



FISCAL YEAR 2014

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCE: REGIONAL RESILIENCY
ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

REGIONAL RESILIENCY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP) is a voluntary, non-regulated interagency assessment of critical infrastructure resiliency in a designated geographic region. Each year, NPPD/IP, with input and guidance from Federal and State partners, selects several RRAPs focusing on specific infrastructure sectors within defined geographic areas and address all-hazard threats that could result in regionally and/or nationally significant consequences. During the program's first 4 years, RRAPs were conducted in most regions of the United States. The projects have focused on sectors such as Energy, Transportation, Government Facilities, Critical Manufacturing, Commercial Facilities, and Agriculture and Food.

What is the Office of Infrastructure Protection?
NPPD/IP leads the national coordinated effort to reduce risk to the Nation's critical infrastructure and to strengthen national preparedness, timely response, and rapid recovery in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other emergency.

Strong partnerships with State, local, territorial, and tribal government officials are vital to the RRAP process. The RRAP relies on engagement and information sharing with Federal agencies; private sector facility owners and operators; law enforcement; emergency response organizations; academic institutions; and other stakeholders. RRAP projects involve comprehensive, year-long efforts that can incorporate various components, including voluntary facility vulnerability assessments and security surveys, first responder capability assessments, targeted studies and modeling, subject matter expert workshops, and other opportunities for valuable information and data exchanges.

The RRAP incorporates vulnerability assessments, capabilities assessments, workshops, and infrastructure protection planning efforts, to assemble an analysis of a region's critical infrastructure and prevention, protection, and resilience capabilities. The RRAP process culminates in a Resiliency Assessment that presents the results and findings of the project, including key resilience gaps and options for resilience enhancements. The Resiliency Assessment, along with supporting documents and content, are provided to select RRAP participants in the form of a Multimedia Presentation. Based on the RRAP series of activities, facility owners and operators and government officials can use RRAP findings and information to make strategic investments in equipment, planning, training, and resources to enhance the security posture of facilities, surrounding communities, and entire regions.

The Role of Resiliency Assessments

The dialogue and observations captured during RRAP activities and the final Resiliency Assessment communicate key findings and provide resilience enhancement options that could support State and local organizations' efforts to close important gaps in planning, coordination, dependencies, security, and restoration times. NPPD/IP intends that each RRAP initiate meaningful progress to improve regional resilience in the given focus area. Stakeholders are encouraged to continue facility assessments within the region, participate in follow-up contact, and incorporate the resilience enhancement options provided in the Resiliency Assessment into their strategic planning efforts. While NPPD/IP provides some venues for this interaction (e.g., a Capstone Exercise, follow-up surveys with facility owners and operators), it is incumbent upon the stakeholders to carry out the initiatives.

Findings from Resiliency Assessments and observations from activity participation can also inform the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (THIRAs). THIRA is a 5 step process, instituted by FEMA to assist communities in determining the resources necessary to maintain capabilities or close gaps. The THIRA process focuses grant funding allocation on the community as

Protecting Critical Information.
Resiliency Assessments and Multimedia Presentations are categorized as "For Official Use Only" and have a limited distribution. More detailed discussions of the threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences underlying the key findings may also be Protected Critical Infrastructure Information and have a more restricted distribution.

a whole. The THIRA process is the first step in the State Preparedness Report (SPR), and information gained from this process feeds directly into the SPR. The Resiliency Assessment findings, since they focus on larger communities and regions, can directly inform the THIRA process.

Building Capabilities and Allowable Costs

Securing and improving the resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure and key resource lifelines are key tenets of Presidential Policy Directive 8 and its component National Protection and Mitigation Frameworks, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. **As such, funds from each of the fiscal year 2012 State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative can be used to invest in the implementation of infrastructure resilience enhancement options provided in a final RRAP report.**

Allowable costs include:

- Operational expenses related to participation in RRAP activities.
- Equipment, planning activities, and corresponding training courses listed as resilience enhancement options in a final Resiliency Assessment.
- The planning and conduct of exercises pertaining to the key findings of a completed RRAP, if conducted within 24 months of the publication of the Resiliency Assessment.

Guiding Investment Decisions

The goal of the RRAP is to mitigate the Nation's risk of loss of life and physical and economic damage from natural and manmade hazards. This goal is achieved through a NPPD/IP-led cooperative process that:

- Assesses critical infrastructure on a regional level, focusing on vulnerabilities, threats, and potential consequences from an all-hazards perspective.
- Identifies critical dependencies, interdependencies, cascading effects, resiliency characteristics, and gaps.
- Assesses the status of the integrated preparedness and protection capabilities of critical infrastructure owners and operators, local law enforcement, and emergency response organizations.
- Coordinates protection and response efforts and addresses security gaps to enhance resilience within the geographic region.

Various assessment types comprise an RRAP project – all of which can help State and local participants inform resource allocation for building infrastructure resilience. Assessments include:

- Site Assistance Visits ([SAVs](#))
- Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Protection (ECIP) Security Surveys
- Computer Based Assessment Tool ([CBAT](#)) Imagery Captures
- Cyber Resiliency Reviews (CRRs)
- National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center ([NISAC](#)) Modeling
- Emergency Services Sector Capability Index (ESSCI)
- National Capabilities Analysis Database ([NCAD](#)) Assessments
- Dependency Analysis

Through Dependency Analysis, the RRAP identifies layers of “built-in” risks within the critical infrastructure systems supporting a region or sector of focus. Each system that is dependent upon another entity for a key resource accepts a certain degree of risk – as such, the failure of any one

entity to supply a key resource can impact the operations of multiple sites or even the entire region. The RRAP provides a characterization of a region's dependencies which can directly affect the missions, functions, and operations of critical infrastructure assets and can improve understanding of how these interactions affect response operations and recovery planning and prioritization efforts.

Conclusion

DHS recommends that State Homeland Security Advisors, State Administrative Agencies, and all state homeland security planning entities critical assets within their states, as well as the lifeline sectors that support key industries. By incorporating assessments of the systems and assets that support the State's infrastructure, State planners can more effectively seek funding for and implement mitigation strategies for protecting critical functions, ensure ongoing delivery of services, and protect the safety and wellbeing of citizens.

DHS also recommends that State Homeland Security Advisors incorporate infrastructure resilience in long term development considerations. As the underpinning of states economic, social and governmental functions, critical infrastructure need to be robust, responsive, and resilient. Comparing current regional resilience with the desired level of preparedness will enable officials to identify gaps and needed enhancements that can be accounted for in investment justifications. For more information about the RRAP, and how to request one be conducted in your state or locality, please contact Resilience@dhs.gov or your district's DHS Protective Security Advisor (PSA).