

**From:** The Council of State Governments <data@csg.org>  
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**Subject:** The Current State: Co-ops, Federalism, President's Budget

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**Issue: 3**

**February 9, 2015**

### **Co-ops a Growing Form of Economic Activity**

Co-ops are gaining in popularity as a new form of business creating economic activity in the states. Based on their unique structure, some studies suggest that cooperatives may have a greater economic impact than their more traditional counterparts, including paying higher wages.  
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### **President's Budget Plan Provides Some Benefits to States**

President Obama continued to build on the theme of middle class economics in his \$3.99 trillion budget proposal. Several key initiatives will have significant impact on state governments.  
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### **Federal Spending in the States**

The federal government spends a lot of money in the states; it infused \$3.1 trillion into states in the 2013 fiscal year. Federal spending in the states in 2013 was the equivalent of about one-fifth of states' economic activity, according to a report released in December by the Pew Charitable Trusts, "Federal Spending in the States 2004-2013."

### **Federalism is a Two-Way Street**

States get nearly one-third of their funding from the federal government. In turn, the federal government depends on states to carry out federal programs and mandates. That makes the financial arrangements between the two levels of government even more intertwined and complex.  
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### **States Considering Education as an Export**

Education is a very important service sector, according to Joan Kanlian, director of the Westchester Export Assistance Center in New York. That's one reason the U.S. Department of Commerce wants state leaders to think about education when considering their export programs.  
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### **Fighting Cybercrime to Protect Intellectual Property**

Despite political gridlock and partisanship in Washington, D.C., Congress and the president recognize intellectual property as a driver of economic growth in America. Cybercrime is on the rise, and intellectual property is oftentimes the primary target of cyber criminals. To protect intellectual property, the White House, Congress and

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state governments all are working diligently to enhance cybersecurity.

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**Closer to Home: Texas  
Juvenile Justice Reforms**

A first-of-its-kind study of Texas youth involved with the juvenile justice system shows that juveniles under community-based supervision are far less likely to reoffend than youth with very similar profiles who are confined in state correctional facilities. The Council of State Governments Justice Center announced in January.

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**State Policymakers' Toolbox**

The Council of State Governments has been providing the tools state policymakers need to get the job done for more than 80 years. Open the CSG Toolbox for information to help you better serve your constituents.

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**CSG Midwest: Midwestern Legislative  
Conference (MLC) 70th Annual Meeting**  
July 12-15, 2015: Bismarck, N.D.

**CSG South: Southern Legislative  
Conference (SLC) 69th Annual Meeting**  
July 18-22, 2015: Savannah, Ga

**CSG West 68th Annual Meeting**  
July 28-31, 2015: Vail, Colo.

**CSG East: Eastern Regional Conference  
(ERC) 55th Annual Meeting and Regional  
Policy Forum**  
Aug. 16-19, 2015: Wilmington, Del.

**See Full Calendar**

**After the Disaster: IBTS Helps  
to Build a Better City**

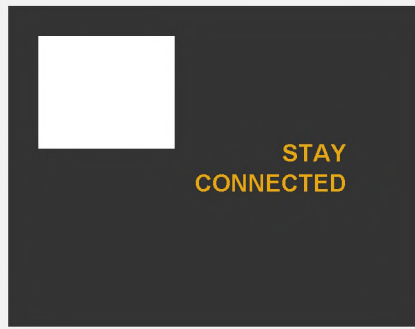
In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Louisiana asked the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS), a CSG Associate member, to assist in implementing the first statewide building codes. Within two years, IBTS was conducting intensive construction code orientation and training throughout Louisiana and, by 2011, was providing a range of public services to 45 local governments within the state.

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