

National Network Maturity

DHS and its interagency partners employed a four-stage Maturity Model to describe how the National Network should progress as a unified system and what capabilities and resources are needed for the National Network to do so successfully. The National Network advances through a stage of the Maturity Model when 75% of fusion centers successfully achieve the attributes associated with that stage.

The first maturity stage, Fundamental, is focused on the development of plans, policies, or SOPs for each of the four COCs and for P/CRCL Protections. With at least 75% (54) of fusion centers having approved plans, policies, or SOPs for each of the four COCs and P/CRCL Protections, **the 2011 Assessment data showed that the National Network reached the Fundamental stage.** In addition to maintaining the current maturity level, the National Network must also expand its efforts to continue to progress through the remaining stages of the Maturity Model. The 2011 Assessment data indicated that the National Network has met the threshold for several attributes for the other stages of the Maturity Model, indicating that the National Network could achieve more advanced stages of maturity in the near future.

Recommendations

Based on the 2011 Assessment findings and in accordance with the Federal Resource Allocation Criteria (RAC) policy, DHS, in conjunction with its interagency partners, proposes the following recommendations for Federal Government action to support the National Network.

Over the course of the next year, DHS and its federal interagency partners should focus on assisting fusion centers to address existing capability gaps and progress to the next stage of the Maturity Model. Specifically, DHS, in concert with other federal partners, should continue to provide assistance to individual fusion centers to develop their plans, policies, or SOPs for the four COCs. Continued support for analytic training will enhance fusion centers' capacity to provide quality analytic products that inform the domestic threat picture and enable SLTT and private sector partners to better protect their communities. Developing the National Network is a responsibility shared by the state and local governments that own and operate fusion centers and the Federal Government. When assisting fusion centers in building their capabilities, the Federal Government should concentrate its support to fusion centers in the three categories prioritized by Fusion Center Directors—training, technical assistance services, and federal personnel.

The National Network is a long-term investment. Recommendations for the next four years include:

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