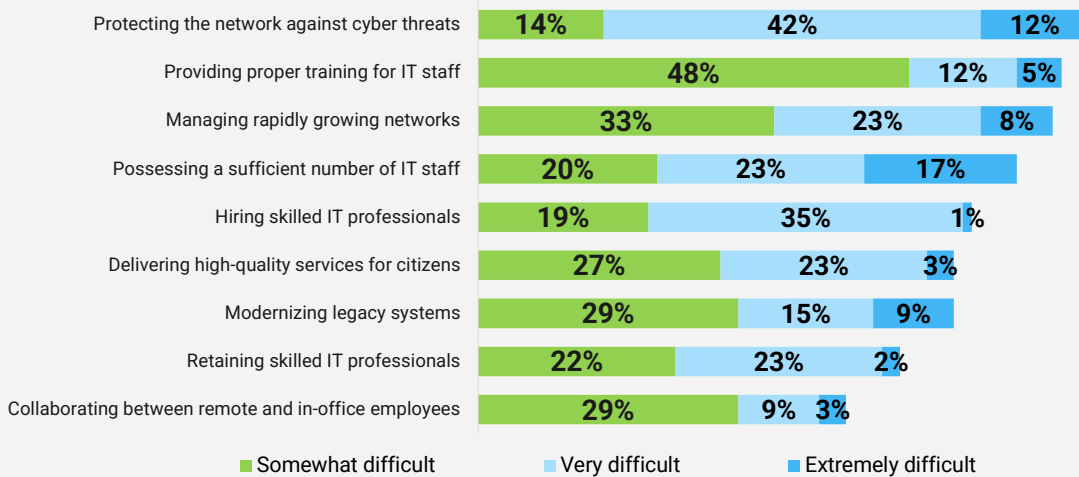


## Introduction

With growing populations and the complexities that come with them, state and local governments need technologies and strategies that will evolve with the needs of their communities – including robust cybersecurity measures, comprehensive disaster recovery plans, and smart city solutions. In May and June 2023, Government Business Council (GBC) polled a random sample of 100 state, county, and city government IT decision makers and influencers to address pertinent questions related to these topics.

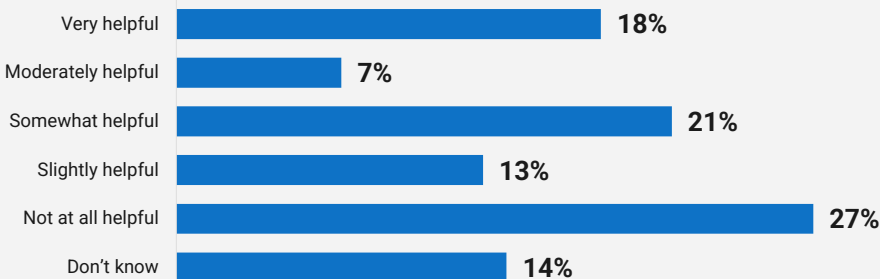
### What Are the Biggest Difficulties for IT Decision Makers?



According to CISOs, state governments continue to face challenges related to malware, ransomware, and phishing attempts. They have also expressed significant concern over foreign state-sponsored espionage.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nascio.org/press-releases/cybersecurity-survey-of-state-cisos-identifies-many-positive-trends/>

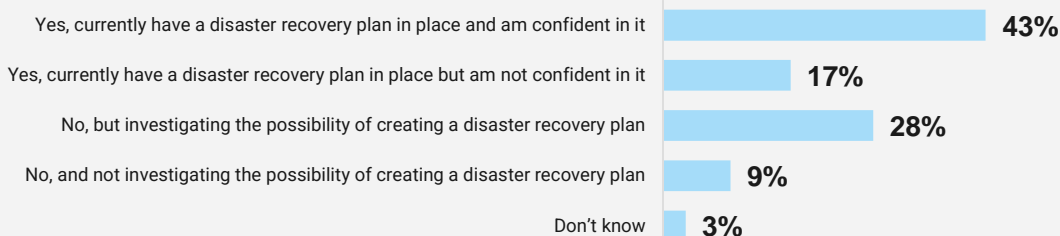
### Were COVID-Era Stimulus Packages for IT Upgrades Helpful?



Through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, \$350 billion dollars were allocated to state, local, territorial, and tribal governments. This program is a result of the American Rescue Plan designed to contain COVID-19 and improve the economy.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

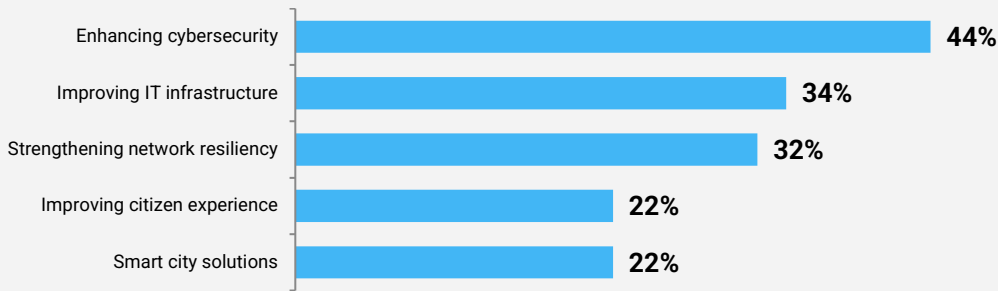
### Do Organizations Have a Disaster Recovery Plan?



