

# **A New Model for Building & Sustaining Urban and Rural Security**

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual NARC Conference**  
***San Diego, California***

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# Introductions

We are here as partners in an exciting program that is both reducing the cost of government and enhancing community preparedness through a unique model for creating, and sharing solutions and best-practices \*\*

## Joe Abrams

President & CEO

Apex Innovations, Inc. (APEX)

Olathe, Kansas

## John Kiehl

Director of Regional Services

Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC)

Amarillo, Texas

# Today's Agenda

- **The Typical Gov-Tech Environment**
- **An Interesting Convergence of Factors**
- **How The Alliance was Conceived / How it Started**
- **PARIS / TRIS Overview**
- **From TRIS to ACS**
- **Our Mission and Structure**
- **One Example Solution, plus Others**
- **What the Future Holds**
- **How to Get Involved \*\***

# Gov-Tech Environment

- **Run government more like a business**
  - Many jurisdictions trying to keep up with technology using business processes that are 5-10 years behind the curve
  - By default many governments have to use business systems
- **Local revenues are decreasing**
  - Feds / States cannot sustain local solutions
  - Rural communities are hit even harder with thinner local revenue streams \*\*
- **Technology is advancing faster than ever before!**
  - Broadband access expanding rapidly to every location
  - Cloud computing is everywhere...and growing
  - Moore's Law – the number of transistors that can easily be put into a microprocessor will double every 2 years (also means the same size of CPU will get smaller)



# Convergence of Factors

- **Technology is more critical than ever before!**
  - More accepted by all levels of government
  - More expected by every resident (urban & rural)
  - Required to sustain and grow communities
- **Solutions are cheaper than ever before!**
  - The average mobile phone sells for \$15
  - Smaller agencies can own the newest technologies...now! \*\*
- **Recognition that governments are not business!**
  - Jurisdictions typically don't compete like business
  - Government goals are different than business
  - Information & best practices can & should flow freely \*\*

## How it was conceived

- **Started in 2007 with a program called the Texas Regional Information System (TRIS)**
  - Goal to create and sustain local solutions that enhance preparedness, response and recovery
  - First challenge / solution...Tiered Mutual Aid Assets
- **An OUT OF THE BOX solution was needed**
  - Providing the newest technologies, and
  - Lowest cost to start, and
  - An even lower cost to sustain

# Getting Started

- **Created a partner program to share solutions**
  - 100% cloud based solutions
  - 24 eligible local regions covering 254 counties
- **Each solution or function is purchased on behalf of the eligible member group**
  - Once paid for, no active member has to pay for the same solution
  - Started with 4 functions, there are now dozens
- **For annual subscriptions, members pay only for hosting, maintenance, admin and technical support,**
- **Promotion to expand usage is predominately done by sponsors and member agencies**
- **Most training is provided as embedded video training and webinars with periodic on-site training for administrators** \*\*

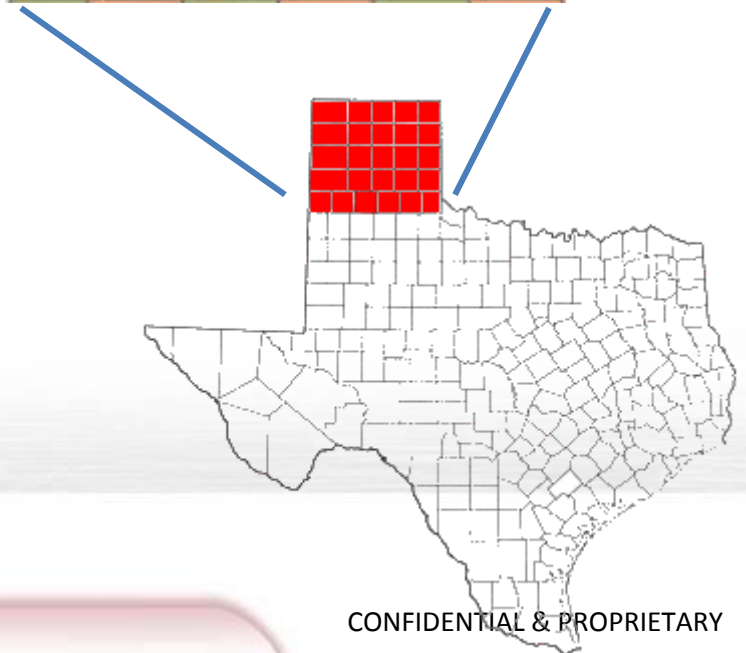
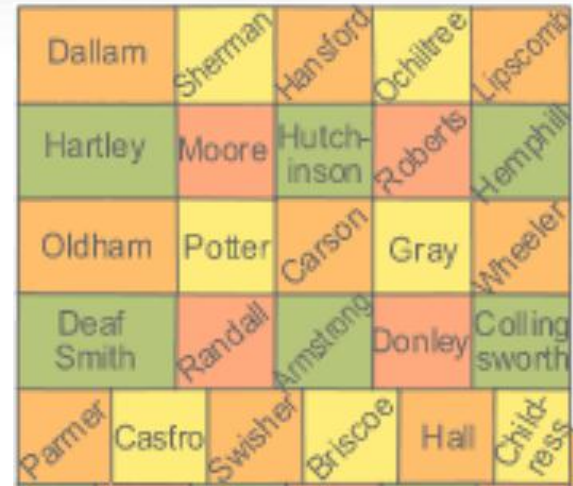
# A TRIS Overview

