

Improve your cybersecurity without breaking your budget

Center for
Government
Innovation



Office of the
Washington
State Auditor
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Balancing the many needs and budget priorities of your local government is challenging and finding dollars for cybersecurity programs may seem monumental. However, assistance might be available to you at little to no cost. Here, we have rounded up some of the best resources available to help you improve your cybersecurity posture.

1. Office of the Washington State Auditor conducts free cyber checkups

[Cyber checkups](#) provide a fast, free and independent assessment of your government's vulnerability to common threats, along with actionable steps you can take to improve your overall cyber health. The program was recognized with an [Excellence in Accountability Award](#) from the National State Auditors Association (NSAA) in 2024, and has helped more than 75 governments since its inception. Email Center@sao.wa.gov to learn more.



2. 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 grant 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. Their operations center is available 24/7 and offers free incident response services like emergency conference calls, mitigation recommendations and forensic analysis.



3. 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>.



4. 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, perform network analysis and threat hunting. CISA and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory support PISCES, and it started here in Washington state.

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

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

CISA also provides industrial control systems (ICS) cybersecurity training online and in-person, instructor-led [technical training](#) at no cost. They hold a five-day training event in Idaho Falls, Idaho, but also have regional training courses and workshops in various other locations.

6. 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.

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

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

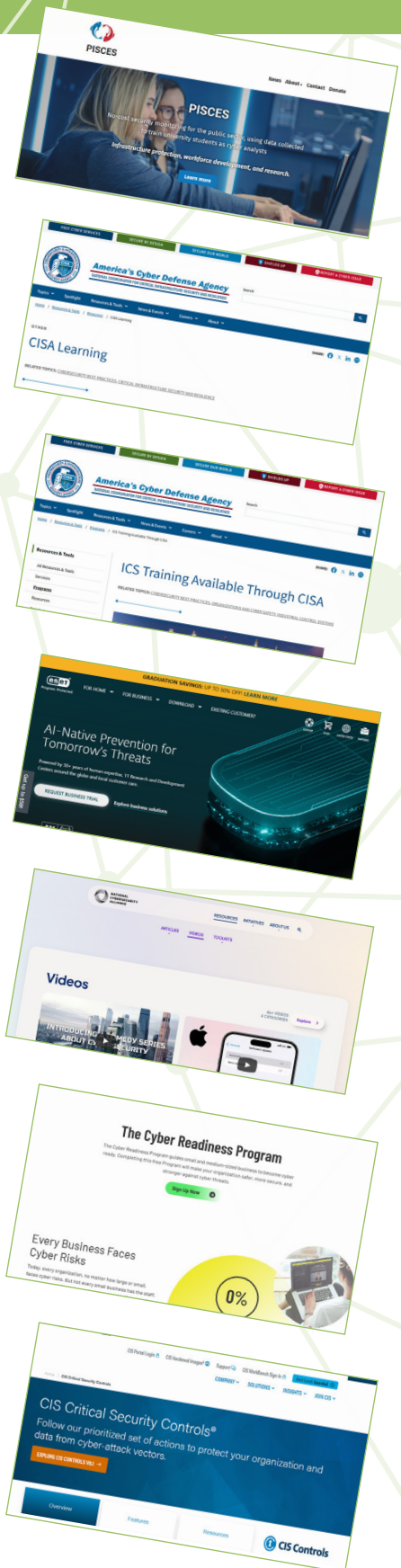
8. Center for Internet Security (CIS) controls offers sample policy templates

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

9. The Office of the Washington State Auditor conducts cybersecurity performance audits at no charge to you

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.

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