



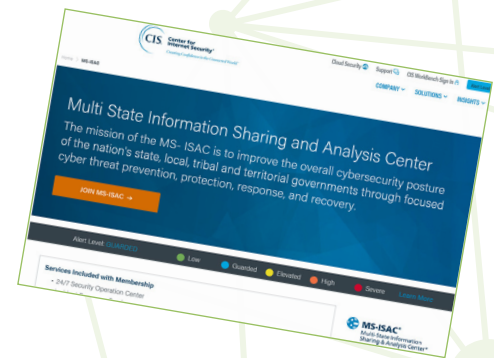
Office of the
Washington
State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Improve your cybersecurity without breaking your budget

Balancing the many needs and budget priorities of your local government is challenging and finding dollars for cybersecurity programs may seem monumental. Would you be surprised to learn there are tools you can use at little to no cost? Here, we have rounded up some of the best resources available to help you improve your cybersecurity posture.

1. Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) offers free membership with many benefits

As a local government, this is your key resource for cyber-threat prevention, protection, response and recovery! [MS-ISAC](#) is funded by the Department of Homeland Security, so it has many free and low-cost services, such as immediate help should you experience a cyber-incident. MS-ISAC's operations center is available 24/7, and offers free incident response services like emergency conference calls, mitigation recommendations and forensic analysis.



2. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a division of Homeland Security, offers services at no cost

CISA, a division of Homeland Security, offers free services to local governments including vulnerability scanning, phishing campaign assessment, and remote penetration testing. For a complete list of services, see <https://www.cisa.gov/cyber-resource-hub>.



3. The Public Infrastructure Security Cyber Education System (PISCES) helps small local governments

[PISCES](#) connects small municipalities (fewer than 150 network users) with students who analyze live-streaming metadata, and perform network and threat analyses. CISA and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory support PISCES, and it started here in Washington.



4. Free cybersecurity training for managers and technical professionals, from beginner to advanced

FedVTE is a free online, on-demand [cybersecurity training system](#) providing cybersecurity training courses for federal, state and local government personnel. It includes basic training for managers and more technical training for IT staff.

CISA also provides online and in-person, instructor-led [technical training](#) at no cost. It offers a five-day training event in Idaho Falls, Idaho, as well as regional training courses and workshops in various other locations.

5. Free employee awareness trainings for your cybersecurity program

ESET, a global digital security company, provides an informative 90-minute [interactive training](#), and employees receive a certificate upon completion.

The National Cybersecurity Alliance has short, fun, [cybersecurity awareness videos](#) that you can use to educate your employees.

6. Cyber Readiness Institute offers a cyber-readiness program for small to medium enterprises

The Institute was established by industry leaders and [this program](#) provides steps to develop and implement cyber-readiness policies. It requires limited expertise and can be completed in a few short weeks.

7. Center for Internet Security (CIS) Controls offers sample policy templates

CIS is a community-driven non-profit, and home to MS-ISAC. CIS provides information technology and cybersecurity [sample policy templates](#), best practices for securing IT systems, and data and technical resources for IT professionals.

8. Washington State Auditor conducts cybersecurity performance audits, at no charge to your government

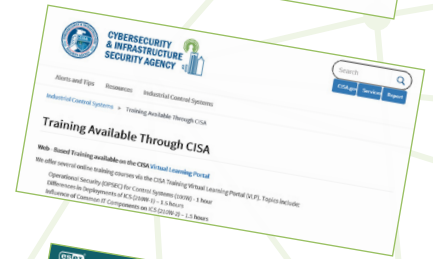
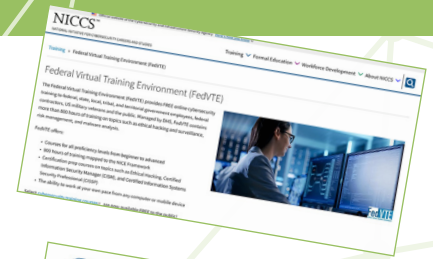
In our [cybersecurity performance audits](#), IT professionals evaluate your security controls and perform penetration testing at no cost to you. These audits are voluntary. If you have questions or want to join the waiting list, email us at SAOITAudit@sao.wa.gov.

Disclaimer: This resource is provided for informational purposes only. It does not represent prescriptive guidance, legal advice, an audit recommendation, or audit assurance. It does not relieve governments of their responsibilities to assess risks, design appropriate controls, and make management decisions. The Office of the Washington State Auditor does not endorse any particular organization, product or service.

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