



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

**AARON D. KENNARD**  
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The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

I write on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and more than 3,000 Sheriffs nationwide to request dedicated FEMA funding of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) position within the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP), and to express NSA's concern that, in FY 2011, this targeted funding was rolled into more general Homeland Security grant programs.

Since 2008, the IECGP has funded many of the SWIC positions. These coordinators serve as the cornerstone of States' interoperability efforts. As outlined in the National Emergency Communications Plan, achieving the Nation's communications interoperability vision, goals, objectives, and priority initiatives is not a task the Federal government can accomplish on its own—it is largely a practitioner-driven effort that requires coordination among all stakeholders. As part of a complex governance system composed of hundreds of stakeholders who answer to various Federal, State, county, city, town, and tribal officials, the SWIC is situated in the middle of that governance system, serving as the coordinator.

As the central coordination point for the State, SWICS are responsible for the implementation of the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) through coordination and collaboration with the emergency response community. The SWIC plays a key role in preparing public safety responders through the development of bottoms-up governance structures, standard operating procedures, strategic development and implementation of voice and data technologies, training, exercising, outreach and technology usage.

In summary, Statewide Interoperability Coordinators enhance the response capabilities of public safety responders through close coordination and collaboration with all levels of government. Accordingly, NSA strongly urges that DHS/FEMA not jeopardize the sustainability of the SWIC positions by its current course of action but rather re-institute dedicated funding of the position within the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron D. Kennard".

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard  
Executive Director