NCITE Project Summary
Supporting Trusted Recognition and Interpretation of Data from Events to Enhance Fusion Center and Law Enforcement Insights

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This project tackles long-standing problems in how suspicious activity reporting information from the public and first responders is collected and conveyed to decision-makers. The team will refine intake questions, design smarter interfaces, and develop training so analysts can interpret and act on reports quickly and appropriately. Work proceeds in four phases: (1) interviews with public safety stakeholders; (2) creation and testing of a national question set plus scoping of next-gen technologies; (3) prototype development and analyst-focused testing of information displays; and (4) synthesis into toolkits and guidance for adoption. Expected takeaways include a validated question set, interface patterns that improve sensemaking, and education that builds user trust and competence. The impact is a more reliable flow of actionable, civil-liberties-aware information to Fusion Centers and law enforcement, improving protection of potential targets across jurisdictions.

Impact Statement
By improving what the public reports and how analysts see and use it, the project strengthens DHS Fusion Centers' ability to triage tips, surface threat-relevant details, and accelerate lawful, appropriate response across the homeland security enterprise.

Policy Impact
- Executive Order 14306, "Sustaining Select Efforts to Strengthen the Nation's Cybersecurity and Amending EO 13694 and EO 14144" (Jun. 6, 2025): Aligns with directives to improve cybersecurity and "security with and in AI" by providing evidence-based intake questions and interpretable interfaces that agencies can operationalize.

- Executive Order 14179, "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence" (Jan. 23, 2025): Supports agency adoption of AI-enabled reporting and analysis by supplying human-centered requirements (validated questions, UI patterns, and training) that balance innovation with civil-liberties safeguards.

- Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-25-21, "Accelerating Federal Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust" (Apr. 3, 2025): Advances governance and trust goals via transparent intake logic, de-identified data practices, and user education for appropriate reliance on AI-assisted systems.

- Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-25-22, "Driving Efficient Acquisition of Artificial Intelligence in Government" (Apr. 3, 2025): Informs procurement by translating findings into measurable requirements and performance criteria for SAR chatbots and analyst-support tools.

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- DHS Office of Intelligence & Analysis, National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Office, "Assessment and Review of the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (NSI) Indicators" (Mar. 14, 2025): Complements ongoing NSI indicator validation by producing a nationally usable question set and guidance that improve intake fidelity and analytic utility.
- National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin (Jun. 22, 2025): Reinforces "If You See Something, Say Something®" by modernizing public-facing SAR mechanisms and strengthening Fusion Center workflows for timely action.

End User Offices with Direct Operational Impact

Sarpy County, Nebraska Sheriff	Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency – Infrastructure Security Division
DHS National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Program Office	Fusion Centers

Expected Findings and Outputs
- A core national question set that elicits clearer, more complete, and operationally relevant information than legacy forms, with options for local tailoring.
- Interface and display patterns (e.g., layered views, call-outs) that measurably improve analyst comprehension and decision-making confidence during testing.
- Education and translation products that increase practitioner trust and appropriate reliance on intelligent systems for intake and analysis.
- Road-mapped next-gen technologies (e.g., chatbot-mediated engagement, agentic web infrastructure) with recommendations for responsible, privacy-aligned adoption.

NCITE Strategic Priority
Targets — strengthens protection of potential targets by improving the quality and utility of community-sourced threat data used in operational decision-making.

NCITE Operational Area of Excellence
Research and Development Translation and Transition — delivers validated question sets, prototypes, and toolkits that are ready for Fusion Center and law enforcement implementation.

Methodology
The project will proceed in four phases: (1) interviews with Fusion Centers, law enforcement, school safety staff, and community liaisons to map intake and analysis gaps; (2) practitioner-informed design and deployment of a national survey and scoping of next-gen technologies; (3) prototyping user interfaces and analyst-focused testing, including a second national survey to assess comprehension and confidence; (4) synthesis of cross-cutting findings into toolkits and recommendations for operators.

Please visit the NCITE website for more information on the project at ncite.unomaha.edu

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