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# FACT SHEET: WORKFORCE SPRINT (MAY – JUNE 2021)

## OVERVIEW

In March 2021, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas outlined his vision for the Department's cybersecurity priorities in a [virtual address](#). Secretary Mayorkas highlighted a series of focused 60-day sprints to operationalize his vision, drive action in the coming year, and raise public awareness about key cybersecurity priorities.

The Secretary's second 60-day sprint focused on the cybersecurity workforce. The sprint advanced the Secretary's call to action to build a more robust and diverse cybersecurity workforce. These sprints are designed to (1) elevate existing work, (2) remove roadblocks to progress, and (3) launch new initiatives and partnerships to achieve DHS's cybersecurity mission and implement Biden-Harris Administration priorities.

## KEY FACTS AND OUTCOMES OF THE 60-DAY WORKFORCE SPRINT

- **HIRING SPRINT:** During the 60-day sprint, DHS successfully conducted the largest-ever cybersecurity hiring initiative in its history. In early May, Secretary Mayorkas set [a goal](#) to hire 200 new cybersecurity personnel across the Department by July 1. By the end of the sprint, DHS hired and onboarded 293 cyber professionals and issued an additional 500 tentative job offers. At a time when our country faces extraordinary cyber threats, the hiring initiative's success has contributed toward significant progress in filling the more than 2,000 cybersecurity vacancies across the Department. It highlights a strong desire by the country's cyber talent to dedicate themselves to public service and help tackle some of the most complex challenges we face today.
- **DHS Secretary's Honor Program:** In July 2021, Secretary Mayorkas will also launch an Honors Program beginning with an initiative to recruit recent graduates with degrees in cybersecurity-related fields for a one-year professional development program at DHS. Participants who successfully complete this program will be eligible for permanent, full-time cybersecurity positions at the Department.
- **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:** The Department is committed to ensuring its workforce represents the diverse communities it serves. DHS conducted significant targeted outreach to underserved communities and communities of color in alignment with diversity, equity, inclusion best practices. While DHS's cybersecurity workforce overall has become more diverse in recent years, diversity continues to vary across DHS's components. The Department will leverage the Biden-Harris Administration's new equity-related initiatives to further advance these goals and eliminate barriers to developing a robust and diverse cyber talent pipeline at every level.
- **K-12 CYBERSECURITY EFFORTS:** The Department's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) last year is expanding its K-12 initiative to cultivate the next generation of diverse cybersecurity professionals. During this cybersecurity workforce sprint, CISA hosted 44 cyber professional development opportunities events for more than 1,500 educators to provide them with the resources and tools to incorporate critical cybersecurity concepts into their core curriculum at scale. In June 2021, the 2021 Cyber Education Discovery Forum brought together nearly 200 educators from 42 states around the country, providing teachers with an overview of CYBER.ORG content and cybersecurity resources for their classrooms.
- **DHS AND THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA:** In the coming weeks, DHS will launch a new cybersecurity initiative focused on girls in grades 6-12, building on its partnership with Girl Scouts of the USA.