Overview

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Competitive Training Grant Program (CTGP) is an important component of the Administration’s larger, coordinated effort to strengthen homeland security preparedness. The CTGP awards funds to competitively selected applicants to develop and deliver innovative training programs addressing high priority national homeland security training needs. The CTGP demonstrates FEMA’s commitment to work closely with the nation’s homeland security stakeholders in a unified national effort to continuously expand training opportunities that address the evolving national risk environment. The CTGP supports objectives addressed in a series of post 9/11 laws, such as Section 648(a) of the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, and other strategy documents, such as the National Preparedness Guidelines and Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPDs).

Purpose

The purpose of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 CTGP awards is to fund competitively selected applicants who will develop and deliver innovative training programs addressing high priority national homeland security training needs.

Funding

The FY 2008 CTGP will provide approximately $27.2 million.

Eligibility

Entities eligible to receive FY 2008 CTGP funding include: state, local, tribal, and territorial governments; national associations, non-profit organizations, higher education institutions and private sector businesses as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Competitive Training Program (CTGP). This organizations and for-profits with a demonstrable expertise relevant to the focus area for which grant funding is being requested; non-profit higher education institutions with existing programs which address the focus area for which grant funding is requested; and nonprofits, including community and faith-based organizations, with a demonstrable expertise relevant to focus area for which grant funding is requested.

How to Apply

Beginning May 19, 2008, eligible entities may apply for funding through the Grants.gov portal, accessible on the Internet at http://www.grants.gov. Applications can be received no later than 8:00 p.m. EST June 9, 2008. Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, if you are a first time registrant, it could take three-five business days to have your registration validated and confirmed, and to receive your user name and password. It is highly recommended that you start the registration process as early as possible.

Program Highlights

This year, five important focus areas have been identified for applicants to use in the development of their application and concept paper:

- Intelligence / Information Sharing and Dissemination;
- Critical Infrastructure Protection;
- Regional Collaboration;
- Citizen Preparedness and Participation; and
- Citizen Evacuation and/or Shelter-In-Place.

Interested applicants will propose a national-scope training program for one of the focus areas and submit applications through the http://www.grants.gov website. Training should be designed for, and delivered to, appropriate state and local personnel with Homeland Security related responsibilities. The audience for training should be identified by applicants.
in their proposals. Awards will have a funding period not to exceed 36 months.

**Peer Review Process and Evaluation Criteria**
DHS has established a two-step application process for CTGP. The first step involves the submission of an application on Grants.gov that includes a 9-page national training concept paper. Applicants competitively selected during this step will be invited to submit a more detailed national training proposal (step two).

Concept papers will be reviewed and evaluated for adherence to content and format requirements as established in the Fiscal Year 2008 CTGP Program Guidance and Application Kit. Awardees will be determined following an independent subject matter expert evaluation and panel review of full proposals consisting of representatives from academia, industry, or federal government organizations, along with practitioners from Federal, State, and local criminal justice and public safety agencies.

“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”