US ERA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT





















Preparing states for tomorrow, today



















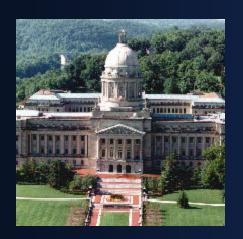
WELCOME TO RHODE ISLAND





Preparing states for tomorrow, today

CSG is the multibranch organization of the states, working to prepare states for tomorrow, today. Nationally focused and regionally based, CSG works with state leaders to put the best ideas and solutions into practice.



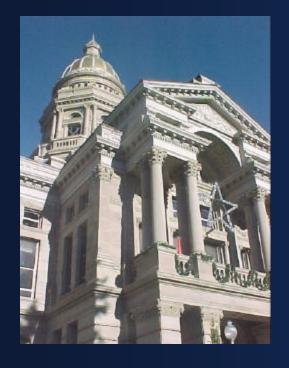




- Interpret changing national and international conditions that affect states
- Advocate multistate problem-solving and partnerships
- Build leadership skills among state policymakers
- Promote the sovereignty of the states and their role in the American federal system



Preparing states for tomorrow, today







CSG's History

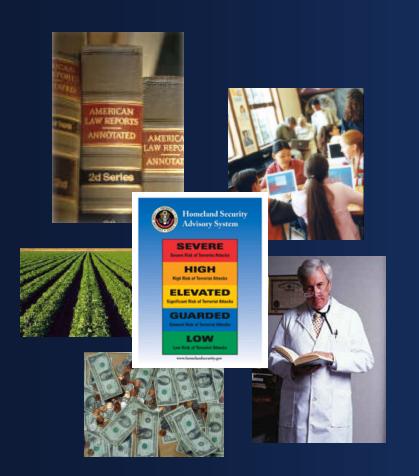
- Founded in 1933
- Headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky (1969)
- Regionally represented
- CSG is the only national association serving elected and appointed officials in all three branches of government in the 50 states and U.S. territories
- Has spawned other national organizations:
 - National Governors Association (NGA)
 - National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)
 - National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)



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CSG's National Policy Studies

CSG identifies and tracks emerging policy trends affecting the states



- Agriculture & Rural Policy
- Education Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Fiscal & Budget Policy
- Health Policy
- Infrastructure & Energy Policy
- Public Safety & Justice Policy
- Suggested State Legislation





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CSG – EPA Cooperation

- Improved cooperation between state and federal agencies, academia and others;
- Promotion of the most effective and efficient environmental monitoring and assessment tools;
- Promotion of best practices, trends and innovations in environmental monitoring among the states.



EMAP – The Tool

- Develop the scientific basis for consistent measurement of the health of the aquatic ecosystems
- Assist in building state capacity for monitoring for 305(b) and 303(d)
- Provide support to states so they can implement more cost-effective monitoring



EMAP – The Solution

- cost-effective, scientific and unbiased method
- consistent approach for estimating ecological condition
- allows for aggregating states' data into the national report card



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U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

"Federal, state and local authorities need to be consolidated in order to restore ocean and coastal resources"

Preliminary report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy



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The Council of State Governments

Preparing states for tomorrow, today

www.csg.org

2760 Research Park Dr. P.O. Box 11910 Lexington, KY 40578-1910

(859) 244-8000