5.2.6).

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The **Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)** mission is to manage, conserve, and protect Illinois' natural, recreational, and cultural resources, further the public's understanding and appreciation of those resources, and promote the education, science, and public safety of Illinois' natural resources for present and future generations.

IDNR's Office of Water Resources (OWR) serves as the State's lead office for water resource planning, navigation, floodplain management, the National Flood Insurance Program, water supply, drought response, and coordination with interstate water resource organizations. Its interagency responsibilities include managing the State water plan, overseeing drought response efforts, providing flood emergency reports, and conducting comprehensive reviews of Illinois water use laws. OWR's primary capital initiative focuses on urban flood damage reduction and supporting local governments through planning, design, construction, and financial assistance for flood mitigation projects. Additionally, the office facilitates the acquisition of flood-prone homes and businesses to reduce long-term flood risks.

Over the past year, IDNR-OWR has worked diligently to strengthen Illinois' emergency preparedness by enhancing the State's resilience to natural disasters through the following key initiatives:

- Through the U.S. Army Corp of Engineer's (USACE) **Silver Jackets Program**, partners including USACE, IDNR-OWR, IL State Water Survey, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS), and local municipalities continue to populate the Illinois Structures at Flood Risk (SAFR) website, a web mapping application designed to indicate structure-specific flood risk data. To date, flood risks for numerous structures along the Mississippi, Illinois, and the Middle Fork of the Chicago rivers have been evaluated, covering 129 communities and forty-one (41) Counties.
- IDNR-OWR developed a **dynamic flood inundation product** for the Upper Mississippi River, which illustrates projected flood levels according to projected river gauge readings. This product is beneficial for emergency flood responders and flood resilience planners.

IDNR-OWR's efforts to enhance flood risk assessment, mitigation, and emergency preparedness directly support Illinois' whole-of-state Homeland Security mission by strengthening community resilience against natural disasters. Through strategic partnerships and data-driven planning, these initiatives safeguard critical infrastructure, protect residents, and improve the State's ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather events, contributing to a more secure and prepared Illinois.

ILLINOIS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) ensures that the State is prepared for, prevents, responds to, and recovers from natural, human-caused, and technological disasters, hazards, and acts of terrorism. Its mission is driven by three pillars: the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and the Office of Nuclear Safety (ONS). IEMA-OHS manages the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), oversees disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, and safeguards residents from ionizing radiation through nuclear facility regulation and radiation safety initiatives.

Office of Homeland Security (OHS)

OHS leads efforts to safeguard the State through prevention, preparedness, and education programs focused on countering Targeted Violence, Terrorism, and Domestic Violent Extremism and securing critical infrastructure and Illinois' schools and campuses. Key OHS initiatives over the last year include:

- **Published Vision 2028**, Illinois' first whole-of-state Homeland Security Strategy, emphasizing prevention, education, and collaboration.
- In partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, OHS piloted the **Invent2Prevent** program in five Chicago Public Schools. Englewood S.T.E.M. placed third in the national competition with a project addressing female-on-female bullying through trauma-informed therapy.
- Launched a five-series **public awareness campaign on suspicious activity reporting**.
- Led enrollment, marketing, and public engagement efforts for Safe2Help Illinois, expanding participation in this vital school safety resource managed by IEMA-OHS in partnership with the Illinois State Police (ISP).
- OHS Preparedness and Grants Administration (PGA) Division **strategically managed federal and State funding to enhance emergency preparedness**. Resources supported first responders, including deployments to the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. Security enhancements were provided to over 300 nonprofit organizations at high risk of Terrorist threats. Additional investments strengthened cybersecurity resilience, emergency operations centers, and active shooter response training.
- OHS's Division of **Statewide Interoperability** (DSI) was critical in supporting the State's **emergency communication** efforts during significant events such as the 2024 Solar Eclipse and the Democratic National Convention. DSI collaborated with cellular providers, developed contingency plans, and deployed communication assets to ensure seamless operations. Additionally, DSI led interoperability training programs, expanding Illinois' cadre of instructors and hosting six regional seminars to enhance public safety agencies' communication capabilities. DSI released the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan and the Illinois Interoperability Field Operations Guide to further improve emergency communications.

