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Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure

House Technology, Economic Development, and Veterans Committee

January 30, 2026



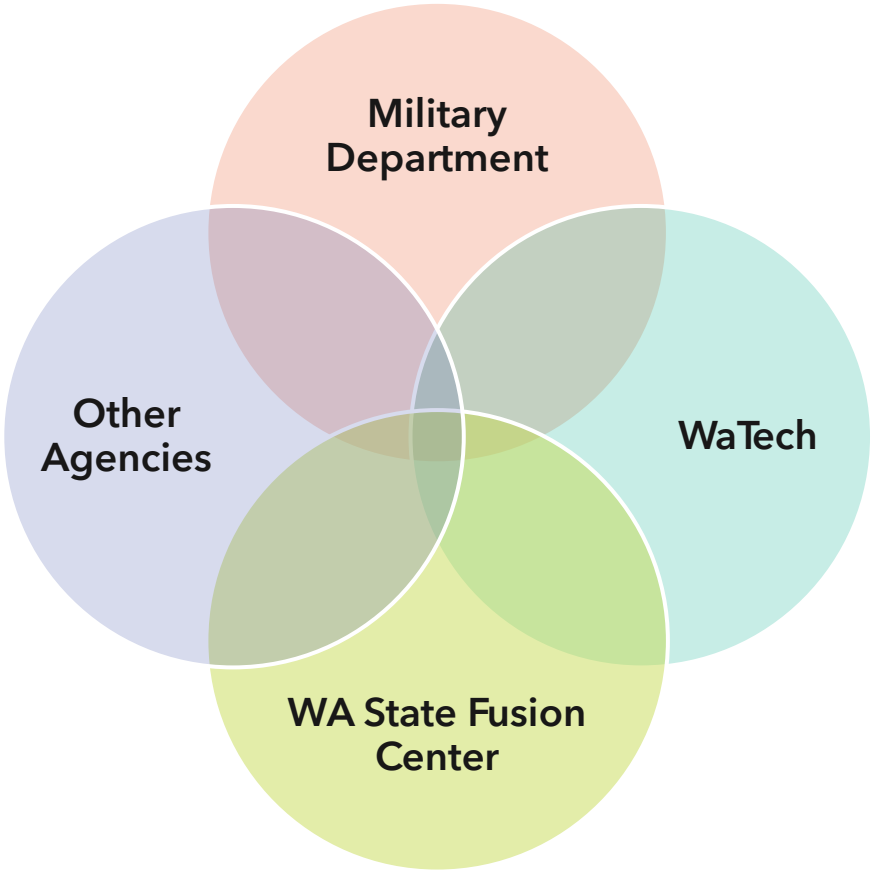
Ralph Johnson
State Chief Information Security Officer
WaTech



Tristan Allen
Infrastructure and Industry Section Manager, WA Emergency Management Division (EMD)

