

Illinois Emergency Operations Plan

Base Plan

Appendix X-6 Continuity of Government

Illinois Emergency Management Agency and
Office of Homeland Security

September 23, 2026



Illinois Emergency Management Agency
and Office of Homeland Security



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 State of Illinois Managed Plan Base Plan Appendix X-6 Continuity of Government		
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State ESF - Coordinator	Support Agencies & Organizations
Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS)	Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) Illinois Secretary of State (SOS) Illinois State Police (ISP)
Primary State Agencies & Organizations	
Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS)	
Federal ESF - Coordinator	
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	



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Record of Changes

When changes are made to this document, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Changes will be issued by the Inter-Agency Strategic Planning Cell at IEMA-OHS and transmitted to agencies, personnel, and other designees specified by the IEMA-OHS Director or designee via electronic means.
2. When a change is made, an entry will be made in the following log:

CHANGE NUMBER	DATE ENTERED	PAGES OR SECTIONS CHANGED	ENTERED BY
1	May 2026	Biannual Review	Glenn Smith



1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

- 1.1.1. Continuity of Government (COG) is the preservation, maintenance, or reconstitution of constitutional authorities and responsibilities during times of crisis and/or throughout events that may affect the seat of constitutional government. The State of Illinois Continuity of Government (SOI-COG) plan defines the constitutional and statutory provisions related to continuity of government.
- 1.1.2. The SOI-COG does not address long-term reconstitution or devolution actions.

1.2. Scope

- 1.2.1. This appendix addresses the state government's continuation, resumption, and recovery from any incident, emergency, or disaster that threatens to obstruct the ability to carry out constitutional authorities and responsibilities in three specific areas: the seat of government, lines of succession, and emergency powers.
- 1.2.2. This appendix does not:
 - 1.2.2.1. Address the building or agency-specific emergency action plans or occupant emergency plans, or agency-specific Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP),
 - 1.2.2.2. Consider long-term reconstitution or devolution actions, or
 - 1.2.2.3. Supersede individual emergency plans specific to judicial, legislative, or executive offices, and/or enabling authorities for continuation of government outlined in the State of Illinois Constitution, the Illinois Compiled Statutes, or the Illinois Administrative Code.

1.3. Policy

- 1.3.1. Procedures for utilization, control, and use will incorporate and consider operational priorities that include, but are not limited to, the protection of life, public health and safety, property protection, environmental protection, restoration of essential utilities, restoration of essential program functions, and coordination as appropriate.



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- 1.3.2. The Governor or designee will authorize and direct the use of state resources to provide support and assistance to response and recovery efforts after consideration of both priority of need and cost.
- 1.3.3. State response and recovery personnel will be trained in assigned missions and, to the extent possible, made aware of potential risks involved.

1.4. Situation

- 1.4.1. A catastrophic event or crisis has occurred, resulting in the unavailability or loss of some elements of constitutional government.
- 1.4.2. Emergency authorities specified pursuant to the State of Illinois Constitution and/or Illinois Compiled Statutes are in place.
- 1.4.3. Recognized officials are providing public information updates to reassure and inform citizens on the government's viability.

1.5. Assumptions

- 1.5.1. Constitutional government will be restored.
- 1.5.2. The government is providing up-to-date and verified information to the citizens of Illinois on the status of the government.
- 1.5.3. Force security and protection resources are activated and in place to ensure public and government security.
- 1.5.4. Communication between federal, state, and local governments is being maintained to present a common operating picture and to maintain situational awareness.
- 1.5.5. County and Municipal Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) are activated in support of continuity of government operations.
- 1.5.6. Locations used for the resumption of constitutional government are secure and operational.
- 1.5.7. Local, state, federal, mutual aid, and private resources may be utilized as necessary throughout continuity of government operations.



2. Concept of Operations

2.1. General

- 2.1.1. The SOI-COG provides strategic and operational guidelines for state agencies and other organizations activated pursuant to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305) during times of crisis and throughout events affecting the seat of government.
- 2.1.2. The SOI-COG will be considered from initial incident response until no imminent life safety issues are reasonably identified, and the seat of constitutional government and/or constitutional authorities are restored/resumed.
- 2.1.3. The executive branch shall implement appropriate and timely actions to ensure the continuance of government functions and services, to include the ascendance of succession for the chief executive officials.
- 2.1.4. The legislative branch shall implement appropriate and timely actions to ensure the continuance of government functions and services, including:
 - 2.1.4.1. The ascendance of succession for legislative leadership, and
 - 2.1.4.2. Ascendance of the constitutionally authorized chief elected official if the individual holding that position is incapacitated or rendered unfit or unable to fulfill the obligations of the Governor's Office; and to support the implementation of appropriate provisions of the Constitution of the State of Illinois and all other statutes addressing the continuity of government, succession, and emergency powers.
- 2.1.5. The Judicial Branch shall implement appropriate and timely actions to ensure the continuance of government functions and services, to include the ascendance of succession for judicial leadership and ascendance of a constitutionally authorized chief elected official as appropriate.
- 2.1.6. Gubernatorial Succession
 - 2.1.6.1. If the Governor, for any of the reasons specified in Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, is not able to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of his/her office, such powers and duties of the office shall be exercised by the officer next in line



