



NATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION STRATEGY

PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP

Economic development relies on a skilled productive workforce, secure infrastructure, and education systems that yield the skills in demand by employers. State, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments can be innovative and take a leadership role in aligning resources across public and private-sector programs, industry sectors, and education systems to support development of the cyber workforce. The Federal government is in a position to accelerate the innovative ideas of SLTT entities. The National Cyber Workforce and Education Strategy calls for stakeholders to prepare the workforce across all industries with the cyber skills to securely design, build, and operate information and operational technologies (IT and OT).

The actions below are intended to spark ideas on how SLTT governments can help achieve the goals in the Strategy.

LEVERAGE SKILLS-BASED HIRING AND WORK-BASED LEARNING

Meet with high schools, community and technical colleges, and universities to create or expand work-based learning programs in your agencies. Survey local businesses to determine their cyber needs and assist employers with adopting skills-based hiring approaches with help from the public workforce development system in your area. Facilitate conversations between employers and educators to reduce barriers to starting work-based learning programs. Provide paid opportunities for teachers to gain cyber skills in your agencies. Join or sponsor a cyber range to enable learners to develop cyber skills in simulated environments.

INCREASE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Review cyber training programs to ensure they align with the skills needed in your organization. Invest in the development of a cyber career pathway program to enhance the workforce in your agencies with the cyber skills needed to continue their government service and advance their careers. Search online for “Federal Virtual Training Environment,” “NICCS Portal,” and “NICE Framework Resource Center” for a sampling of the Federally-funded content and resources available to complement your training programs.

EXPAND YOUR LOCAL ECOSYSTEM

Host or join a reception to connect with employers, school districts, community and philanthropic organizations, to share information on existing investments and programs, expand collaboration, and explore partnerships to pursue new funding opportunities. Include ecosystem stakeholders, including families, in the development of cyber education and training content, tools, and programs. Schedule public events at times and locations convenient to educators, employers, and workers to keep your ecosystem informed of your activities and resources. Add cyber skill development programs to newsletters, public meetings, and outreach activities to increase awareness.

While the Strategy contains lines of effort for all stakeholders, some of the key lines of effort for SLTT governments include:

- 1.1.2 Foster ecosystem approaches to enhance cyber skill learning opportunities.
- 2.1.2 Increase engagement in cyber education ecosystems.
- 2.3.1 Increase the cyber teaching capacity of K-12 systems and postsecondary institutions.
- 3.2.5 Increase on-ramps to cyber careers through work-based learning opportunities.