The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator’s primary function is to plan and implement the statewide interoperability program, guided by initiatives outlined in the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) and Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Additionally, the SWIC serves as the State of Washington’s single point of contact for interoperable communications and is responsible for implementing the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). To do their jobs effectively, public safety responders depend on sophisticated communications systems to relay mission-critical information in real time. The SWIC works closely with emergency response leaders across all levels of government to implement a statewide strategic vision for interoperability. The SWIC is key in the strategic planning for communications and helping to guide the focus and work of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC). Finally, the SWIC is a pivotal player in the Emergency Communications Ecosystem and works closely with the other key leaders in the system; the 911 Coordinator, the FirstNet State Point of Contact (SPOC), Public Safety Broadband (PSBB) lead, the Emergency Support Function 2 (ESF2) Lead for emergency communications, Alert and Warning Center, and key Federal partners (CISA, FEMA, FCC).

SWICs play an integral role in establishing and maintaining statewide governance systems and bringing together stakeholders from the broad spectrum of public safety communications. As one small part of a

complex governance matrix, the SWIC serves as a neutral and unbiased coordinator for interoperability issues within the state, including supporting the establishment and maintenance of a statewide governing

body. Specifically, the SWIC partners with industry professionals at the NCSWIC meetings to discuss pressing issues impacting emergency communications interoperability, and share best practices,

challenges, and lessons learned. SWICs help to ensure federal funding for emergency communications projects are coordinated, align to the SCIP, and are compatible with surrounding systems. Rapidly evolving

technologies and rising expectations in emergency communications are changing the emergency communications landscape and expanding the traditional roles and responsibilities of the SWIC.

The SWIC position in Washington has historically been filled as an additional duty for a member of whichever agency was able to provide support. Although the recent SWIC has done a great job; it came at a cost to their agency and their full-time job. The State of Washington needs a dedicated full-time SWIC to be successful in communications interoperability. In addition to the previously mentioned duties, a dedicated SWIC would be vital for the state to take part in the myriad of Federal Grants for communications.

**Some key roles and responsibilities of the SWIC include**:

Collaborates with state, local, tribal, territorial, federal governments and emergency response groups (including those designated as Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), in long-term strategic planning

Communicates regularly with all interoperability stakeholders and partners on the development of projects, plans, policies, standards, priorities, and guidelines, ensuring transparency and information sharing

Coordinates governing body activities to maximize integration and collaboration across the emergency communications landscape

Serves as the point of contact for the Federal Government and industry on issues concerning statewide interoperable communications

Seeks guidance, input, and recommendations from state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal agencies on the SCIP

Drives the development, implementation, and regular update of the SCIP

Coordinates interstate, intrastate, and regional public safety communications interoperability