OHS remains committed to strengthening Illinois' Homeland Security and preparedness through innovation, collaboration, and strategic resource allocation.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

OEM coordinates disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery programs, serving as the State Emergency Response Commission. It operates a 24-hour Communication Center and the **State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)**, coordinating Statewide response and recovery efforts and supporting emergency planning.

In 2024, OEM played a crucial role in **disaster response and recovery**. It facilitated a Presidential Disaster Declaration for the July Illinois Derecho and secured over \$100 million in federal aid. Through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, it advanced resilience efforts, with over 185 pending applications totaling \$902 million. It supported 14 Flood Mitigation Assistance and 82 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant applications.

OEM led **emergency planning and coordination for major events**, including the 2024 Democratic National Convention. It developed state and federal consequence management plans, conducted exercises, and fully activated the SEOC for real-time situational awareness. For the 2024 National Election, an interagency election support plan was created, and Statewide contingency planning for the 2024 Solar Eclipse was coordinated.

The office enhanced situational awareness by integrating real-time data into a **Common Operating Picture (COP)**, enabling faster disaster response coordination. Through the **Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)**, OEM also coordinated the deployment of Illinois personnel to support operations at the 2024 Republican National Convention and hurricane response efforts in North Carolina and Florida.

Training and exercises also remained a priority, with OEM facilitating drills for significant events, radiological preparedness, and interoperability with neighboring states. The 2024 IEMA-OHS Training Summit, themed “Stronger Together,” brought over 500 professionals together to enhance community resilience. Additionally, the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee continued to improve inclusive disaster planning, leading to updates in the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan.

Through proactive planning, collaboration, and response coordination, OEM strengthens Illinois’ resilience and ensures that communities Nationwide are better prepared for future emergencies.

Office of Nuclear Safety (ONS)

ONS protects residents and the environment from ionizing radiation through over two dozen regulatory programs. These include emergency planning, responder training and radiological incident responses, regulating radioactive materials and equipment, accrediting medical technologists, and certifying mammography facilities. ONS monitors eleven (11) nuclear reactors at the six (6) nuclear power stations in Illinois and inspects and escorts spent nuclear fuel shipments. Key ONS highlights from 2024 include:

Emergency Preparedness & Response:

- Conducted a series of Federally evaluated nuclear power station exercises in conjunction with State and local government agencies, enabling the training of over 2,000 individuals and engaging 800+ participants through their involvement in multiple scenarios.
- Enhanced real-time radiological monitoring of nuclear power stations via Reactor Data Links and conducted field radionuclide monitoring and sampling operations using advanced detection systems in preparation for radiological and nuclear emergency events responses.

Collaboration & Information Sharing:

- Strengthened partnerships with private sector entities such as Constellation Energy and local, State, and Federal government agencies to ensure robust communication and response coordination during radiological and nuclear emergencies.
- Supported State and Federal security operations, including radiological screenings during the 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC) and the Illinois State Fair.

Regulatory Compliance & Environmental Monitoring:

- Inspected, monitored, and licensed radioactive material users and radiological generating equipment.
- Monitored radiological impacts by collecting and analyzing over 1,300 environmental samples in the geographical vicinities of Illinois' six (6) nuclear power stations and other radiological facilities throughout the State.

Advancing Public Safety:

- Distributed 6,000 dosimeters to first responders within nuclear power station emergency preparedness planning zones, provided radiation safety guidance to private and public entities, and launched state-of-the-art radiological detection field vehicles.
- Collaborated with the Illinois State Police (ISP) to conduct inspections and escorts of high-consequence radioactive material shipments.

Public Outreach & Education:

- Conducted educational and training outreach to local governments, Emergency Management agencies, and first responder organizations through forty-four (44) weeks of training and workshops to raise awareness of radiological threats and provide best practice guidance for safe response operations.
- Supported low-income residents with radon testing and mitigation programs through collaborative grant initiatives.

