



**FEMA**

## **Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. What is the purpose of the FY 2014 HSGP?**

The FY 2014 HSGP plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System (by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal (the Goal) of a secure and resilient Nation. The building, sustainment, and delivery of these core capabilities are not exclusive to any single level of government, organization, or community, but rather, require the combined effort of the whole community. The FY 2014 HSGP supports core capabilities across the five mission areas of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery based on allowable costs. HSGP is comprised of three interconnected grant programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
- Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)
- Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)

Together, these grant programs fund a range of preparedness activities, including planning, organization, equipment purchase, training, exercises, and management and administration.

### **2. How much funding is available under the FY 2014 HSGP?**

Per *The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014* (Pub. L. No. 113-76), \$1,043,346,000 is available for funding under the FY 2014 HSGP. The total amount of available funding will be allocated to each of the three programs based on the established risk methodology.

### **3. Who is eligible to apply for FY 2014 HSGP funds?**

All 56 States, territories and Commonwealths are eligible to apply for SHSP funds. For those States, territories, and Commonwealths that are eligible for UASI and/or OPSG funds, the State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only entity eligible to submit applications to FEMA on behalf of UASI and OPSG applicants.

Eligible sub-recipients under the FY 2014 OPSG are local units of government at the county level and Federally-recognized Tribal governments in the States bordering Canada, States bordering Mexico, and States and territories with international water borders. All applicants

must have active ongoing U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations coordinated through a sector office. Eligible States and territories with a county or similar level of government structure are authorized to accept applications on behalf of the alternative unit of local government. SAAs in this situation must advise FEMA in writing as to their intent to apply.

#### **4. What are the key milestones associated with the FY 2014 HSGP?**

The key milestones associated with FY 2014 HSGP are:

- March 18, 2014: Release date for FY 2014 HSGP Funding Opportunity Announcement
- May 23, 2014: Applications due to DHS/FEMA

#### **5. How will the FY 2014 HSGP funds be allocated?**

Based upon the requirements of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended (Pub. L. No. 107-296), DHS continues to inform final grant allocation decisions based upon risk. DHS defines risk as: “potential for an unwanted outcome resulting from an incident, event, or occurrence, as determined by its likelihood and the associated consequences” (see <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/dhs-risk-lexicon-2010.pdf>). DHS utilizes a comprehensive risk methodology focused on three principal elements:

- *Threat* – likelihood of an attack being attempted by an adversary;
- *Vulnerability* – likelihood that an attack is successful, given that it is attempted; and
- *Consequence* – effect of an event, incident or occurrence

The risk methodology determines the relative risk of terrorism faced by a given area. It takes into account the potential risk of terrorism to people, critical infrastructure, and economic security. The threat analysis continues to account for threats from domestic violent extremists as well as international terrorist groups and those individuals inspired by terrorists abroad.

#### ***SHSP Allocations***

FY 2014 SHSP funds will be allocated based on three factors: minimum amounts as legislatively mandated, DHS’ risk methodology, and anticipated effectiveness of proposed projects. The anticipated effectiveness is assessed based on the applicant’s description of how the proposed projects, as outlined in the Investment Justification (IJ), align with the State Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). Each State and territory will receive a minimum allocation under SHSP using the thresholds established in the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended. All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will receive 0.35 percent of the total funds allocated for grants under 6 U.S.C. §§ 604 and 605. Four territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) will receive a minimum allocation of 0.08 percent of the total funds allocated for grants under 6 U.S.C. §§ 604 and 605. For details on program-specific funding amounts, refer to Appendix A – FY 2014 Program Specific Allocations.

