

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

NEW EXCEPTIONAL ITEM REQUEST LEADERSHIP IN CYBERSECURITY



Developing a “culture of security” within Texas to prepare our communities for cybersecurity threats.

FUNDING REQUEST

\$2,500,000 per year | \$5,000,000 over biennium

OVERVIEW

UTSA—home to the number one cybersecurity undergraduate degree program in the U.S.—is requesting new exceptional item funding to build on the university’s national leadership in the field for the benefit of the state. This funding will create a “culture of security” to address escalating needs throughout Texas via an inter-agency partnership with the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR).

THE CHALLENGE

Government agencies are calling for greater collaboration to address America’s national security infrastructure protection. While recognizing the need for “grassroots” cybersecurity programs starting at the local level, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has few resources to assist counties and communities in establishing viable programs. As a national hub for cybersecurity education, and with experience working with state and local governments, San Antonio and UTSA are uniquely positioned to help the State of Texas address these needs through cyber research, workforce development and cybersecurity preparedness.

THE IMPACT

The need for a coordinated statewide “culture of security” is undeniable. The current lack of cybersecurity support for Texas counties and communities was clearly identified in recent testimony before Texas State Legislative Committees on Cybersecurity. Establishing the Texas Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (ISAO) at UTSA will enable the university to leverage its national leadership in workforce development, information sharing programs, state and local cybersecurity training and cybersecurity emergency preparedness.

[More](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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LEADERSHIP IN CYBERSECURITY STRATEGIES

- » Establish a National Security Collaboration Center (NSCC) at UTSA's Downtown Campus.
- » Establish the Texas Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (ISAO) and house within the NSCC to provide essential access to co-located agencies.
- » Establish a Security Operations Center (SOC), which will work with the Texas Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) being established by the DIR.

OPPORTUNITIES

- » UTSA will leverage its national connections for the benefit of the state:
 - Lead role on the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium
 - Named the Standards Organization for the nation's information sharing effort
 - Recognized leader on training K-12 through professional levels
- » UTSA will apply experience used to create the Community Cyber Security Maturity Model (CCSMM), providing a roadmap for organizations to establish their cybersecurity programs.
- » UTSA students will gain hands-on experience through opportunities provided by housing the Texas ISAAC on-campus.

BENEFITS TO SAN ANTONIO AND TEXAS

Funding for this exceptional item will:

- » Position the state of Texas for national leadership regarding the early detection of cybersecurity threats.
- » Help Texas businesses meet state standards as vendors with cybersecurity guidelines and readiness through certification, audits and assessments.
- » Develop and train the state's workforce through certification and degree programs to help address the growing shortfall of cybersecurity professionals.