Technological & Laboratory Advancements:

- Utilized advanced detection capabilities of the Gamma Detection Network and Gaseous Effluent Monitoring Systems for continuous, real-time monitoring of all nuclear power stations in Illinois.
- IEMA-OHS Radiochemistry Laboratory analyzed over 4,000 samples, sustaining the radiological environmental monitoring initiative, supporting the FDA food defense readiness program, and reinforcing field teams' preparedness activities and response operations for radiological and nuclear incidents and emergency events

Comprehensive Planning & Response:

- Updated and streamlined radiological and nuclear emergency response plans, including the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents, Incident Management for Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Events, and Operational Plan for Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Events.
- Established Mission Ready Packages to facilitate assistance for radiological and nuclear emergency events under the interstate collaborative Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

ONS continues to be a key partner in strengthening Illinois' preparedness for radiological and nuclear challenges, prioritizing the safety of residents and critical infrastructure.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.1.2; 1.2: 1.2.4-1.2.7; 1.3: 1.3.1-1.3.3; 1.4: 1.4.1-1.4.3), Goal 2 (2.1: 2.1.3, 2.1.5; 2.2: 2.2.1, 2.2.2; 2.3: 2.3.1, 2.3.2), Goal 3 (3.3: 3.3.2, 3.3.5-3.3.9), Goal 4 (4.1: 4.1.2, 4.1.3; 4.2: 4.2.4; 4.3: 4.3.1, 4.3.3, 4.3.4; 4.4: 4.4.3; 4.5: 4.5.1, 4.5.3; 4.6: 4.6.1-4.6.3), Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.4, 5.1.6; 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.6), Goal 6 (6.2: 6.2.2; 6.3: 6.3.1, 6.3.3; 6.4: 6.4.2-6.4.4), Goal 7 (7.1: 7.1.1, 7.1.3-7.1.5; 7.2: 7.2.1, 7.2.2; 7.3: 7.3.1, 7.3.2, 7.3.4; 7.4: 7.4.1, 7.4.2), Goal 8 (8.1: 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.1.5; 8.3: 8.3.1; 8.5: 8.5.1), Goal 9 (9.1: 9.1.4; 9.3: 9.3.1, 9.3.2), Goal 10 (10.1: 10.1.1-10.1.3; 10.2: 10.2.1-10.2.4; 10.3: 10.3.1-10.3.3; 10.4: 10.4.1-10.4.6; 10.6: 10.6.1-10.6.5), Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1-11.1.6; 11.2: 11.2.1-11.2.11; 11.3: 11.3.1-11.3.8; 11.4: 11.4.1, 11.4.2; 11.6: 11.6.1, 11.6.3-11.6.6) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.1, 12.2.2; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

Over the past year, the **Illinois State Police (ISP)** achieved significant advancements across multiple specialized units, strengthening public safety, Homeland Security, and intelligence capabilities Statewide. These efforts highlight ISP's commitment to a comprehensive approach to enhancing public safety, improving intelligence sharing, and advancing response capabilities across the State. Key initiatives from the past year include:

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and State Weapons of Mass Destruction (SWMDT) Teams: ISP SWAT expanded its K-9 program, upgraded its Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) program, and secured an Advanced Tactical Emergency Medical Services (EMS) vehicle. At the same time, the SWMDT updated ballistic shields and robotic technology.

Threat Mitigation: In 2024, the ISP established a new threat mitigation unit tasked with reimagining how it assesses threats against public officials and State facilities. This unit trained on and incorporated known Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) practices from other State agencies into a systematic process that collaborates with public safety and public health partners around Illinois.

Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC): As Illinois' central fusion center, STIC processed 14,617 information requests, shared intelligence through 6,432 notifications, conducted 52 presentations with 3,508 attendees, and vetted 6,411 Homeland Security partners, including sectors such as cybersecurity, public health, and school safety. STIC also coordinated infrastructure security, managed the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Program, and recorded a 183% increase in reported cyber incidents (363 cases).