**The program consists of:**

- **Local Regional Networks that facilitate information update and sharing between local agencies**
- **A State Network to interconnect the local regional information networks for region-to-region sharing of information and best-practice templates**
- **Access to dozens of interagency solutions that allow all member agencies and/or persons to maintain and/or manage their own information for both daily and emergency use**
- **Membership in the Alliance for Community Solutions (ACS) that promotes systems that enable the cost-effective sharing of solutions to enhance preparedness and resiliency**

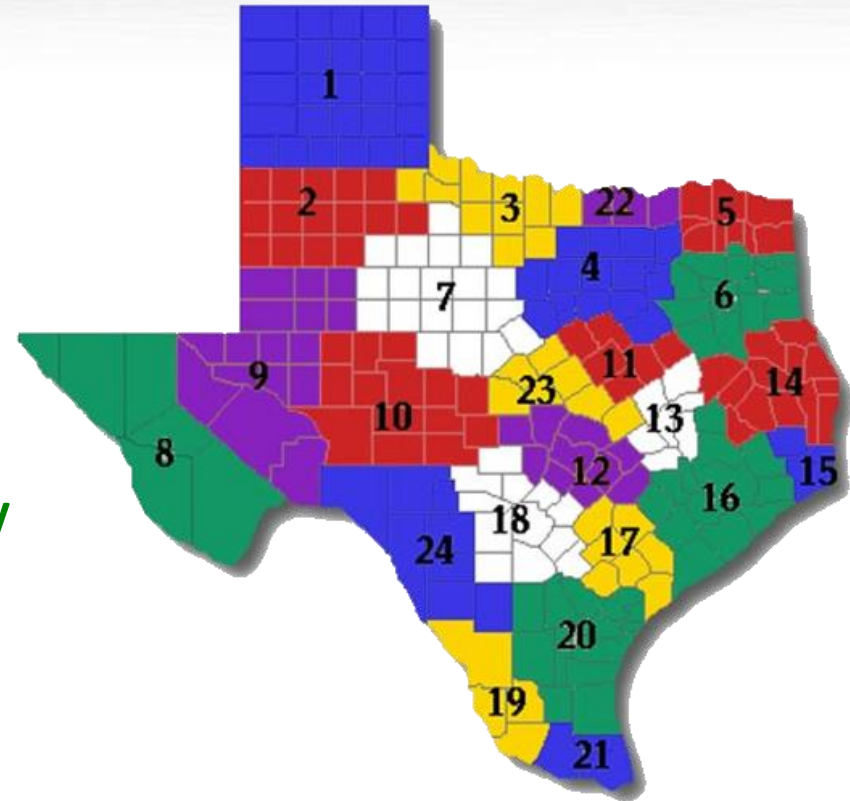
# Regional Community

- **Panhandle Area Regional Information System (PARIS)**
  - Sponsor - Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC)
    - John Kiehl, Director of Regional Services
  - 26 counties
  - 65 jurisdictions
  - 950 participating agencies
  - 1,100+ users
  - 5,000 logins / month



- **Texas Regional Information System (TRIS)**

- **Sponsor - TRIS Executive Committee**
  - Members from COGs and UASI regions, plus Apex Innovations
  - John Kiehl, Co-Chairman, Nicky Kelly Co-Chairman
- **24 regions**
- **2 UASIs**
- **254 counties**
- **1,400 jurisdictions \*\***



## From TRIS to ACS

- **Working w/diverse communities of interest**
  - Texas, New Jersey and California
- **Cost cuts are being experienced from coast to coast**
  - Began cost sharing between programs / members
- **Range of needs are virtually identical**
  - With significant opportunity to help each other \*\*
- **Information sharing does not stop at the State line**
  - It happens every day, and without State activation
  - There are certain State/Federal expectations that we'll share info but neither has provided an effective tool for doing so
- **Decision made to expand TRIS beyond Texas \*\***

## Our Mission

**The Alliance for Community Solutions is dedicated to building a collaborative environment for communities that promote the shared daily use of practical, cost effective and sustainable solutions that are interagency-based and enhance the overall welfare and resiliency of the member jurisdictions, while helping to ensure public safety.**

# ACS Structure

- **Board Make-up**
  - 2/3 Community Members
  - 1/3 Solution Partners
- **Membership**
  - Different types / levels of membership
    - Individual, Agency and Community Membership
    - Collaborative, Educational and Participative
- **Benefits**
  - Collaboration on common issues
  - Input and access to best practices
  - Automatic discount on shared solutions \*\*

