The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides roughly $1.2 trillion in funding to nearly 400 new and existing programs, including initiatives that elevate government cybersecurity posture. As our world becomes more connected and virtual, cybersecurity risks continue to grow. IIJA offers several avenues of support to make technology safety improvements.

IIJA seeks to avoid disruptions to critical communications in broadband networks, transportation, utilities, energy, port facilities, and other communications technologies by including cybersecurity-specific programs and other infrastructure investments.

$1 billion total IIJA allocation for cybersecurity
80% of IIJA cybersecurity funding allocated to localities
$3.5 million average state fund allocation

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are jointly managing the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) for IIJA. The goals for the program include
- Implementing cyber-governance and planning
- Assessing and evaluating systems and capabilities
- Mitigating prioritized issues
- Building a cybersecurity workforce

Eligible entities are required to submit a comprehensive cybersecurity plan outlining how the requested grant funds will be used to shore up existing defenses against hackers and other cyberthreats; however, eligible entities may also seek an exception to use funds to support the development of a cybersecurity plan. Grant money is available four years from bill passage. Many expect the $1B to be a “kickstarter” for cybersecurity funding. CISA will report back to Congress on how states are using the funds and whether additional investments are needed.

Other IIJA Programs that Support Cybersecurity

U.S. Department of Commerce Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)
This program is the communications centerpiece of IIJA. It provides investments to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to expand high-speed internet access and use. BEAD focuses on unserved and underserved communities across the U.S. The Notice of Funding Opportunity allows for cybersecurity solutions as well as training for cybersecurity professionals who will be involved with BEAD-funded networks.

U.S. Department of Energy
State Energy Program
$500 million is earmarked for funding and technical assistance to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to bolster energy security, advance state-led energy initiatives, and increase energy affordability. Plans submitted must include, among other proposals, tactics for strengthening the ability to secure energy infrastructure against physical and cybersecurity threats.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants
The $2.25 billion Port Infrastructure Development Program provides competitive grants to ports and port authorities. The investments are intended to modernize and expand U.S. ports and improve their resiliency, including associated cybersecurity

Learn More:
- Notice of Funding Opportunity
- State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Fact Sheet
- State and Locate Cybersecurity Grant Program FAQS