### ***UASI Allocations***

FY 2014 UASI funds will be allocated based on DHS' risk methodology and anticipated effectiveness of proposed projects. The anticipated effectiveness is assessed based on the applicant's description of how the proposed projects, as outlined in the IJ, align with the Urban Area THIRA. Eligible candidates for the FY 2014 UASI program have been determined through an analysis of relative risk of terrorism faced by the 100 most populous metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the United States, in accordance with the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended. Detailed information on MSAs is publicly available from the United States Census Bureau at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/metroareas/metrodef.html>. As opposed to FY13, where Congress prescribed 25 Urban Areas, FY 14 provided the Secretary of Homeland Security with discretion on how many Urban Areas to fund. Using this discretion, and based on the results of the risk analysis, the Department is funding 39 high-threat, high-density urban areas—increasing the number of UASI funded urban areas from FY 2013 and funding the highest number of urban areas nation-wide since FY 2010. For details on program-specific funding amounts, refer to Appendix A – FY 2014 Program Specific Allocations.

### ***OPSG Allocations***

FY 2014 OPSG funds will be allocated based on risk-based prioritization using a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Sector-specific border risk methodology. Factors considered include, but are not limited to: threat, vulnerability, miles of border, and other border-specific “law enforcement intelligence,” as well as feasibility of FY 2014 Operation Orders to designated localities within the United States Border States and territories. For details on program-specific funding amounts, refer to Appendix A – FY 2014 Program Specific Allocations.

#### **6. What are the changes in funding levels between FY 2013 and FY 2014?**

The FY 2014 funding level for the SHSP program is 13.2 percent higher than the FY 2013 level. The FY 2014 UASI funding level is 5.1 percent higher than FY 2013.

#### **7. What legislation authorized funding for the FY 2014 HSGP?**

Section 2002 of The *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended (Pub. L. No. 107-296), (6 U.S.C. § 603)

#### **8. Where is the FY 2014 HSGP Funding Opportunity Announcement located?**

The FY 2014 HSGP Funding Opportunity Announcement is located online at: <http://www.fema.gov/grants> as well as on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

#### **9. How will the FY 2014 HSGP applications be submitted?**

Applying for an award under the HSGP program is a multi-step process. Eligible applicants must submit their initial application through the Grants.gov portal at <http://www.grants.gov>.

Applicants in need of Grants.gov support should contact the Grants.gov customer support hotline at (800) 518-4726. Eligible applicants will be notified by FEMA and asked to proceed with submitting their complete application package in the Non Disaster (ND) Grants System. Applicants in need of technical support with the ND Grants System, please contact [ndgrants@fema.gov](mailto:ndgrants@fema.gov) or (800) 865-4076. Completed applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT, May 23, 2014.

If applicants have any questions regarding the application process, they should contact the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate Call Center at (866) 927-5646.

## **10. What other resources are available to address programmatic, technical and financial questions?**

### **Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID)**

CSID is a non-emergency comprehensive management and information resource developed by DHS for grants stakeholders. CSID provides general information on all FEMA grant programs and maintains a comprehensive database containing key personnel contact information at the Federal, State, and local levels. When necessary, grantees will be directed to a Federal point of contact who can answer specific programmatic questions or concerns. CSID can be reached by phone at (800)368-6498 or by e-mail at [askcsid@dhs.gov](mailto:askcsid@dhs.gov), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. EDT.

### **Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) Grant Operations Division**

GPD's Grant Operations Division Business Office provides financial support and technical assistance. The Grant Operations Division manages, administers, and conducts application budget review, creates the award package, approves, amends and closes out awards. Additional guidance and information can be obtained by contacting the FEMA Call Center at (866) 927-5646 or via e-mail to [ASK-GMD@dhs.gov](mailto:ASK-GMD@dhs.gov).

### **FEMA Regions**

FEMA Regions may also provide fiscal support, including pre- and post-award administration and technical assistance such as conducting cash analysis, financial monitoring, and audit resolution to the grant programs included in this solicitation. GPD will provide programmatic support and technical assistance. For a list of contacts, please go to <http://www.fema.gov/about/contact/regions.shtml>.

### **Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD)**

The Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) and/or Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) number available for this announcement is: (800) 462-7585.

## **11. What is the FY 2014 HSGP period of performance?**

The period of performance is 24 months.