

United States



U.S. Virgin Islands



Alaska



Hawaii



Puerto Rico

# GIS

Geographic Information Systems:  
A Treasure Trove of Resources

# Become a Champion for GIS Coordination

You could be saving more than just taxpayers' money. Nearly all government agencies have business and information needs that are dependent on GIS technology and data.



Transportation planners rely on maps to **plan for and engineer roads, bridges and more.**



Local governments rely on maps to show **land property boundaries** and to **manage their streets** and other infrastructure.



Maps are displayed in 911 call centers to **dispatch first responders** to exact locations and for tracking incoming calls from mobile phones.



**Homeland security and defense** depend on accurate maps to protect our nation.



Maps are used to **plan farm fields and crop types.** They also help control the application of chemicals.



Maps are used to pinpoint locations of **natural disasters** and dispatch **emergency management personnel** where they are needed most.



Using maps, **public health officials** can monitor the spread of diseases like the West Nile virus.



Maps guide **emergency workers in the field**, enabling them to make the safest, most effective choices.



Using maps, land planners can quickly assess the **environmental impact** of development on wetlands, streams, and shorelines.



Maps help **wildlife agencies better understand the animals** they manage and protect.



Where would you be without a good map?

**Maps in Action:** The map legend above shows just a few of the many ways GIS, GPS, CAD and AVL technologies are used by government agencies to reduce crime, enhance public safety, contain costs, manage growth, improve our quality of life, and protect the environment.

GIS is Geographic Information Systems  
GPS is Global Positioning Systems  
CAD is Computer Aided Design and Computer Assisted Dispatch  
AVL is Automated Vehicle Location

## About the Fifty States Initiative

The Fifty States Initiative is designed to bring all public and private stakeholders together in statewide GIS coordination bodies that help to form effective partnerships and lasting relationships.

Nearly all government agencies use GIS as an underlying technology. When implemented correctly, GIS enables organizations to work efficiently, keep costs down, and make informed decisions. Effective coordination mechanisms are essential for the proper deployment of GIS due to overlapping data needs and development of applications.

The Fifty States Initiative advocates for each and every state and its associated political subdivisions to establish the following components required for effective **statewide** coordination:

- Strategic and business plans
- A full-time paid GIS coordinator and staff
- Clearly defined authority and responsibility for coordination
- A relationship with the chief information officer
- A political or executive champion involved in coordination
- A tie-in to national programs
- An intergovernmental working environment free of "turf wars"
- Sustainable funding mechanisms
- Contracting authority and cost sharing mechanisms
- Statewide coordination efforts that can be a conduit for federal initiatives.



### About NSGIC

The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) is an organization of states committed to efficient and effective government through the prudent adoption of geospatial information technologies.



### About FGDC

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is an interagency committee of the federal government that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis.

NSGIC and FGDC are working as partners to implement the Fifty States Initiative and build robust spatial data infrastructures that support the business needs of all levels of government.

## What You Can Do

As a leader in your community, it is vital that you articulate a vision for the people who follow you and enable them to effectively coordinate.

Become a champion for GIS Coordination and help your state meet the objectives of the Fifty States Initiative.

Find out more by visiting <http://50states.nsgic.org>.

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