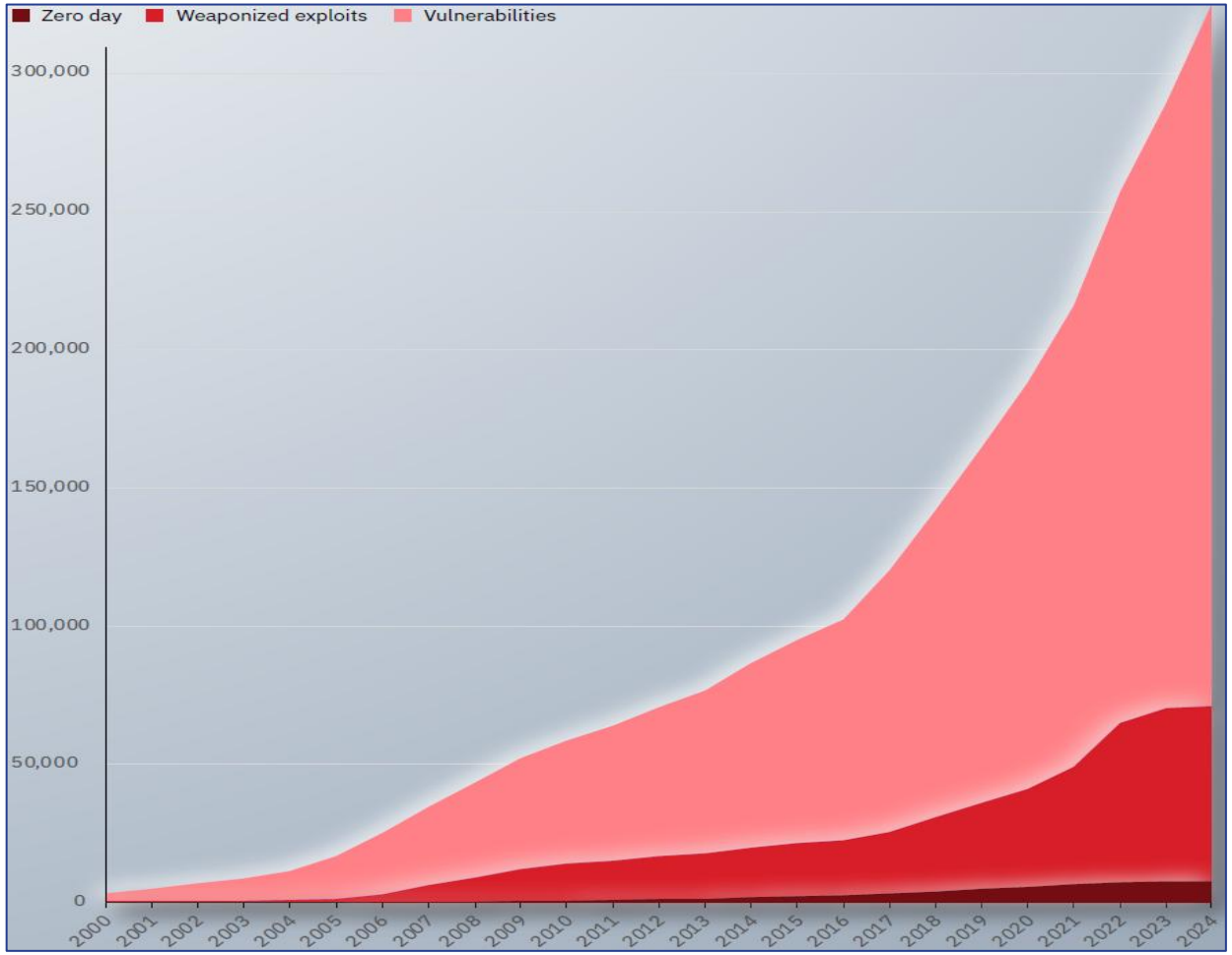
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Securing Washington: A Whole of State Approach



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Cybersecurity threats are increasing exponentially



Recent Cyber-Attacks in WA

- Evergreen State College (2025)
- CodeRED Emergency Notification System – Numerous WA Counties (2025)
- Pierce County Library System (2025)
- WA State Court System (2024)
- SeaTac Airport (2024)
- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center (2023)
- Pierce Transit (2023)

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Source: IBM X-Force 2025 Report

Washington State Enterprise – threat landscape

Threats

- Credential theft and phishing remain primary entry vectors.
- Ransomware and extortion target service continuity and recovery.
- Vendor and SaaS compromise and cloud misconfiguration increase risk.

Response

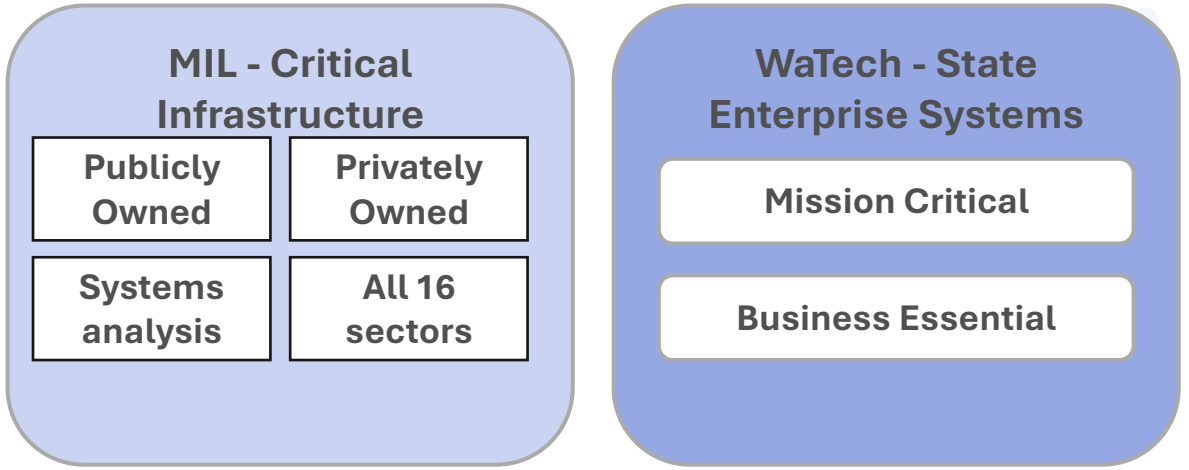
Prevent	Multi-factor Authentication (MFA), access controls.
Detect/Respond	Monitoring, anti-malware, triage, coordinated incident response.
Recover	Resilient backups and tested restoration with mission-critical systems first.