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of succession, in the order provided for in the Governor Succession Act, 15 ILCS 5, as follows:

2.1.6.1.1. The Lieutenant Governor

2.1.6.1.2. The elected Attorney General

2.1.6.1.3. The elected Secretary of State

2.1.6.1.4. The elected Comptroller

2.1.6.1.5. The elected Treasurer

2.1.6.1.6. The President of the Senate

2.1.6.1.7. The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

2.1.6.2. The officer next in line of succession shall serve as Governor for the remainder of the term if he/she succeeds to the office by reason of death, conviction on impeachment, or resignation of the Governor.

2.1.6.2.1. If he/she succeeds in the office because of temporary disability or failure to qualify by the Governor, he/she shall serve until the Governor qualifies or the disability is removed.

2.1.6.2.2. An officer who succeeds in the office of Governor by reason of temporary disability of the Governor shall be designated acting Governor.

2.1.6.3. If an officer next in line of succession shall fail to qualify or if his/her office is vacant, then the officer next in line of succession after him/her who is qualified shall serve as Governor.

2.1.7. Vacancies in Other Elected Offices

2.1.7.1. If the attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller, or treasurer fails to qualify or if their office becomes vacant, the Governor shall fill the office by appointment.

2.1.7.2. The appointee shall hold office until the elected officer qualifies or until a successor is elected and qualified as may be provided by law and shall not be subject to removal by the Governor.



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2.1.7.3. If the Lieutenant Governor fails to qualify or if his/her office becomes vacant, it shall remain vacant until the end of the term.

2.1.8. Vacancies to the Supreme Court

2.1.8.1. A vacancy occurring in the office of a supreme, appellate, or circuit judge shall be filled as the general assembly may provide by law. In the absence of a law, vacancies may be filled by appointment by the Supreme Court.

2.1.8.2. A person appointed to fill a vacancy 60 or more days before the next primary election to nominate judges shall serve until the vacancy is filled for a term at the next general or judicial election.

2.1.8.3. A person appointed to fill a vacancy less than 60 days before the next primary election to nominate judges shall serve until the vacancy is filled at the second general or judicial election following such appointment.

2.2. Notification, Alert and Warning (NAW)

2.2.1. SEOC Notice, Alert, and Warning (NAW) of SEOC Agency Representatives will be handled in accordance with ESF 02 X-01 Notification, Alert, and Warning

2.2.2. Primary and support agencies are responsible for internal and support partner Notifications, Alerts, and Warnings.

2.3. Activation

2.3.1. The SEOC activation level standard operating procedure will be used to determine staffing levels.

2.4. Communications

2.4.1. Communications throughout response and recovery will be conducted in accordance with standard operating procedures and managed using established procedures, processes, and policies outlined in IEOP ESF-2 Communications.

2.4.2. Communications will be conducted in a National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant manner utilizing clear-text and frequencies coordinated with the SEOC.



2.5. Resource Management

- 2.5.1. Resource management and logistics will be carried out in accordance with IEOP ESF-7 Resource Management and Logistics.
- 2.5.2. Resource management includes mutual aid and assistance agreements, the use of federal and state teams, and resource mobilization protocols.

2.6. Organization

2.6.1. Direction and Control

- 2.6.1.1. The Governor, or their Constitutionally authorized successor, may activate the SOI-COG plan in accordance with state statute.
- 2.6.1.2. Within the State, the overall authority for direction, command, and control of response to an emergency rests with the Governor. In accordance with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305), these authorities have been delegated to the Director of IEMA-OHS.
- 2.6.1.3. State agencies and external organizations retain operational control of resources.
- 2.6.1.4. The Governor or designee has the authority to exercise overall coordination of resources belonging to the state.
- 2.6.1.5. SEOC representatives will coordinate with local, state, federal, and private organizations in implementing transportation management plans.
- 2.6.1.6. Local governments requested to assist in operations specific to the resumption of constitutional government will be directed through the SEOC to appropriate and authorized state government representatives.
- 2.6.1.7. Based on the initiating event requiring continuity of government operations, and scope and magnitude of the event, the following guidance will be used for requests for state assistance necessary to ensure local response and recovery operations in support of the SOI-COG plan.