## One Example Solution

- **PRPC wanted regional mass notification / alerts**
  - This type of system costs about \$1.00 / resident / yr.
  - Cost effective & sustainable for every jurisdiction
- **Discussed shared interest (urban/rural TRIS areas)**
- **Decision to fund the program via PARIS**
  - Provides daily and emergency use tools
  - Email, Text, Pager, Phone, Fax, Newsletter, RSS, Others
- **Solution is available to every PARIS agency**
  - Counties, jurisdictions, responders, schools, others
  - Also available to every TRIS agency across Texas
- **Sustainment cost about \$0.07 / resident / yr.**

# But, there are Other Examples

- *Self-Registration of Community Agencies*
- *Member Updates / Surveys*
- *Self-Registration for Staff and Volunteers*
- *Register Patients / Residents for Facilities*
- *Manage Skills / Training / Credentials*
- *Local / Regional Responder Badges*
- *Distributed Mutual Aid Updates*
- *Tiered Mutual Aid Resources*
- *Desktop / Mobile Resource Access*
- ***Mass Notifications / Alerts***
- *Integrated Resource Mapping*
- *Event Registration / Tracking*
- *Staff Scheduling for Clinics / Shelters*
- *Spontaneous Donations Management*
- *Asset / Inventory Management*
- *Asset Monitoring / Reporting*
- *Asset Synchronization to PC*
- *Damage Assessment Reporting*
- *Document Management*
- *Provide Community Contact Directory*
- *Manage Personnel / Staff Records*
- *Manage Volunteers & Related Programs*
- *Virtual Exercises & Update Reminders*
- *Tiered Credential Verification*
- *Re-Entry Authorization (post disaster)*
- *Field Verification of Responders*
- *Registration of At-Risk Facilities*
- *Personal / Group Communications*
- *Tiered Evacuation Planning / Notices*
- *Events Calendar Management*
- *Appointment Registration Management*
- *Appointment Tracking / Follow-up*
- *Registration Center Management*
- *Maintenance / Inspection Tracking*
- *Maintain Public/Private Infrastructure*
- *Online Damage Reporting*
- *Asset Fund Purchase Tracking*
- *Public / Private Document Publishing \*\**

# What the Future Holds

- **Continue to expand and enhance the current foundation of solutions**
- **Identify complementary technologies that meet the ACS requirements**
- **Provide ongoing education about the Alliance \*\***
- **Seek new member communities from government**
- **Seek partnering opportunities between member regions to pursue multi-regional grant opportunities**
- **Seek to partner with non-traditional stakeholders in the private sector \*\***

## How to Get Involved

- **If you are interested in opening a dialog between your community and others that are working together to address common problems**
- **You should consider actively participating as a member of ACS to collaborate and help us build a stronger and safer future for all our communities**

**[www.youracs.org](http://www.youracs.org)**



[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Mission Statement](#) [Contact](#)

## A New Model for Building & Sustaining Urban and Rural Security

*Is your jurisdiction struggling to meet growing expectations from residents while facing reduced budgets and cutbacks in Federal programs?*

*Is it increasingly difficult to sustain, much less increase, levels of preparedness?*

The Alliance for Community Solutions is designed as a solution to the problem of keeping up with changing technology while meeting the budget crunch that many jurisdictions and regions now face.

Based on a model begun in Texas in 2007, and now used by a growing number of regions across the State of Texas and across the USA, the alliance provides a way for local and regional communities to define their technology needs and find other areas or organizations with similar needs. Then,

### What we offer

An exciting program that both reduces the cost of government and enhances community preparedness through a unique method for creating and sharing solutions and best practices.

[Click Here to Register](#)



## Community Solutions Network



### - Interested Participant Registration -

*Do not use the browser's "Back" button while filling out this registration form. If you do, your information will be lost.*

Please complete the registration form below.

If you currently have a username and password for i-INFO, it is recommended that you [click here to login now](#). It is not required that you login to continue, but by entering your username and password the system will automatically complete this form with your current information. If desired, you can then edit or add new information to your record prior to submitting the form.

\*indicates required field.

#### Your Information

\* Courtesy Title:

\* First Name:

Preferred First Name:

Middle Name:

\* Last Name:

Suffix:

\* Org Affiliation:

\* Title:

#### Home Contact Information

Home Phone:

Mobile Phone:  I want to receive text messages. [\(why is this recommended?\)](#)Home Email: 

## Work Contact Information

Address Name: Street Address: Line 2: City / Town: State / Province:  Zip Code: \* Business Phone: \* Business Email: 

## Topics of Interest

From the list below, please indicate those topics that you are most interested in and would like to join the ACS discussion groups.

### ACS Discussion Group Interests

- Community Preparedness, Security & Resiliency
- Program Funding & Cost Sharing Opportunities
- Building Creative Solutions & Partnerships

## Comments

For topics indicated above, please describe your specific interest and anticipated participation in the group discussion.

# Questions?



**Joe Abrams**  
Board Member

**John Kiehl**  
Board Member

To learn more...go to

**[www.youracs.org](http://www.youracs.org)**