



FEMA

Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the purpose of the FY 2018 HSGP?

The FY 2018 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 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 2018 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 composed of three grant programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP);
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI); and
- 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 2018 HSGP?

Section 2002 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended (Pub. L. No. 107-296), (6 U.S.C. § 603) and the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2018* (Pub. L. No. 115-141).

3. How much funding is available under the FY 2018 HSGP?

Per the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2018* (Pub. L. No. 115-141), \$1,067,000,000 is available for funding under the FY 2018 HSGP. The total amount of available funding for each of the three programs:

| HSGP Programs | FY 2018 Allocation |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| State Homeland Security Program | \$402,000,000 |
| Urban Area Security Initiative | \$580,000,000 |
| Operation Stonegarden | \$85,000,000 |
| Total | \$1,067,000,000 |

4. What are the changes in funding levels between FY 2017 and FY 2018?

The funding levels in FY 2018 for the OPSG Program is \$30,000,000 more than the funding level in FY 2017. The funding levels for the SHSP and UASI are the same as the funding levels in FY 2017.

5. Where is the FY 2018 HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity located?

The FY 2018 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 2018 HSGP funds?

The State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only entity eligible to submit HSGP applications to DHS/FEMA, including those applications submitted on behalf of UASI and OPSG applicants. 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 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, are eligible to apply for SHSP funds. A list of eligible Urban Areas and OPSG States can be found in [Appendix A](#). 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 2018 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 2018 HSGP NOFO.

In the Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2018 Appropriation for the Department of Homeland Security, Congress expressed its intent that the Secretary fund up to 85 percent of nationwide risk in the UASI program. In accordance with that intent, the Secretary designated 32 urban areas eligible for funding under the UASI program. This is a decrease from the 33 urban areas eligible in FY 2017.

Under the FY 2018 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 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 2018 HSGP NOFO.

7. How will FY 2018 HSGP applications be submitted?

Applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process. To ensure that an application is submitted on time applicants are advised to start the required steps well in advance of their submission. Failure of an applicant to comply with any of the required steps before the deadline for submitting their application may disqualify their application from funding.

Applicants needing 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 needing technical support with the ND Grants System, please contact ndgrants@fema.gov or (800) 865-4076 from Monday through Friday, from 9:00am – 6:00pm ET. Completed applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT, June 20, 2018.

If applicants have questions on the application process, they should contact the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate Call Center at ASK-GMD@fema.gov.

8. What are the key dates associated with the FY 2018 HSGP?

- May 21, 2018: Release date of the FY 2018 HSGP NOFO
- June 20, 2018, 5:00pm ET: Applications due to FEMA

9. How will the FY 2018 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 section 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 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 of the combined HSGP funds allocated under SHSP and UASI are dedicated toward 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 2018 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 each receive at least 0.35 percent of the total funds allocated for grants under Section 2004 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended (6 U.S.C. § 605). Four territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) each receive a minimum allocation of 0.08 percent of the total funds allocated for grants under Section 2004 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended (6 U.S.C. § 605). For details on program-specific funding amounts, refer to the FY 2018 HSGP NOFO, located at www.fema.gov/grants.

UASI Allocations

FY 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 HSGP NOFO, located at www.fema.gov/grants.

OPSG Allocations

The FY 2018 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 2018 HSGP period of performance?

The period of performance is 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, local, tribal, and territorial 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 askcsid@fema.gov, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET.

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 Grant Operations Help Desk via e-mail at ASK-GMD@fema.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 [here](#).

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.