



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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Standing Panel on Intergovernmental Systems

1. Purpose and Focus

The Standing Panel on the Intergovernmental System (IGS) convenes experts on intergovernmental systems to discuss problem identification, researchable questions, development and review of actionable recommendations, and advocacy for Congress and the nation on policy changes. The Panel members and invited expert researchers analyze intergovernmental challenges and meet with decision-makers and staff to improve intergovernmental designs, policy, delivery of benefits, and services. The desired outcome of the Panel's work is to develop actionable recommendations for the NAPA *Center for Intergovernmental Partnership* and to mobilize and implement thought leadership. Our objective is to develop the intergovernmental actions needed to address the "Grand Challenges" facing the nation- creating the "partnerships required to deal with the 21st century increasing complexity.

2. Participation

The Panel is open to all Fellows, but we desire to encourage the active involvement of Fellows from each level of the government – including city, county, special districts, state, tribal, regional, and federal, as well as the local government group, universities, and research organizations, non-profits, and private sector, in the projects of the work plan for the year.

3. Leadership

Co-Chairs are responsible for convening the Panel, managing the panel's work, and reporting to and responding to the Academy's Board of Directors. The Panel meets quarterly and tracks progress on the Panel member initiatives. The Steering Committee is comprised of the leaders of the projects that Panel members and our partners conduct. Our approach is to focus discussion on specific, actionable projects and minimize the available meeting time of our members, leveraging the Fellow's interests, knowledge, and willingness to volunteer to engage in problem-solving actively. The approach has benefited from the new emphasis on Intergovernmental work and the creation of the Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships CIP, which NAPA, NAPA's CEO, and the Board have implemented-and to which Panel members contributed.

Work Program Approved by NAPA Board

The work of the past several years of the Panel has been advanced by researching intergovernmental processes that address societal challenges that any one level of government alone cannot address. The Fellows seek to deepen the understanding of effective practices that can be transferred across policy areas or model practices that Congress might support while identifying low-performing processes to avoid.

The panel explicitly addresses the *Grand Challenge* to "Develop New Approaches to Public Governance and Engagement" across each of the initiatives of the panel. This *Grand Challenge* is cross-cutting in all the work of the board. In addition, the Panel's research and papers in the

past two years and into the future will continue to address the following specific *Grand Challenges*:

- a. Foster Social Equity
- b. Modernize and Reinvigorate Public Service
- c. Connect Individuals to Meaningful Work
- d. Build Resilient Communities
- e. Steward Natural Resources and Address Climate Change
- f. Create Modern Water Systems for Safe and Sustainable Use
- g. Improve the Fiscal Sustainability of Government.

To help address NAPA's *Grand Challenges*, the Panel has been working to identify patterns of practice distinguishing more and less effective intergovernmental arrangements to inform future law and practice. The Panel will use its ongoing work to improve, continually, a draft template previously developed. Panel members will also experiment with ways to update understanding of lessons learned and how to encourage adoption of those lessons.

The Panel is also beginning to think about fundraising for each of these efforts to initiate projects and sustain them.

Additional Requirements and Commitments

The Intergovernmental Systems Panel understands and commits to the additional requirements and commitments required by the board.

The Panel will:

- a. Produce an annual plan to guide panel meetings and activities no later than Dec 1 of each year for the following calendar year for the board's approval. The annual program will include actions or steps the panel will take to help implement the Grand Challenges in Public Administration. The engagement process involving Fellows as active participants generate interest and involvement. Most of the illustrations above were developed after the approved work plan.
- b. Submit a work plan to the President of NAPA following annual guidance. The above list of activities will be fleshed out in our annual report.
- c. Provide periodic reports to the Board as requested.
- d. Prepare written minutes and a video recording of the proceedings of each quarterly meeting and provide copies to Academy staff and retain them for at least three years for the Academy's internal records.

The Panel further understands that it may:

- a. Determine whether or when and how to make the recorded content of meetings public. Academy staff will assist with posting content on the Academy's website or sharing through other distribution channels.

- b. Schedule and conduct meetings as desired/required.
- c. Identify and invite outside speakers and participants to meetings as desired.
- d. Establish ad-hoc working groups to accomplish specific tasks or projects.
- e. Request administrative or financial support from the President of NAPA for specific purposes.
- f. Engage in fund-raising for specific purposes (i.e., conferences or projects), but only with advance approval by the President of NAPA.

It further recognizes that the Panel is subject to the oversight of the Board of Directors and the following restrictions. The Panel:

- a. May not obligate NAPA financially, contractually, or in any fashion.
- b. Speak on behalf of the Academy.
- c. May not act on behalf of the Board.
- d. Recognizes that all resources generated are property of NAPA and subject to approval by the President of NAPA and the Board of Directors before expenditure. No standing panel may hold any resources in its own right.
- e. The Academy President must approve any written products produced by the panel and intended for public distribution before being released.