

Kimball Solutions for Interoperability Planning

A Complete Approach to Interoperability

Everyone claims to have a “solution” to interoperability that magically connects mission critical users for seamless communications.

That’s not exactly the complete picture, nor is it as easy as it may seem. The complete interoperability picture requires a number of elements falling in sync together. Regardless if your goal is achieving interoperability at a local, regional or state level, it takes much more than technology to actually achieve true interoperability. Based on Kimball’s experience, assessing the complete picture includes an integrated look at each component of the puzzle.

Technology

Kimball’s professional staff can guide you through a maze of available technology options. Kimball’s experts are familiar with every level of technology on the SAFECOM continuum, from basic on-scene, talk-around operation to IP switches, and SAFECOM level 6 standards-based networks such as P25.

Operating Procedures

While technology may be the enabling mechanism that supports interoperability, establishing appropriate operating procedures is what makes it happen. Kimball’s staff includes front-line experienced public safety operations professionals who understand your real world communications issues and needs. More importantly, Kimball understands how to apply operational planning and procedures to your technology specific local needs.

Governance

Another key element of interoperability planning is establishing a strong, participative governance structure. Kimball’s public safety professionals understand first hand the importance of developing a governance plan and structure that allows for input and discussion from all levels of stakeholders. Kimball’s staff also includes policy and regulatory professionals familiar with developing related MOUs, organization charts, and governance planning documents.

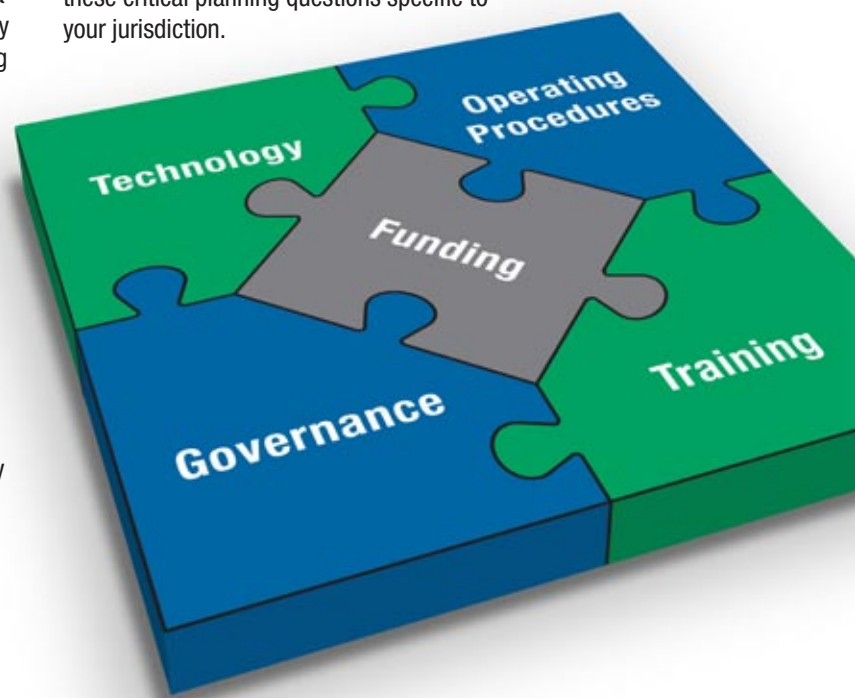
Training

Training, the critical – but sometimes forgotten – element of interoperability helps ensure your users know how and when to use defined interoperability operational procedures and technology tools available in your jurisdiction. Operational exercises can expose shortfalls in your procedures or technology – allowing for modification or additions before a critical incident occurs. Kimball can support your interoperability planning with development of training and exercise programs.

Funding

No elements of a complete interoperability plan or solution are possible without funding. Whether it’s identifying costs to develop and implement a solution for funding from a local jurisdiction budget, or pursuing grants such as Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Public Safety Interoperability Communication Program (PSIC), or earmarks, Kimball can help guide the process. Our full-service capabilities include an in-house staff of policy and regulatory experts, monitoring grant and funding programs and policies.

From local jurisdictions to statewide efforts, Kimball has the knowledge and experience to help you integrate each and every piece of the interoperability puzzle. We can assist you with individual components as well – including training and exercise planning, grants and funding applications, or technical or operational assistance on an as needed basis. As a vendor – independent resource, Kimball has the professional staff, experience and knowledge to help you answer any, or all, of these critical planning questions specific to your jurisdiction.



Success Stories

State of New Jersey

The state of New Jersey began working with Kimball in October of 2007 for the development and documentation of their SCIP and the investment justification package for the PSIC grant program. Working directly with the state Interoperability Coordinator and staff, Kimball identified deficiencies in the state's interoperable communications structure and developed strategies to close communication gaps and improve overall interoperability throughout New Jersey. Kimball also assisted with developing a process to consistently evaluate the investment justification program applications and inputs from eligible jurisdictions throughout the state. Finally, to ensure consistency with the overall state strategy, Kimball ensured that investment justification for state, local, and the Tier I UASI region of Northern New Jersey were consistent with the overall state vision and remedied deficiencies identified earlier using user surveys. Kimball also assisted complete all additional requirements of the SCIP plan, including identifying and describing plan governance, operating procedures, implementation planning and ongoing funding. The state was awarded \$30M in grants that will be directly used to implement short and long term interoperability improvements and improve safety and responsiveness of virtually all of New Jersey's first responder community.

St. Clair Co, IL

St. Clair Co contracted with Kimball to assist with developing PSIC grant request and investment justification to the state of Illinois. Kimball experts identified state strategies and gaps to develop an investment justification aligned with the state SCIP plan, as well as with the county and regional needs. The county's application was successful and was one of the state's selected programs, awarding \$3.7 million to the county to implement the strategy.

State of Michigan

The state of Michigan partnered with Kimball in 2006 to develop and document the State Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP). Kimball developed a customized web based survey to capture interoperability assets in each county and region in the state. Kimball completed the TIC Plans and supported the state with entry of the information into a Communication Assets Survey and Mapping Tool (CASM). After successfully completing this project, the state selected Kimball to assist with development of the Strategic Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) in 2007.

Look to Kimball for Interoperability Planning Assistance

- **Professional staff with full-service capabilities – technology, operations and policy**
- **Emphasis and experience on PSIC grant requirements and process**
- **In-house database development for custom needs assessment surveys and CASM entry**
- **Experience with local, regional and state level projects**

For further information and to contact a Kimball Radio and Wireless Specialist, please contact us.

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