
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 1, 2018
TO: CRCOG Executive Committee
FROM: Lyle Wray, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Cybersecurity Program Addition to CRCOG IT Services.**

The CRCOG Policy Board received a briefing on cybersecurity from Art House on February 21, 2018 on the Cybersecurity Action Plan for Connecticut. The state cybersecurity plan has since been finalized. Link <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Press-Room/20180503-CT-Cybersecurity-Action-Plan.pdf?la=en>. At that Policy Board, it was indicated that staff would return with recommendations for responding to widespread and long-term threats to CRCOG members related to cybersecurity.

CRCOG Municipal Services and Public Safety staff recommend adding a cybersecurity program to add to the IT Services Cooperative program. This program will be designed to address the implementation of the state's Cybersecurity Action Plan for municipalities mentioned above.

The program would be comprised of the following components through Novus (formerly CCAT):

- Assessment,
- Remediation,
- Maintenance, and
- Training

In addition,

- Customizable Template Cybersecurity Policies Templates provided by one vendor selected by a competitive process.

Finally, CRCOG will create the:

- Municipal Data Security Council and host related webinars.

The first main component of the program would focus on Assessment, Remediation, Maintenance, and Training. With Cybersecurity services readily available through our partnership with Novus Insight, CRCOG and Novus will develop packages to simplify Cybersecurity offerings and maximize effectiveness. The first offering would be an initial Gap Assessment and Analysis for cybersecurity in a town or city. This Assessment will create a set of recommendations for remediation. The remediation plans for municipalities would focus on both the cybersecurity systems and as well as recommendations for employee training.

After remediation, the offering would include security maintenance products for effective routine security checks. CRCOG/Novus' Cybersecurity packages would have a tiered pricing structure with flexible options to cater to varying municipal sizes and budgets. All municipalities that are

part of the IT Services Cooperative, either through their affiliation with CRCOG, COST, or CRPC will have access to resources that will help protect municipal networks, staff, and data.

The second component of the program would be on Cybersecurity Policy Templates. Through a competitive process, CRCOG and a committee of interested municipalities will select one vendor to draft template Cybersecurity Policies as well as pre-qualify vendors with cybersecurity policy experience and expertise for member use. These policies will enable each municipality to more easily obtain appropriate internal policies to guide procedures and ensure the municipality the proper legal protection. These policies will be vital in training new staff to use municipal technology securely and will help guide a Crisis action plan in case of a cyber-attack.

Municipalities will need to customize policies to match the needs of the individual town. CRCOG staff proposes for CRCOG to partially subsidize a predetermined number of hours for CRCOG towns who wish to customize their policies with the chosen vendor. Once the templates are developed, all towns in Connecticut would have access to the policies. Any town could then customize the policies internally, but the program will also have available a qualified vendor for towns who prefer access to Cybersecurity Policy experts. Staff currently estimates approximately \$15,000-\$25,000 to develop the template policies and potentially an additional \$40,000 in subsidies for CRCOG towns for policy customizations. The source of these funds would be the Regional Services Grant (state funding).

Municipal Data Security Council. In addition to the Cybersecurity program, CRCOG proposes the creation the Municipal Data Security Council to foster regional Cybersecurity discussions and keep a proactive focus on protecting municipal networks and data. The council will be comprised of municipal representatives and subject area experts and will be responsible for advising CRCOG members regarding best practices and recommendations.

CRCOG also proposes a series of Cybersecurity Webinars for members in conjunction with Novus. The first is planned for the fall and will be timed with the launch of the Cybersecurity offerings. The webinars will bring in local leaders in Cybersecurity to give insight on specific areas of Cybersecurity and will aim to add value to the program.

It is requested that the CRCOG Executive Committee approve of this direction and funding up to \$65,000 from the state Regional Services Grant.