



Missouri's Homeland Security Regionalization Governance Structure

In early 2005, at the outset of his Administration, Governor Matt Blunt mandated a seamless and unified homeland security program and strategy for Missouri. He tasked his designated Homeland Security Advisor, the Director of Public Safety, to establish an Office of Homeland Security under the Department of Public Safety, (Executive Order 05-20) and further establish an executive level advisory body, called the Governor's Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC), through Executive Order 05-20. He further mandated local/community focus and engagement of the homeland security program through the establishment of regional advisory groups, called Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees (RHSOCs), through Executive Order 06-09. These regional bodies fall under the governance structure of the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

The state's Homeland Security Administrative Agent (SAA), the State Emergency Management Agency, supports the administrative and Homeland Security Grant Program aspects of this program. The Missouri Associations of Councils of Governments (MACOG), through the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs), also provides administrative support for this process. The RPCs serve as the fiduciary agents to facilitate spending of federal homeland security grant awards at the regional level.

The Governor's Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) currently consists of twenty members. The Chairman of the Council is the Director of the Department of Public Safety. The Vice Chairman is the Homeland Security Coordinator who also heads the Missouri Office of Homeland Security. Other members of the Council include: the Director of the State Emergency Management Agency, the Directors of Health and Senior Services, Mental Health, Transportation, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Social Services, and Economic Development, the Missouri Chief Information Officer, the Missouri Adjutant General, the Superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the State Fire Marshal, the Commissioner of the Water Patrol, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Commissioner of Higher Education, and three public members appointed by the Governor.

Other ex-officio members participate in and support the Advisory Council. The Council meets bi-monthly and reviews homeland security issues affecting the state. They review all grant applications to DHS and approve grant allocations to state and local jurisdictions, including special grant allocations to critical programs such as interoperability communications. They also set funding priorities for the homeland security program.

Missouri's "regionalization of homeland security" plan is focused on establishing a common sense, logical governance structure and process to facilitate local, community level engagement in not only grant funding priorities and strategies, but other homeland security related decisions. Fourteen (14) core disciplines at the county/local level have been identified as minimum voting participants in these regional committees. While only one individual from each discipline in a specific region will hold a voting seat on the committee, it is mandated that they represent all segments of their core discipline members in their region, including both county and local interest. They accomplish this through establishment of working groups within each discipline that are all inclusive in of their specific discipline in their geographic region. The RHSOCs meet quarterly, with additional meetings called as needed to deal with specific issues.

The following are the core disciplines that represent the minimal template for RHSOC membership:

Director of Emergency Management	Police Chief
Sheriff	Fire Chief
County Health	Homeland Security Regional Response System
City or County Public Works	Mayor or City Administrator
County Commissioner	Private Industry/Public Utility
Emergency Medical Service	911
Volunteer Group Representation	Education

Each RHSOC Chairman represents their region and local governments at the state level and collectively as a body and will convey needs of the Regions directly to the Homeland Security Advisory Council. Conversely, they accept direction and feedback from the Advisory Council to convey back to the RHSOCs. This collective group of RHSOC representatives meets bi-monthly immediately after the bi-monthly Governor's HSAC meeting, in which they also participate. The RHSOC geographic boundaries are based on the established boundaries of Missouri's Highway Patrol Regions A-I.

The Missouri Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) cities of Kansas City and St. Louis have separate homeland security governance structure and funding streams. However, their representatives participate as non-voting, ex-officio members of both the Governor's HSAC and their respective RHSOCs.