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION EM WASHINGTON

What state agencies protect: Systems prioritized by business criticality

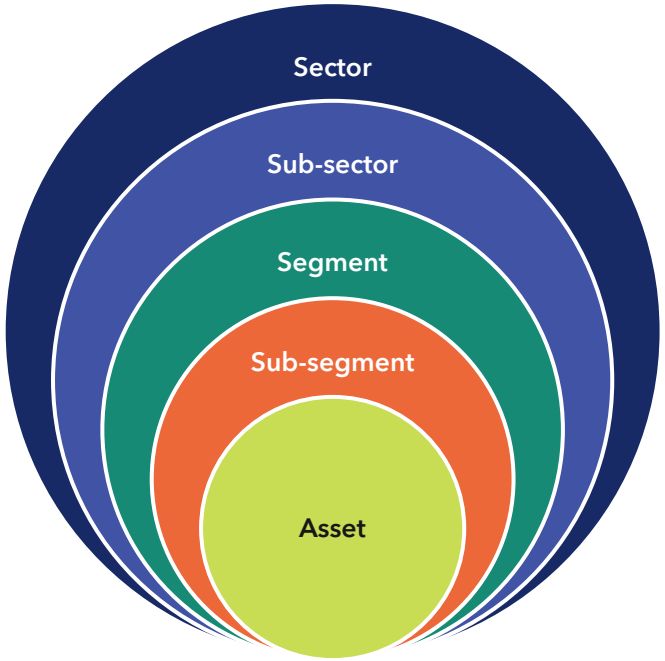
- MIL is responsible for improving the resilience of **“Critical Infrastructure”** sectors
- WaTech OCS Core focus: **Mission Critical** and **Business Essential** systems of the state enterprise network
- WaTech OCS secures the state enterprise network by prioritizing systems, services, and IT infrastructure
- Why it matters: continuity of government and public service delivery

