THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
INTERSTATE COMPACT SURVEY - SUMMARY

Background

• More than 200 interstate compacts exist today.

• Between 1783 and 1920, states approved 36 compacts, most of which were used to settle boundary disputes. In the last 75 years, more than 150 compacts have been created (most since the end of World War II) applying to a range of subject areas from conservation and resource management to civil defense, education, emergency management, energy, law enforcement, probation and parole, transportation, and taxes.

• 22 compacts are national in scope, several with 35 or more member states and an independent administrative commission.

• Over 30 compacts are regional in scope, with 8 or more member states.

Survey Summary

CSG conducted a survey of interstate compacts in February 2004 to measure the need for additional compact services in the states. The sample size was 444 with a 51% response rate of 226; responses were received from all 50 states and DC.

• 78% of respondents said they could use additional resources and assistance in their compact work;

• 73% of respondents stated that they wanted more networking opportunities with their compact colleagues;

• 71% of respondents said they needed legal assistance in interpreting compact requirements;

• 65% of respondents stated that they desired common tools for use in the compact process;

• 61% of survey respondents said they needed a national information clearinghouse on compacts;

• 61% of survey respondents said they wanted more ways to build coalitions and partnerships to promote compacts;
• 53% of survey respondents said they encountered obstacles to enforcement and compliance within their compact;

• 52% of survey respondents said they needed assistance monitoring and evaluating the impacts of federal activities on compacts;

• 52% of survey respondents said they wanted non-technical explanations of compact requirements;

• 47% of survey respondents said they needed support in determining the costs associated with their compact;

• 46% of respondents stated that they thought the need existed to make changes to their compact;

• 42% of survey respondents claimed they had encountered difficulties in educating legislators and other state officials about compacts;

• 40% of survey respondents stated they had encountered obstacles in the drafting of compact language;

• 35% of survey respondents said they had difficulty in determining their funding needs and potential revenue sources; and

• 31% of survey respondents thought the need existed for the development of new compacts.

**CSG Interstate Compact Initiatives**

CSG is active in compact creation and revision as well as compact administration, housing 3 interstate commissions in our regional, affiliate and headquarters offices.

• Interstate Compact for Juveniles – active; 19 member states in 17 months

• Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children – active; 1st meeting in July 2004

• Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision – housed w/ CSG; 49 states & DC

• Emergency Management Assistance Compact – housed w/ NEMA; 47 states & DC

• Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact – housed w/ CSG-Midwest; 6 states