ABSTRACT

The National Center for Interstate Compacts is designed to be an information clearinghouse, a provider of training and technical assistance, and a primary facilitator in assisting states review, revise and create new interstate compacts as solutions to multi-state problems or alternatives to federal preemption. The National Center will combine policy research and best practices, and function as a membership association, serving the needs of compact administrators, compact commissions and the state agencies in which interstate compacts reside.

Today, states are facing issues that are not confined to geographical boundaries or jurisdictional lines. As we become more integrated socially, culturally and economically, the volume of these issues will only increase and interstate compacts may well prove to be an apt mechanism for developing state-based solutions to supra-state problems. If not, federal preemption in certain policy areas is an ever more likely response. Modern compacts are indeed a reinvigoration of our federalist system in which states may only be able to preserve their sovereign authority over interstate problems to the extent that they share their sovereignty and work together cooperatively through interstate compacts.

The Council of State Governments is uniquely positioned to offer a full-range of services to states that are in need of not only information and expertise, but also guidance and technical assistance in dealing with interstate compacts and other interstate agreements. Throughout its 70-year history, CSG has been at the forefront of promoting multi-state problem solving and advocating the role of the states in determining their respective futures. CSG has played an integral role in the development of numerous interstate compacts, tracking the progress of over 200 active interstate compacts, researching innovative problem solving solutions for the states and bringing the states together to build consensus on national issues.

The goals of the National Center for Interstate Compacts are four fold.

- Education and Information Sharing
- Technical Assistance and Training
- Legal Support and Assistance
- Administration and Resources

The development of a National Center for Interstate Compacts not only fulfills CSG’s mission of bringing states together to mutually solve problems, but bolsters the position of the states in our federalist system and provides assistance to an underserved population: the administrators, commissioners and agencies of the more than 200 interstate compacts currently active among the states.