



FEMA

Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the purpose of the FY 2017 HSGP?

The FY 2017 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 2017 HSGP supports core capabilities across the five mission areas of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery based on allowable costs. Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, HSGP supports the goal to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience.

HSGP is comprised of three grant programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
- Urban Area 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. What legislation authorizes funding for the FY 2017 HSGP?

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

3. How much funding is available under the FY 2017 HSGP?

Per the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2017* (Pub. L. No. 115-31), \$1,037,000,000 is available for funding under the FY 2017 HSGP. The total amount of available funding for each of the three programs is as follows:

HSGP Programs	
State Homeland Security Program	\$402,000,000
Urban Area Security Initiative	\$580,000,000
Operation Stonegarden	\$55,000,000

4. What are the changes in funding levels between FY 2016 and FY 2017?

The funding levels in FY 2017 for all 3 grant programs are the same as the funding levels in FY 2016.

5. Where is the FY 2017 HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity located?

The FY 2017 HSGP NOFO is located online at: <http://www.fema.gov/grants> as well as on www.grants.gov.

6. Who is eligible to apply for FY 2017 HSGP funds?

All 56 states and territories, which includes any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands, are eligible to apply for SHSP funds. For those states that are eligible for SHSP, UASI and OPSG funding, the State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only entity eligible to submit applications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on behalf of UASI and OPSG applicants. Tribal governments may not apply directly for HSGP funding, however, funding may be available to tribes under the SHSP and OPSG through the SAA.

Eligible high-risk urban areas for the FY 2017 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. Sub-awards will be made by the SAA to the designated Urban Areas identified in the FY 2017 HSGP NOFO.

In the Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2017 Appropriation for the Department of Homeland Security, Congress expressed its intent that the Secretary fund up to eighty-five percent (85%) of nationwide risk in the UASI program. In accordance with that intent, the Secretary designated 33 urban areas eligible for funding under the UASI program. This is an increase from the 29 urban areas eligible in FY 2016.

Under the FY 2017 OPSG Program, sub-recipients eligible to apply for and receive a sub-award directly from the SAA are divided into three Tiers. Tier 1 entities are local units of government at the county level or equivalent and Federally-recognized tribal governments that are on a physical border in states bordering Canada, states bordering Mexico, and states and territories with international water borders. Tier 2 eligible sub-recipients are those not located on the physical border or international water but are contiguous to a Tier 1 county. Tier 3 eligible sub-recipients are those not located on the physical border or international water but are contiguous to a Tier 2 eligible sub-recipient. Tier 2 and Tier 3 eligible sub-recipients may be eligible to receive funding based on border security risk as determined by the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), as described in the FY 2017 HSGP NOFO.

7. How will FY 2017 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> at least 10 days before the application deadline. 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 or (800) 865-4076. Completed applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm EDT, June 22, 2017.

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

8. What are the key dates associated with the FY 2017 HSGP?

- June 2, 2017: Release date for FY 2017 HSGP NOFO.
- June 22, 2017, 5:00pm EDT: Applications due to FEMA.

9. How will the FY 2017 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.

Per sec. 2006 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended (Pub. L. No. 107–296), (6 U.S.C. § 607), FEMA is required to ensure that at least 25 percent (25%) of grant funding appropriated for grants awarded under HSGP’s authorizing statute is used for law enforcement terrorism prevention activities (LETPA). FEMA meets this requirement, in part, by requiring all SHSP and UASI recipients to ensure that at least 25 percent (25%) of the combined HSGP funds allocated under SHSP and UASI are dedicated towards law enforcement terrorism prevention activities, as defined in 6 U.S.C. § 607, linked to one or

more core capabilities within the Goal. The National Prevention Framework describes those activities that should be executed upon the discovery of intelligence or information regarding an imminent threat to the homeland, in order to thwart an initial or follow on terrorist attack, and provides guidance to ensure the Nation is prepared to prevent, avoid, or stop a threatened or actual act of terrorism. Activities outlined in the National Prevention Framework are eligible for use as LETPA focused funds. In addition, where capabilities are shared with the protection mission area, the National Protection Framework activities are also eligible. Other terrorism prevention activities proposed for funding under LETPA must be approved by the FEMA Administrator.

SHSP Allocations

FY 2017 SHSP funds are allocated based on two factors: minimum amounts as legislatively mandated, and DHS's risk methodology.

Each state and territory receives 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 receive at least 0.35 percent of the total funds allocated for grants under Section 2003 and Section 2004 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*. Four territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) receive a minimum allocation of 0.08 percent of the total funds allocated for grants under Section 2003 and 2004 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended*. For details on program-specific funding amounts, refer to the FY 2017 HSGP NOFO.

UASI Allocations

FY 2017 UASI funds will be allocated based on DHS's 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 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). The eligible urban areas for the FY 2017 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, and the Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2017 DHS Appropriation. Detailed information on MSAs is publicly available from the United States Census Bureau at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/metroareas/metrodef.html>. For details on program-specific funding amounts, refer to the FY 2017 HSGP NOFO.

OPSG Allocations

The FY 2017 OPSG risk assessment is designed to identify the risk to border security and to assist with the distribution of funds for the grant program. Funding under OPSG is distributed based on the risk to the security of the border. The risk model used to allocate OPSG funds considers the potential risk that certain threats pose to border security and estimate the relative risk faced by a given area. In evaluating risk, DHS considers the populations in a particular area that could be at risk, the concentration of people in the area, and specific characteristics of their location that might contribute to risk, such as Intelligence Community assessments of threat and the potential impacts that the threats pose to the

security of the border area. For vulnerability and consequence, DHS considers the expected impact and consequences of successful border events occurring in specific areas.

10. What is the FY 2017 HSGP period of performance?

The period of performance is thirty-six (36) months.

11. 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 grant 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, recipients 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 asksid@dhs.gov, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT.

Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) Grant Operations Division

GPD's Grant Operations Division Business Office provides support regarding financial matters and budgetary technical assistance. Additional guidance and information can be obtained by contacting the DHS/FEMA Call Center at (866) 927-5646 or via e-mail to 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. A list of contacts in the FEMA Regions is available online at <https://www.fema.gov/regional-contact-information>.

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.