In 2022, there were 18 weather and climate disasters in the U.S. with each costing at least 1 billion dollars in damages.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/2022-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical-context#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20the%20U.S.%20experienced,the%20%20events%20in%202021.>

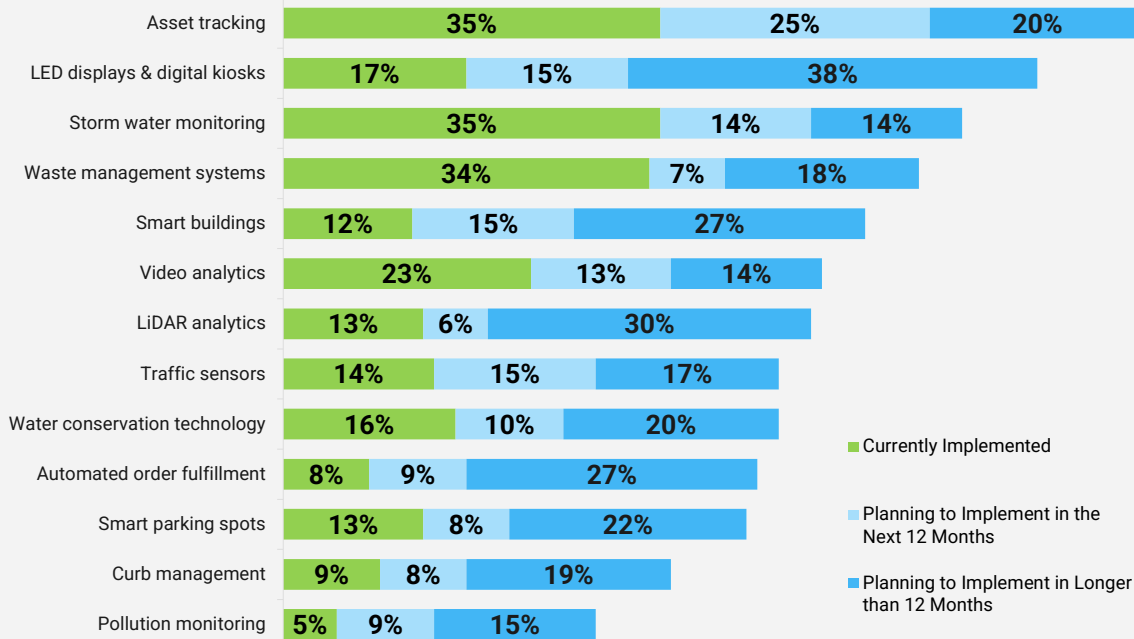
## What Are the Top 5 Investment Priorities?



**CISOs report that several states are electing to allocate over 10% of their IT budgets to cybersecurity. Additionally, 30 states increased their cybersecurity budgets in 2022.<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nascio.org/press-releases/cybersecurity-survey-of-state-cisos-identifies-many-positive-trends/>

## What is the Status of Smart City Solutions Implementation & Planning?



**According to the U.S. Census, the national urban population increased by 6.4% from 2010 to 2020. Urban areas now make up 80% of the U.S. population.<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2022/urban-rural-populations.html>

## Comcast Business' Perspective



From the development of digital portals that provide residents intuitive ways to engage with their local government to ensuring disaster resilient communities with redundant data centers—state and local governments rely on their technology investments as the foundation of service delivery and regional stability. The need for innovation is critical for government agencies who need to consistently improve operational efficiency, stay ahead of resident demands, and implement advanced technologies to stay ahead of malicious actors. At Comcast Business, we're proud to support government leaders at every step of their digital transformation journey with flexible and scalable connectivity solutions. From ethernet infrastructure to secure networking—we're here to help.

## Methodology

GBC deployed a 5-question poll to a random sample of 100 government employees. The poll was fielded in May and June 2023.

### About Government Business Council

As GovExec's research division, GBC, is dedicated to advancing the business of government through analysis, insight, and analytical independence. An extension of Government Executive's 50 years of exemplary editorial standards and commitment to the highest ethical values, GBC studies influential decision makers from across government to produce intelligence-based research and analysis.

### About Comcast Business

Comcast Business offers a broad suite of technology solutions to keep businesses of all sizes ready for what's next. With a range of offerings including connectivity, secure networking, advanced cybersecurity, and unified communications solutions, Comcast Business is partnering with business and technology leaders across industries and integrating Masergy, a leader in software defined networking, to help drive businesses forward. Backed by a next-generation network, Comcast Business has been recognized for its growth, innovation, and leadership in global secure networking.