National Infrastructure Protection Plan

Sector Partnership Model

The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) sets forth a comprehensive risk management framework and clearly defines critical infrastructure protection roles and responsibilities for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Sector-Specific Agencies (SSAs), and other Federal, State, local, tribal, and private sector security partners. The NIPP provides the coordinated approach that will be used to establish national priorities, goals, and requirements for infrastructure protection so that funding and resources are applied in the most effective manner.

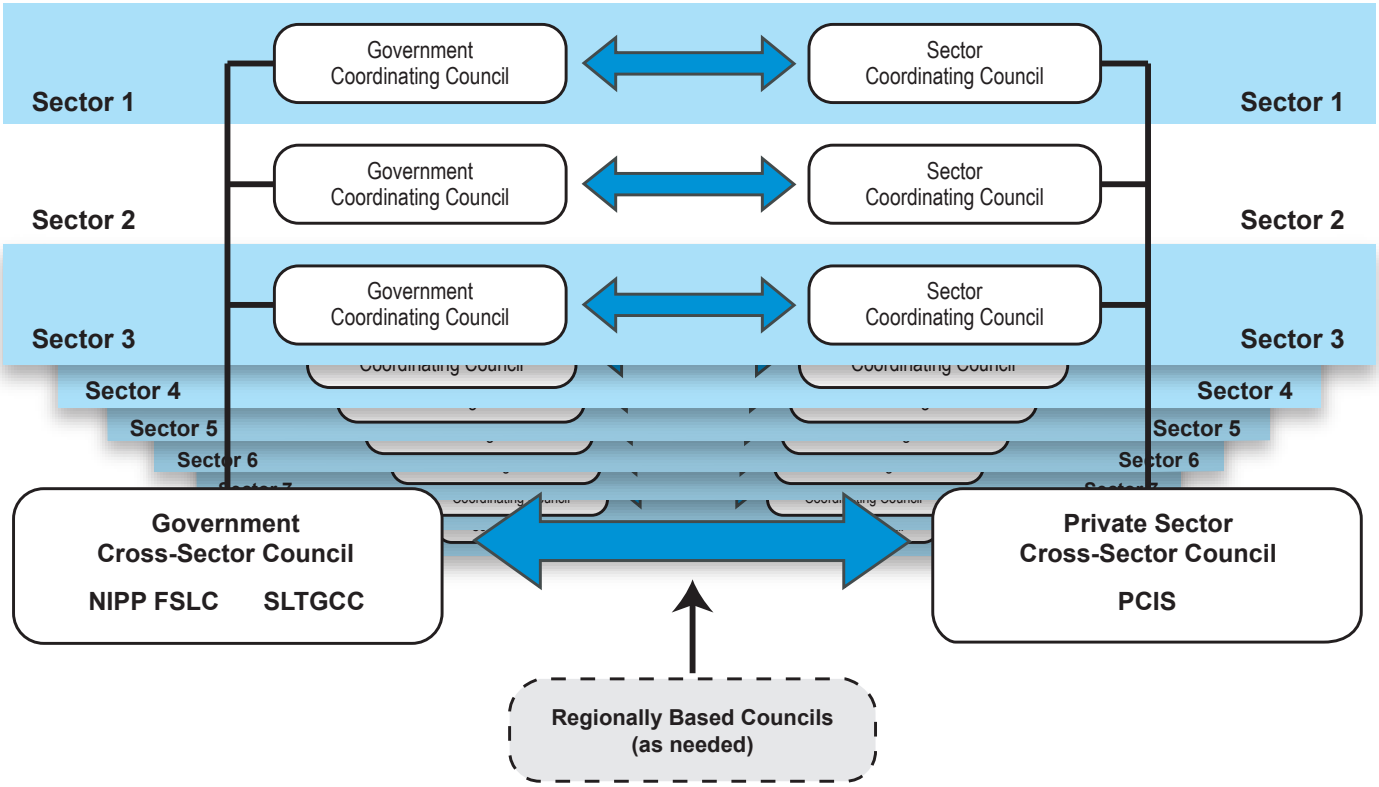
The enormity and complexity of the Nation's critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR), the distributed character of its associated protective architecture, and the uncertain nature of the terrorist threat and manmade or natural disasters make the effective implementation of protection efforts a great challenge. To be effective, the NIPP must be implemented using organizational structures and partnerships committed to sharing and protecting the information needed to achieve the NIPP goal and supporting objectives. DHS, in close collaboration with the SSAs, is responsible for overall coordination of the NIPP partnership organization and information-sharing network.

Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC)

The CIPAC directly supports the sector partnership model by providing a legal framework for members of the SCCs and GCCs to engage in joint CI/KR protection-related activities. The CIPAC serves as a forum for government and private sector security partners to engage in a broad spectrum of activities including: planning, coordination, implementation, and operational issues; implementation of security programs; operational activities related to CI/KR protection including incident response, recovery, and reconstitution; and development and support of national plans, including the NIPP and Sector-Specific Plans.

The coordination mechanisms described below establish linkages among CI/KR protection efforts at the Federal, State, regional, local, tribal, and international levels as well as between public and private sector security partners. In addition to direct coordination between security partners, the structures described below provide a national framework that fosters relationships and facilitates coordination within and across CI/KR sectors:

- **Sector Partnership Coordination:** The Private Sector Cross-Sector Council (i.e., the Partnership for Critical Infrastructure Security (PCIS)), the Government Cross-Sector Council (made up of two subcouncils: the NIPP Federal Senior Leadership Council (FSLC) and the State, Local, and



Tribal Government Coordinating Council (SLTGCC)) and individual Sector Coordinating Councils and Government Coordinating Councils create a structure through which representative groups from Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector can collaborate and develop consensus approaches to CI/KR protection.

- **Regional Coordination:** Regional partnerships, groupings, and governance bodies enable CI/KR protection coordination among security partners within and across geographical areas and sectors.
- **International Coordination:** The United States-Canada-Mexico Security and Prosperity Partnership, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee, certain government councils such as the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and consensus-based nongovernmental or public-private organizations enable a range of CI/KR protection coordination activities associated with established international agreements.

Sector Coordinating Councils (SCC)

The sector partnership model encourages CI/KR owners and operators to create or identify an SCC as the principal entity for coordinating with the government on a wide range of CI/KR protection activities and issues. Specific membership will vary by sector, reflecting the unique composition of each sector, however, membership should be representative of a broad base of owners, operators, associations, and other entities—large and small—within a sector.

Cross-sector issues and interdependencies between the SCCs are addressed through a Private Sector Cross-Sector Council, the PCIS. The PCIS provides senior-level, cross-sector strategic coordination through partnership with DHS and the SSAs.

Government Coordinating Councils (GCC)

A GCC is formed as the government counterpart for each SCC to enable interagency and cross-jurisdictional coordination. The GCC is comprised of representatives across various levels of government (Federal, State, local, or tribal) as appropriate to the security landscape of each individual sector.

Cross-sector issues and interdependencies between the GCCs are addressed through the Government Cross-Sector Council and its two subcouncils. The FSLC drives enhanced communications and coordination between and among Federal departments and agencies with a role in implementing the NIPP and HSPD-7. The SLTGCC provides an organizational structure to coordinate across jurisdictions on State- and local-level CI/KR protection, guidance, strategies, and programs.

Homeland Security

For questions or more information, please contact NIPP@dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/nipp.