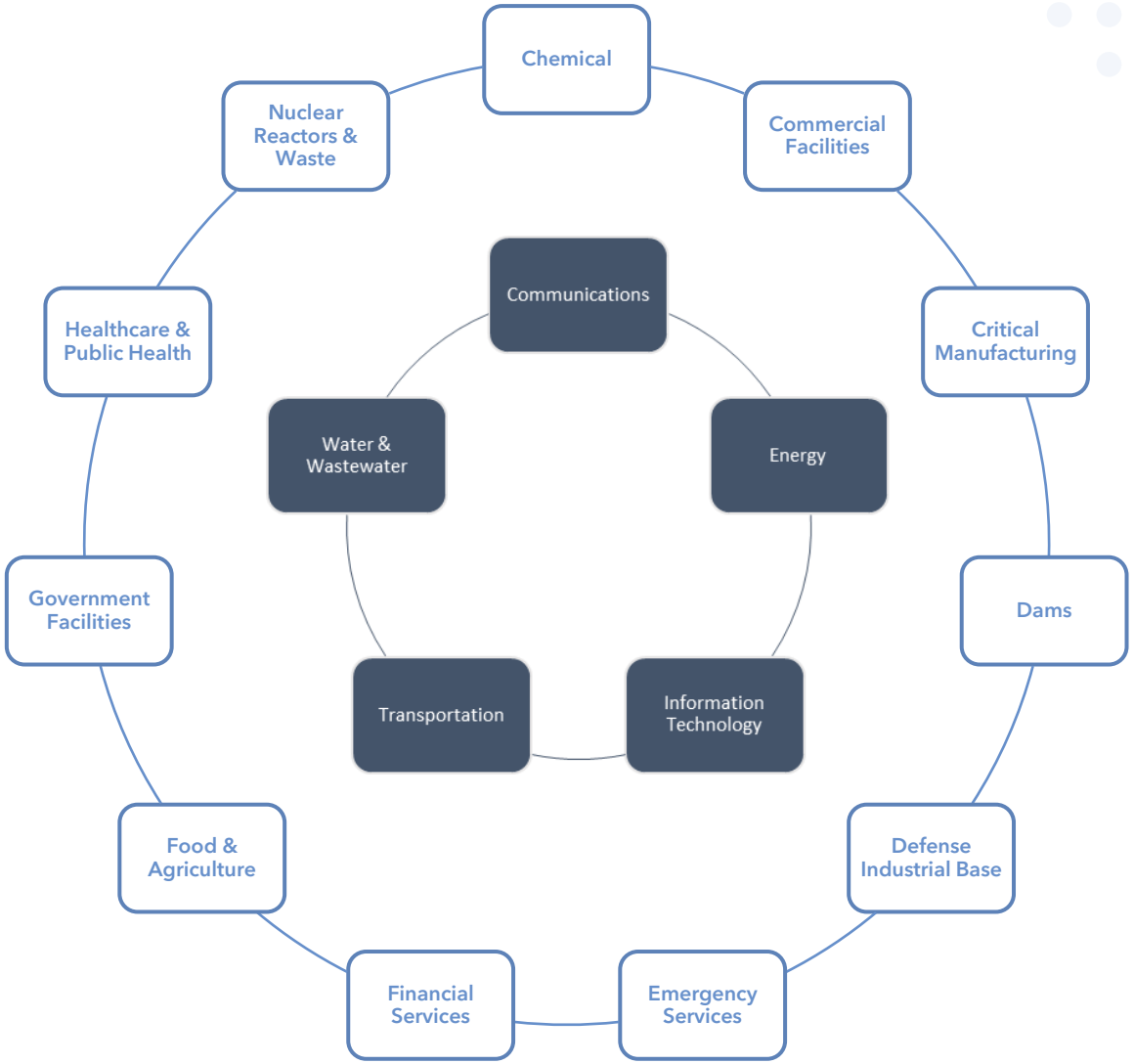


Both lenses inform prioritization.
OCS operationalizes on systems & services.

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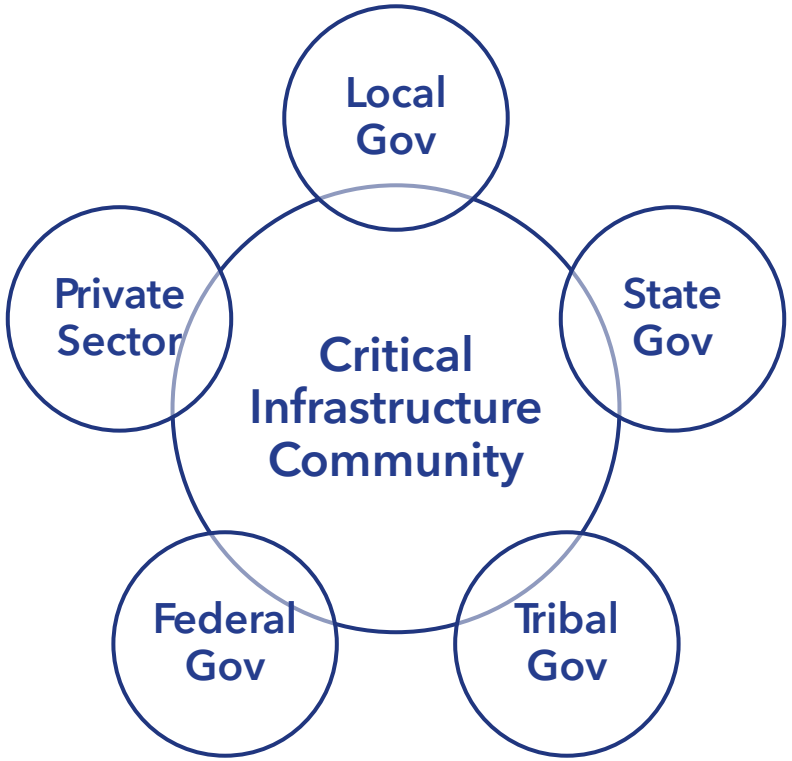
Defining Critical Infrastructure





