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NCSL Recommends:

- The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) be directly linked to the domestic policy operations of the White House.

- The White House and agency intergovernmental affairs directors should be placed at the assistant secretary level or higher. Placing intergovernmental personnel at this level sends a distinct message about the importance of working with state and local elected officials and their national organizations.

- At least one special assistant in the IGA exclusively responsible for handling state legislators and NCSL.

- The professional staff of the IGA understand the legislative and regulatory concerns of state and local government elected officials and represent those concerns during domestic policy discussions and formulation of positions on state-federal legislation and regulations.

- The IGA meet periodically with state and local government association representatives. These meetings should be used to develop legislative and regulatory initiatives and solutions that account for federalism concerns and address matters raised by elected officials at all levels of government. These meetings should be used to achieve cooperation on the myriad of state-federal issues before the nation.

- The White House and agency intergovernmental affairs staff should communicate with one another through periodic meetings and other means. These meetings and other communications should be used to assess concerns raised by state and local elected officials and their national organizations.

- The IGA and agency intergovernmental staff participate in NCSL meetings and maintain communications with state legislators and NCSL through all possible means.