School Safety: ISP, in partnership with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS), managed Safe2Help Illinois, the State's school safety helpline. This confidential program provides students with multiple reporting options—via website, app, text, and phone—to confidentially report safety concerns, including bullying, mental health issues, and threats of violence, fostering a supportive environment. Over the past year, Safe2Help Illinois received 1,646 reports, enabling timely guidance and intervention. ISP's School Safety Intelligence Officer in the STIC also tracked 181 threats against educational facilities, adding 441 new schools to the safety program.

Public Safety and Event Support: STIC activated its Public Safety Room seven (7) times, hosting 692 participants for cross-discipline coordination. ISP deployed UAS detection capabilities for eleven (11) special events, enhancing situational awareness and public safety.

2024 Democratic National Convention (2024 DNC): The ISP was one of the 2024 DNC's primary public safety partners. Complex planning and coordination led to the largest deployment of ISP personnel in the history of the ISP, with hundreds of sworn and code personnel assigned full-time to the week-long detail. The ISP had an extensive role with their full-time SWAT team, the SWMDT, and the Executive Protection Unit. Overall, the ISP expended 11,431 overtime hours, conducted several counter UAS details in Chicago, and provided security and safe transportation for over 60 individual dignitaries.

Critical Infrastructure and Private Sector Engagement: The Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC) Infrastructure Security Awareness Program onboarded twenty-six (26) companies and 90 new members, totaling 508 members from 246 companies actively contributing to critical infrastructure protection efforts.

Crime Gun and Narcotics Intelligence: Through a new crime gun intelligence initiative and Counterdrug program with the Illinois National Guard (ILNG), ISP shared actionable intelligence on gun violence and narcotics with its 22 Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces throughout the State. ISP also set up a new complex public safety crime gun initiative in Central Illinois and Southern Illinois, which provides gun violence intelligence and training to geographical public safety agencies around the State. New partnerships with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the latest Chicago Crime Gun initiative have also led to a quick review of Federal and State prosecutorial charges of interstate and inner-city gun crimes.

Health and Public Safety Intelligence: ISP's Public Health Intelligence Officer managed the Public Health Information Sharing Program, providing situational awareness and intelligence tailored to public health needs.

Election Integrity: ISP enhanced election security by supporting the Illinois State Board of Elections through intelligence sharing, incident response planning, and training. With all 108 election authorities participating in STIC's information-sharing program, ISP managed 187 reported phishing attempts, the most common election-related threat. STIC produced key resources, including an Election Threat and Incident Response Planning Meeting Guide and a 2024 Law Enforcement Election Mini Guide, to aid local officials and law enforcement address election security challenges. Additionally, ISP coordinated tabletop exercises and intelligence briefings to strengthen election integrity and public safety partnerships Statewide.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Illinois State Police (ISP) have advanced the following goals, objectives and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.1.1; 1.2: 1.2.7; 1.3: 1.3.2; 1.4: 1.4.2, 1.4.3), Goal 2 (2.1: 2.1.2; 2.2: 2.2.1; 2.3: 2.3.2), Goal 3 (3.1: 3.1.3; 3.2: 3.2.1; 3.3: 3.3.9), Goal 4 (4.1: 4.1.2, 4.1.3; 4.2: 4.2.4; 4.3: 4.3.3; 4.4: 4.4.1; 4.5: 4.5.1, 4.5.3), Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.6; 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.3), Goal 6 (6.1: 6.1.2; 6.2: 6.2.2), Goal 7 (7.1: 7.1.4; 7.2: 7.2.1, 7.2.2; 7.3: 7.3.2, 7.3.4; 7.4: 7.4.1, 7.4.2), Goal 8 (8.1: 8.1.5; 8.3: 8.3.1; 8.5: 8.5.1), Goal 9 (9.1: 9.1.5; 9.2: 9.2.2; 9.3: 9.3.1), Goal 10 (10.1: 10.1.1; 10.2: 10.2.4), Goal 11 (11.1: 11.1.1; 11.3: 11.3.1, 11.3.3-11.3.5; 11.4: 11.4.2; 11.5: 11.5.1-11.5.3; 11.6: 11.6.1, 11.6.3), and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.3: 12.3.1, 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