- 2.6.1.7.1. Initial requests for local assistance necessary to carry out state operations shall be made by the SEOC Manager or authorized designee.
- 2.6.1.7.2. The SEOC Manager may make requests directed to the IEMA-OHS Regional Coordinators to specific units of local government as appropriate.
- 2.6.1.7.3. When state governments' resources are not adequate or have been exhausted, requests for assistance may be directed to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).
- 2.6.1.7.4. When EMAC resources are not adequate or have been exhausted, requests for assistance may be directed at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

2.6.2. Coordinating Elements

- 2.6.2.1. State Area Command (SAC) or State Unified Area Command (SUAC) elements may be deployed by the SEOC to coordinate information and resource requirements.
- 2.6.2.2. One or more Lines of Effort (LOE) may be implemented by the SEOC for specific strategic action planning for continuity of government operations.
- 2.6.2.3. Strategic and operational guidance on LOE operations can be found in IEOP Base Plan Appendix 4 - Lines of Effort.

2.6.3. Federal Coordination

- 2.6.3.1. The SEOC may coordinate inclusion of federal assets in COG operations.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1. Primary State Agency/Organization

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



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- 3.1.1.1. Coordinate collection, receipt, compilation, and development of situational reports on damage impacts to services, facilities, sites, and programs at the federal, state, and local levels.
- 3.1.1.2. Coordinate collection, receipt, compilation, and development of situational reports based on disaster intelligence and information received from state and federal agencies.
- 3.1.1.3. Collect, analyze, de-conflict, and disseminate situational reports.
- 3.1.1.4. Coordinate resources necessary to support COG operations.
- 3.1.1.5. Prioritize and participate in COG operations.
- 3.1.1.6. Develop and maintain maps, visual aids, and displays for COG in coordination with:
 - 3.1.1.6.1. Primary and support agencies
 - 3.1.1.6.2. Boards and commissions
 - 3.1.1.6.3. Voluntary and community-based organizations
 - 3.1.1.6.4. Private sector organizations
 - 3.1.1.6.5. Federal and external state agencies
 - 3.1.1.6.6. Local governments
 - 3.1.1.6.7. Executive and senior leadership.
- 3.1.1.7. Provide just-in-time training and/or site-specific training to personnel assigned responsibilities, missions, and tasks in support of individual agency COG operations.
- 3.1.1.8. Coordinate with federal agencies and representatives.
- 3.1.1.9. Determine the need to request federal disaster assistance.

3.2. Support State Agencies/Organizations

3.2.1. Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS)



- 3.2.1.1. Locate, acquire, and maintain facilities suitable for continued functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches upon request and direction from the SEOC.

3.2.2. Illinois Secretary of State Police (SOS)

- 3.2.2.1. Implement all statutes, powers, and authorities addressing the continuity of government, succession, and emergency powers.
- 3.2.2.2. Implement and coordinate law enforcement, security, and protective measures necessary for the safety and operational capabilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial leadership as appropriate.

3.2.3. Illinois State Police (ISP)

- 3.2.3.1. Assist with coordination and support law enforcement, security, and protective measures necessary for the safety and operational capabilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial leadership as appropriate.

3.2.4. General Requirements for Other State Agencies, Boards, and Commissions

- 3.2.4.1. Provide resources in support of requests approved by the SEOC.
- 3.2.4.2. As directed by the SEOC, identify land and properties suitable for alternate facilities and work locations.
- 3.2.4.3. As directed by the SEOC, identify functions, services, applications, and staff available to support COG operations.

4. Authorities

1. Illinois Constitution, Article V, Section 6
2. Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305/), as amended
3. Governor Succession Act (5 ILCS 15)
4. Emergency Interim Executive Succession Act (5 ILCS 275)



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5. Emergency Management Assistance Compact Act (45 ILCS 151)
6. Emergency Telephone Communications (720 ILCS 660/0.01 et seq), as amended
7. State Police Radio Act (20 ILCS 2615), as amended
8. IAC Title 77: Public Health, Section 515.400, General Communications, as amended
9. Emergency Telephone System Act, 50 ILCS 750/0.01-16, as amended
10. State of Illinois Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan, as amended
11. IEMA-OHS Operations Center SOPs, as amended
12. Constitution of the State of Illinois, as amended
13. State of Illinois, Seat of Government Act, 5 ILCS 190, as amended
14. State of Illinois Emergency Seat of Government Act, 5 ILCS 195, as amended
15. Emergency Interim Executive Succession Act, 5 ILCS 275, as amended
16. State of Illinois, Governor Succession Act, 15 ILCS 5, as amended
17. State of Illinois, Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305, as amended
18. State of Illinois, Department of State Police Law, 20 ILCS 2605, as amended
19. State of Illinois, Secretary of State Act, 15 ILCS 305, as amended

5. References

1. National Incident Management System (NIMS), as amended
2. Illinois Emergency Operations Plan, as amended

6. Acronyms & Definitions

1. For all definitions and acronyms addressed in this plan, please refer to the IEOP Base Plan, Appendix X-7 Glossary of Terms.