

Florida Fusion Center



The **Florida Fusion Center (FFC)** serves as Florida's primary fusion center for gathering, processing, analyzing, and disseminating terrorism, law enforcement, and homeland security intelligence. Florida has several regional fusion centers throughout the state that work jointly with local law enforcement and private sector partners in their respective regions. The flow of information between these fusion centers is coordinated to serve the needs of all Floridians.

The FFC is committed to addressing gaps in information and encouraging the flow of information between various law enforcement entities to protect Florida citizens from crime and terrorism. Interagency Fusion Liaisons help to facilitate a partnership between their agencies and the FFC for the purpose of information sharing. In addition to these partnerships, the FFC houses the Intelligence Watch and Warning Desk (IWW), which serves as Florida's hub for local, state, and federal intelligence exchange and analysis on terrorism, crimes, and other hazards. The IWW provides situational awareness to partners throughout the state 24/7 and is the central collection and dissemination point for the "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign via 1-855-FLA-SAFE.

For more information

Web Site: <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/FFC/FUSION-Center-Home.aspx>

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What Is a Fusion Center?

A fusion center is a collaborative effort of two or more agencies that provide resources, expertise, and information to the center with the goal of maximizing their ability to detect, prevent, investigate, and respond to criminal and terrorist activity. Intelligence processes—through which information is collected, integrated, evaluated, analyzed, and disseminated—are a primary focus. State and major urban area fusion centers (fusion centers) serve as focal points within the state and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information between the federal government and state, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT), and private sector partners. Fusion centers are uniquely situated to empower frontline personnel to understand local implications of national intelligence, thus enabling local officials to better protect their communities. Fusion centers provide interdisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision making at all levels of government. They conduct analysis and facilitate information sharing while assisting law enforcement and homeland security partners in preventing, protecting against, and responding to crime and terrorism.

Nearly All States and Territories Have Fusion Centers

Fusion centers are owned and operated by state and local entities and are designated by the Governor of their state. Recognizing the critical importance of information sharing, nearly all states and territories, as well as several major urban areas, have operational fusion centers.

National Support for Fusion Centers

Fusion centers are owned and operated by state and local entities with support from federal partners in the form of deployed personnel, training, technical assistance, exercise support, security clearances, connectivity to federal systems, technology, and grant funding. Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), have expedited the deployment of these resources to fusion centers to enhance their ability to perform their mission.

Fusion Center Guidelines

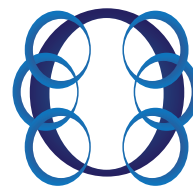
The *Fusion Center Guidelines* were developed to ensure that fusion centers are established and operated consistently, resulting in enhanced coordination, strengthened partnerships, and improved crime-fighting and anti-terrorism capabilities. The 18 guidelines and their key elements—as well as additional resources, model policies, and implementation tools—are included in this publication from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and DHS.



Fusion Centers

Role of Fusion Centers

Fusion centers enable local, state, and tribal governments to gather, process, analyze, and share information and intelligence relating to crimes (including terrorism) and hazards. Fusion centers communicate, cooperate, and coordinate with each other and with the federal government. These centers contribute to the Information Sharing Environment (ISE) through their role in:



- Receiving threat information from the federal government.
- Analyzing that information in the context of their local environment and disseminating that information to local agencies.
- Gathering tips, leads, and suspicious activity reporting (SAR) from local agencies and the public.
- Protecting civil liberties and privacy interests of American citizens throughout the intelligence process.

Fusion centers receive information from a variety of sources, including SAR from stakeholders within their jurisdictions, as well as federal information and intelligence. They analyze the information and develop relevant products to disseminate to their customers. These products assist homeland security partners at all levels of government to identify and address immediate and emerging threats.

Fusion centers also provide the federal government with critical state and local information and subject-matter expertise that it did not receive in the past—enabling the effective communication of locally generated threat-related information to the federal government. With timely, accurate information on potential terrorist threats, fusion centers can directly contribute to and inform investigations initiated and conducted by federal entities, such as the Joint Terrorism Task Forces led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Services and Assistance

- Access an extensive array of subject-matter expertise and threat information through a single contact point.
- Receive bulletins with intelligence and advance warnings regarding possible criminal and terrorist threat and other hazards.
- Save manpower and investigative steps. Both sworn and civilian personnel with knowledge and expertise in a variety of designated areas of responsibility are available at a fusion center to assist law enforcement and homeland security partners around the clock. These experienced and knowledgeable people access a centrally located pool of investigative resources to provide both analytical services as well as general case support.
- Access intelligence information from public safety partners. Nontraditional collectors of intelligence possess important information (e.g., risk assessments and suspicious activity reports) that can be “fused” with law enforcement data to provide meaningful information and intelligence about threats and criminal activity. Fusion centers combine efforts with these nontraditional sources.
- Embrace proactive intelligence efforts. Those efforts are key to inhibiting criminal networks—whether those groups are terrorists, drug-related groups, organized crime, or other criminal enterprises.

Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties (P/CRCL) Protections

Fusion centers, DHS, and DOJ have identified the protection of P/CRCL as a key priority and an important enabling capability to ensure that fusion centers protect P/CRCL, while supporting homeland security efforts. To support this priority, DOJ and DHS partnered to develop a privacy and civil liberties Web site. This page, available at <http://www.it.ojp.gov/privacyliberty>, includes:



- Training resources
- Authorities and guidance
- Privacy and civil liberties resources
- Relevant government reports

For More Information

- Fusion center resources are available at: <http://www.dhs.gov/state-and-major-urban-area-fusion-centers>.
- The National Criminal Intelligence Resource Center (NCIRC), located at www.ncirc.gov, provides criminal justice professionals with a multitude of resources for law enforcement intelligence operations. The NCIRC also contains a secure site—accessible through RISSNET™ or LEO—that provides additional law enforcement and homeland security resources.
- Developed by DOJ and DHS, the *Fusion Center Guidelines* are available in hard copy, CD, and electronic formats. For more information or to obtain copies of the report or CD, contact (850) 385-0600.