

# Utah Cybersecurity Commission

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## Executive Summary

In its third year, the Utah Cybersecurity Commission saw the state legislature approve the Commission's recommendation to provide funding for the State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program's (SLCGPs) match requirement. This funding increased access to SLCGP resources for under-resourced cities and counties that may not have been able to take advantage otherwise, ultimately improving cybersecurity throughout local governments within Utah.

The Commission held its first meeting for the 2024 session in April. In subsequent meetings, each subcommittee built off their second-year recommendations to determine focus areas for the year. In October at the final Commission meeting, the two subcommittees proposed the same recommendation for the Commission's annual report, to continue assisting the Utah Cyber Center (UCC) cybersecurity program to local governments (counties, municipalities, and special service districts) beyond the end of the current grant-funded programs in early 2028. This includes an endpoint protection platform, endpoint vulnerability management, security awareness training for all government employees, and the development of security professionals by providing access to training and certifications.

## 2024 Accomplishments:

Some noteworthy items the UCC accomplished based on the recommendations of the Commission in 2024 were:

- Endpoint projection project: Expected entity enrollment by end of year 2024: 30-50, expected endpoints enrolled by end of year 2024: 10,000
  - Total entity accounts enrolled to date: **122**
  - Total endpoints enrolled to date: **23,119**
  - This project has caught an average of **300** true positives a **month**
- Security Awareness Training Program:
  - Total local government entity accounts enrolled: **145**
  - Total local government employees enrolled: **29,389**
- IT Professional Training Project:
  - The UCC has continued to provide classes for Security+ and CySA+ to local IT professionals. To date, the UCC has completed 7 classes and trained a total of 175 students across Utah.

## State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP):

The Cybersecurity Commission continues to have a crucial role in determining what cybersecurity projects Utah will provide under the SLCGP. The Division of Technology Services (DTS) manages the grant application. Statewide projects to improve cybersecurity in local Utah governments were implemented following approval of the second year's recommendations:

- Conducting an annual emergency exercise
- Assisting Utah Government organizations in adopting best practices
- Providing funding for SLCGP's matching requirement
- Establishing a UCC Incident Response Team

## Assessment of Cyber Threats to Utah:

The Cybersecurity Commission also received an assessment of cyber threats to Utah. In that report some of the major concerns include:

- Cryptocurrency crimes continue to increase in Utah, with scams involving cryptocurrency increasing from \$28 million in losses in 2022 to over \$29 million in 2023.
- Phishing and spear phishing continue to be a problem, especially for Utah businesses. Utah victims lost over \$38 million in 2023 due to Business Email Compromise alone (a cyber-attack where attackers target businesses with phishing emails in an attempt to defraud them).
- Ransomware is still prevalent and impacting Utah government and businesses.
- Cyber criminals, hacktivists, and nation state actors continue to target critical infrastructure in Utah, including the energy, defense industrial base, healthcare, food and agriculture, and government facilities sectors.
- Cyber threats, including the number of victims, reported losses, and damage and disruption to businesses will continue to increase.
- While there is no specific threat to Utah currently, Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) groups also continue to be a concern for Utah as geopolitical tensions rise in the Middle East, Russia, Taiwan, and China.

# Cyber Preparation & Response Recommendations:

## Funding Requests:

The Cybersecurity Commission recommendation highlights the need for continual funding to pass the current grant funding.

### Proposal 1:

Sustain Cyber Center cybersecurity program assistance to local governments (Counties, Municipalities, and Special Service Districts) beyond the life of current grant-funded programs ending in the beginning of 2028.

- a. This represents an ongoing cost of \$5,000,000 in funding covering the following programs/projects.
  - i. Endpoint protection
  - ii. Vulnerability management (scanning/patching)
  - iii. Security awareness training for local governments
  - iv. Professional IT cybersecurity certification/training
  - v. Local government cybersecurity outreach team
  - vi. .gov/email for local governments (Counties or municipalities considered fifth class and smaller)
  - vii. IT cybersecurity project support for local governments (Counties or municipalities considered fifth class and smaller)
- b. For subpart vi and vii above, the Cyber Center will have the discretion to assist counties/municipalities in the fourth class that need assistance and fall outside the fifth class designation due to having a slightly higher population than the fifth class cut-off.

### Proposal 2:

Set aside an additional \$1,161,544 of SLCP funds to expand IT support for implementation of SLCGP cybersecurity projects over the next four years.

#### Proposal Details:

- a. This project will serve fifth class counties/cities and smaller that lack the funding and IT support to implement SLCGP cybersecurity projects. With discretion to assist fourth class counties/cities that also lack IT support and need assistance but do not meet the cut off population of 10,000 for fifth class designation.
  - i. Assessment of current IT posture and security measures.
  - ii. .gov implementation for websites and email.
  - iii. Providing of secure email service for those entities that do not have the funding.
  - iv. IT support for implementation and ongoing maintenance support of endpoint, vulnerability/patching, security awareness training, alert support, and troubleshooting.

## Acknowledgements:

The Cybersecurity Commission would like to thank the dedicated members of each of the subcommittees volunteering their time and expertise, as well as the Statewide Information & Analysis Center (SIAC) staff for coordinating and facilitating the Cybersecurity Commission.

*Governor Spencer J. Cox, Cybersecurity Commission Chair*

*DPS Commissioner Jess Anderson, Cybersecurity Commission Co-Chair*

### **Cybersecurity Preparation:**

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