ILLINOIS OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

r

Over the past year, the **Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)** implemented various impactful programs to enhance public safety and fire prevention across Illinois. These efforts reflect OSFM's commitment to fire prevention, public safety, and community resilience. Key initiatives from the last year include:

- **Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program:** OSFM held four (4) certification courses for new Interventionists, focusing on prevention education, intervention, and referrals to reduce youth-initiated fires. The program received 32 intervention requests and handled 76 cases in total. Of these, 38 involved case number requests from outside agencies, 23 were interventions, and 15 were Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) assessments. Most cases involved children aged four to twelve (4-12).
- **Fire Prevention Inspections:** Through its Division of Fire Prevention, OSFM conducted 4,443 inspections across daycares, group homes, and educational facilities, ensuring compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code standards.
- **Arson Investigation:** OSFM's Division of Arson Investigation handled 1,260 requests. Certified investigators provided 24/7 support for arson and explosion cases, including intelligence sharing with law enforcement to protect critical infrastructure.
- **Interoperability and Safety Communications:** OSFM supported the State's interoperability mission and shared safety intelligence with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) and Illinois State Police (ISP) Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC).
- **Radiological Emergency Support:** As the primary fire and rescue agency for radiological incidents, OSFM provided command, control, and communication support per the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents.
- **Small Equipment Grant Program:** OSFM awarded \$4 million in grants to 168 fire departments, fire districts, and ambulance services for essential equipment, enhancing readiness and response capabilities Statewide.

OSFM's efforts over the past year have strengthened fire prevention, public safety, and emergency response across Illinois. These initiatives reflect Illinois' commitment to a proactive, whole-of-state approach to Homeland Security and public safety.

Throughout the past year, the captioned projects/initiatives led by the Office of The State Fire Marshal (OSFM) have advanced the following goals, objectives, and key outcomes outlined in Vision 2028: Goal 1 (1.1: 1.1.1; 1.3: 1.3.1, 1.3.2), Goal 2 (2.2: 2.2.1, 2.2.2), Goal 4 (4.1: 4.1.2, 4.1.3; 4.2: 4.2.1; 4.3: 4.3.1-4.3.4), Goal 5 (5.1: 5.1.1-5.1.4, 5.1.6), Goal 7 (7.4: 7.4.1, 7.4.2), Goal 10 (10.1: 10.1.1, 10.1.3; 10.2: 10.2.1, 10.2.2, 10.2.4), Goal 11 (11.2: 11.2.1) and Goal 12 (12.1: 12.1.1, 12.1.2; 12.2: 12.2.1; 12.3: 12.3.2; 12.4: 12.4.1, 12.4.2).

CONCLUSION

The challenges Illinois faces—from natural disasters to human-caused threats—demand a comprehensive, adaptive approach to ensure the safety and resilience of our communities. Over the past year, Illinois has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to Homeland Security. Despite significant Federal funding reductions, the State has prioritized innovative solutions, cross-sector collaboration, and strategic investments in critical programs and resources.

Illinois' proactive measures, such as Targeted Violence prevention initiatives, enhanced critical infrastructure protection and expanded training programs, have positioned the State as a leader in Homeland Security. These achievements reflect a shared commitment to empowering residents, organizations, and communities with the tools and knowledge to navigate an increasingly complex threat landscape.

Illinois can ensure its preparedness and response capabilities remain strong by strategically allocating resources to sustain vital programs, address emerging threats, and build capacity. Investments in training, Mutual Aid, public awareness, and infrastructure protection will mitigate risks and foster a safer, more resilient environment for all Illinoisans.

As we look ahead, the collaborative efforts of all State Agencies, Commissions, Boards, and community partners will remain essential to fulfilling the State's Homeland Security mission. Together, these unified efforts will enhance Illinois' ability to adapt, respond, and thrive in the face of evolving challenges, securing a future where public safety and resilience remain at the forefront of our mission.

