

Foster a Remote Cybersecurity Workforce through Military Families

BACKGROUND

Many organizations across the country require sophisticated cybersecurity services and support but are faced with workforce challenges due to economic or location-based reasons. While information technology (IT) workers perform hands-on duties for organizations, much of the cybersecurity work required by organizations can be done through remote interactions and this availability would allow efficient application of cybersecurity services to research institutions across the country, particularly those with minimal resources or access to the workforce to address the rising cyber risks.

PROPOSAL

Support the creation and management of a service center that can employ a cybersecurity workforce to support organizations from anywhere in the country. As a large percentage of cybersecurity work can be supported through the remote gathering of information and through interactions with locally-based IT staff, such an organization could serve as an efficient mechanism to provide high-level services in a flexible manner for both cybersecurity workers and institutions. The organization would hire and maintain cybersecurity personnel who would be trained with a rigorous but efficient training program to ensure both the highest level of competency but also the highest quality of support. A specific focus would be on hiring military families (who move often and face associated challenges in finding consistent employment) and on workers displaced by the COVID19 pandemic. The organization running and managing the clearinghouse should be a non-profit, non-member organization in order to preserve a combination of objectiveness, skill, and affordable rates.

PROPOSED FUNDING

An initial investment of approximately \$20 million to support infrastructure, training, core staff, and recruiting activities would be needed. The expectation would be to establish a shared service and resource model in which the customers would pay a modest rate to sustain the center.