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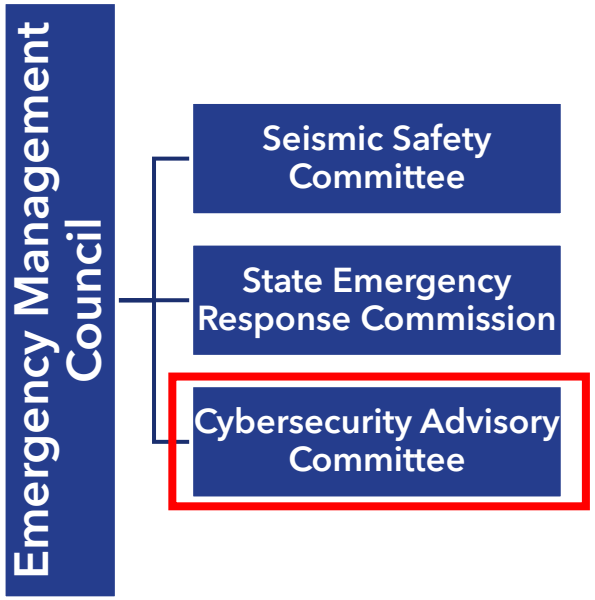
Improving Cybersecurity Across Critical Infrastructure Communities





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Governance: Cybersecurity Advisory Committee
(2SSB 5518-2023/RCW 38.52.040)





Deliverables:

EMC Annual Report
- Submitted annually to the Governor's Office

Annual State Cybersecurity Report
- Co-authored with WaTech
- Submitted annually to the Governor's Office and Legislature

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State Enterprise Systems: guardrails and capabilities

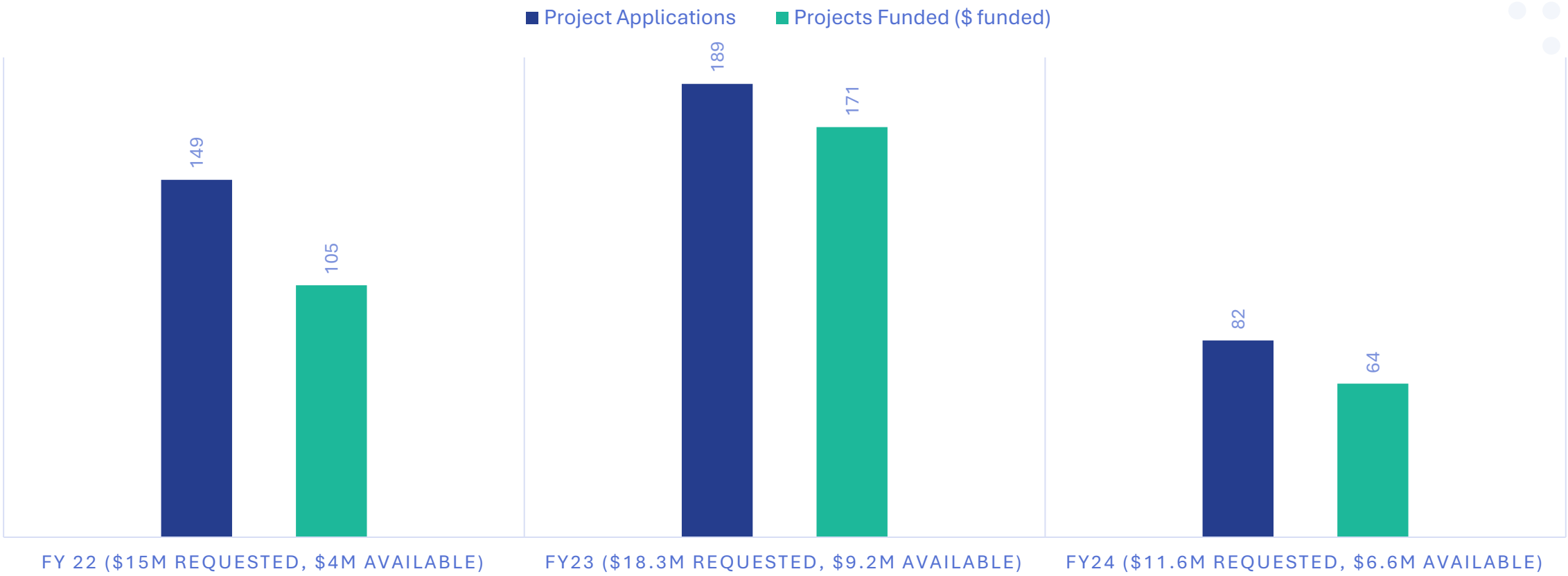
Enterprise cybersecurity governance: standards, policy, and baseline expectations

