

Securely and effectively transforming state and local public-sector services with Cloudflare

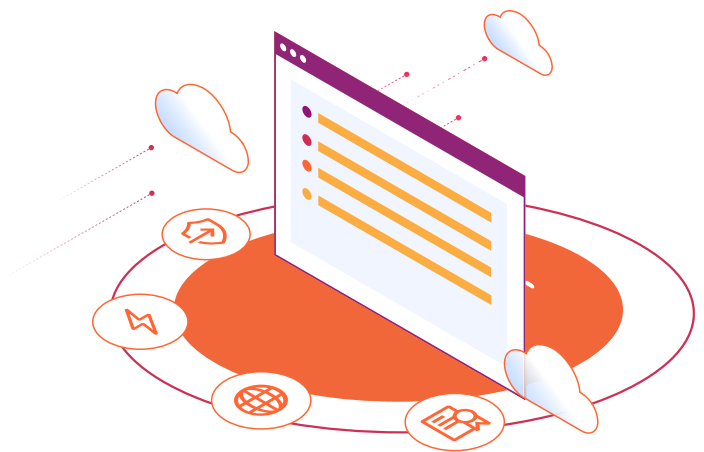
This is a crucial time to prioritize cybersecurity in government systems. As agencies transition from legacy technology to modern, cloud-based infrastructure, leaders of state and local agencies will reap benefits from a proactive stance in the face of evolving cyber threats.

The 2024 NASCIO survey, informed by chief information security officers (CISOs) in every state, shows a sophisticated and dangerous cyber threat environment. Emerging AI technologies present great opportunities but also new risks to data.¹ That same report pointed out that identity and access management, security of cloud platforms and solutions, and monitoring (i.e., through a security operations center, or SOC) were among the top items on state CISOs' agendas.

Public-sector organizations of all sizes are undertaking cloud transformations, capitalizing on platforms that are fast and resilient. These changes enable delivery of greatly improved services to customers, students, and citizens.

Part of this last great cloud transformation should include adoption of cloud-based security services. Those services are critical for addressing key security requirements, such as:

- **Accommodating increased traffic and more sophisticated attacks:** [Cloudflare Radar](#) shows a more than 20% annual increase in Internet traffic in 2024, much of it on vulnerable mobile platforms. This increase reflects a continual rise in network and application-layer attacks.
- **Securing disparate digital platforms:** Integrating digital services across multiple infrastructures becomes more challenging every day. State and local offices often have multi-cloud environments and platforms that must work together, so agencies need to apply a unified security platform to safeguard constituents' data and ensure seamless collaboration.



- **Meeting the public's expectations:** State and local entities need to modernize application infrastructure to deliver the fast, efficient, secure, and reliable experiences that users expect, while also tapping into secure and scalable AI capabilities.
- **Modernizing for security and compliance:** Innovative applications and services must be built on robust infrastructure that safeguards critical citizen data while ensuring compliance with regulations. Today's attackers (including both nation states and cybercriminals) are continually seeking new ways to steal sensitive information, take vital operations hostage, and conduct social engineering attacks on your networks.

1. NASCIO, "The 2024 State CIO Survey: Building Blocks of the Next Generation CIO," September 2024, <https://www.nascio.org/resource-center/resources/the-2024-state-cio-survey-building-blocks-of-the-next-generation-cio/>. Available from <https://www.nascio.org/topic/cybersecurity>

Cloudflare helps state and local government leaders overcome these and other essential challenges. Cloudflare's connectivity cloud is a unified platform of cloud-native services which enables organizations to regain control and visibility over their environments while simplifying management.

Achieving strategic goals

Today's state and local offices need a strategic approach to achieve digital transformation. The following building blocks can help them succeed:

- **Secure web applications and APIs:** Cloudflare's State of Application Security 2024 report reminds us that, while web applications are vital for communications and services, they represent an expanding attack surface.² Exploited apps lead to service disruptions and financial losses that no city or state should have to bear. Cloudflare helps safeguard users, applications, APIs, and networks with a connectivity cloud that stops a wide range of attacks in real time using powerful rulesets, credential checks, and other security measures.
- **Zero Trust:** The Zero Trust approach of "never trust, always verify" is essential, particularly given the rise in hybrid work. Cloudflare streamlines the transition from VPN solutions and other legacy solutions to a Zero Trust approach. Cloudflare Zero Trust Network Access can help boost productivity for remote workers while reducing management complexity.
- **Scalable, unified platform:** Cloudflare's scalable platform supports expansion and innovation. Organizations can connect to new apps and cloud providers; protect against rapidly evolving threats; and build new digital experiences — all within a single platform.

Cloudflare's connectivity cloud supports a public-sector strategy that takes on modern security challenges while improving the efficiency of operations. The 2024 Forrester Consulting report, [The Total Economic Impact™ of Cloudflare's Connectivity Cloud](#), illustrates the efficiencies and economic benefits of Cloudflare's unified platform of cloud-native services to help enterprises regain control over their IT environment. It shows that organizations can achieve a 238% return on investment, with payback in less than six months. In addition, the report highlights a 29% improvement in security team efficiency (due to stronger protection, consolidated services, faster incident response, and centralized visibility) plus increased improvement in IT team efficiency due to simplification, automation, or elimination of manual IT tasks.

Cloudflare helps governments move forward with digital initiatives, securely. With Cloudflare, government agencies can strengthen protection, comply with regulatory requirements, and bolster citizen confidence in government services.

Are you ready to protect, connect, and accelerate your public sector mission?
Learn more about [Cloudflare for Public Sector](#) or [contact us](#) today.



Here's how Cloudflare helps public-sector organizations:

- **Improved security and compliance:** Safeguard sensitive data from breaches while complying with local, state, and national regulations. Agencies benefit from Cloudflare's consolidated platform with its full range of vital security capabilities for safeguarding applications, networks, and remote workers.
- **IT modernization:** Accelerate the journey to modernization, enabling organizations to take advantage of new technologies while reducing cost and complexity.
- **Improved digital experiences:** Advance content delivery while reducing latency with Cloudflare's massive global network. Also with Cloudflare's developer platform, software engineers can speed up the development and deployment of applications — while avoiding expensive and complicated infrastructure management. Agency leaders and managers can improve citizen services, providing performance and responsiveness that today's users expect while also optimizing workforce and technical resources.

2. Cloudflare, "State of Application Security 2024, <https://www.cloudflare.com/en-gb/2024-application-security-trends/>.