

WISCONSIN

Highlights of State Council Activities

In September 2004, Governor Jim Doyle signed Executive Order #67, which created the Wisconsin State Citizen Corps Council. Wisconsin Citizen Corps continues to be supported by the Governor's office and the Office of Justice Assistance, which continues to facilitate and manage the activities of the council.

The Governor's State Citizen Corps Council met seven times in 2005 at a variety of locations throughout the state. Council members are representatives from local law enforcement, fire service, public health, Red Cross, Emergency Medical Services, Tribal and Emergency Government. Council members continue to be appointed by the Governor for a two-year renewable term. New appointees have filled the posts left vacant by three resignations in 2005.

Citizen participation and preparedness were high priorities in the state's Homeland Security Strategy. On both a state and local level, Citizen Corps assisted in supporting this priority through its outreach, training, awareness and educational volunteer programs. In 2005, Wisconsin Citizen Corps added seven local Citizen Corps programs. Funds were awarded in 2005 to 15 programs on a competitive basis with priority given to programs that supported CERT, Volunteers in Police Service, Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, and Neighborhood Watch. Grant applications were reviewed and approved by the Council and awards were made to all applicants.

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Public Education and Outreach

The Wisconsin Citizen Corps "READY" initiative (Responding to Emergencies and Disasters with Youth) provided education and preparedness activities to Wisconsin youth, focusing on middle school and high school students. READY also hosted a five-day summer camp for Wisconsin middle school and high school students that took place at a military installation in Volk Field where 80 students participated and were introduced to CERT, first aid activities, self preparedness and terrorism awareness. READY planned to expand the camp initiative to include four summer camps in 2006 with 400 students.

Training and Exercises

CERT began to rapidly expand after Wisconsin Citizen Corps assumed responsibility for the state's program management. Wisconsin trained approximately 800 volunteers in CERT, most of who belong to a local Citizen Corps program.

Currently, the curriculum for SERT (School Emergency Response Team) training is also in development. This program will initially focus on middle and high school students and will

eventually include elementary school students. The pilot program for SERT was scheduled for June 2006.

Volunteer Programs and Support

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) programs, as affiliates, were central to many of the Wisconsin local Citizen Corps programs. Programs included police explorer programs, police chaplain programs, Neighborhood Watch programs, police auxiliary, and reserves and were supported with local Citizen Corps funds.

Wisconsin Citizen Corps continued to promote the idea of including Medical Reserve Corps and Fire Corps as elements of a local Citizen Corps program in 2005.

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

Wisconsin Citizen Corps, on state and local levels, was not asked to provide assistance in the Katrina disaster. The Wisconsin Citizen Corps is preparing a procedure to organize its volunteers in the event of a Katrina-like disaster in Wisconsin.

National Preparedness Month

A ceremony was held during National Preparedness month at the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs that highlighted the delivery of Wisconsin's Homeland Security Plan by General Al Wilkening, the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor. A number of students who participated in the READY camp attended and were greeted by Governor Jim Doyle.