Shared accountability: agencies operate systems; OCS enables consistency of security controls

Coordinated support during incidents and systemic risk management

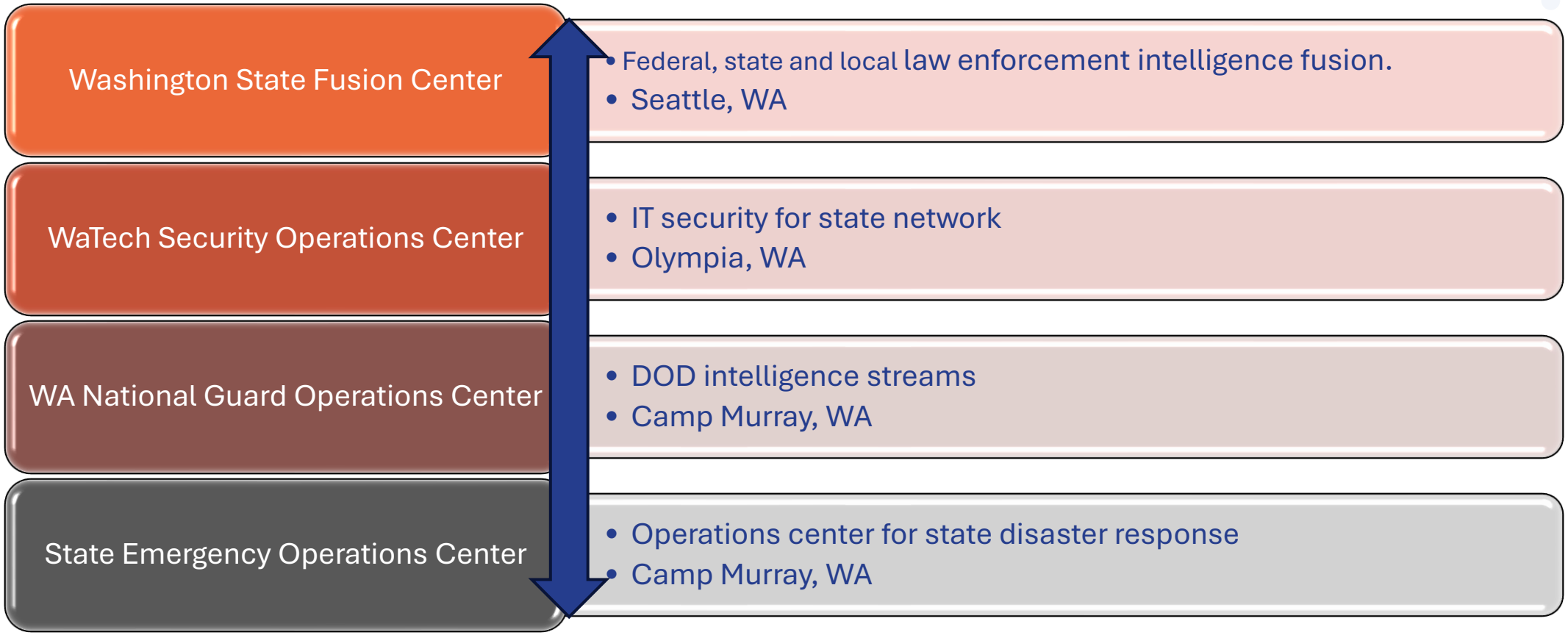
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State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)



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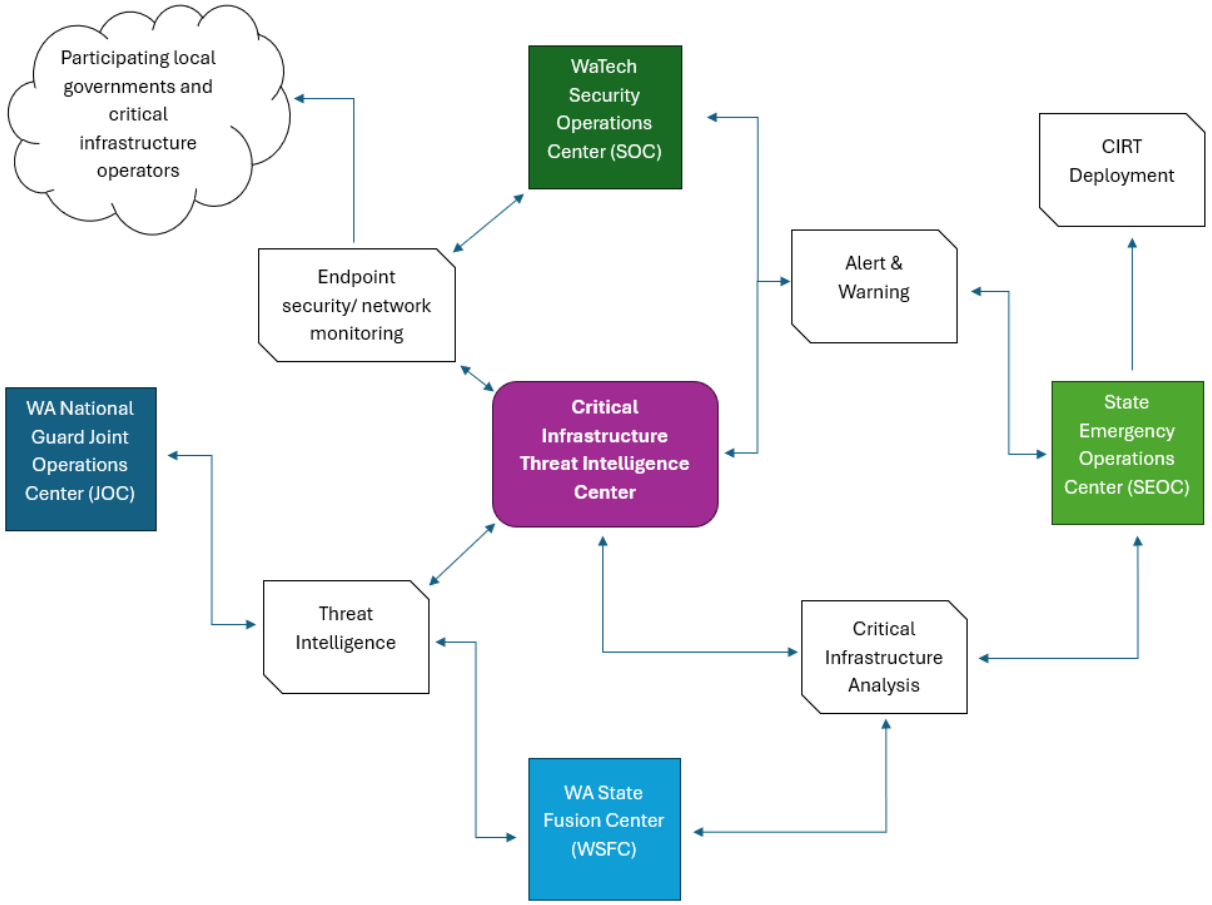
The Need for real-time threat monitoring and alignment across operations centers



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Proposed Model: Statewide Critical Infrastructure Intelligence Center

- Build upon existing capabilities at WSFC, WaTech and the Military Department
- Develop share endpoint security and network monitoring framework
- State agency clearance management for classified threat briefings
- Operationalize threat intelligence for protection activities and response actions



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Thank you

Questions?