



**FEMA**

**Grant Programs Directorate  
October 21, 2014**

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** All State Administrative Agency Heads  
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact  
All Urban Areas Security Initiative Points of Contact  
All State Homeland Security Directors  
All State Emergency Management Agency Directors  
All Eligible Regional Transit Agencies  
All Private Sector Transportation Security Partners  
All Public and Private Sector Port Security Partners  
All Tribal Nation Points of Contact

**FROM:** Brian Kamoie  
Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

**SUBJECT:** Ebola and Homeland Security Grants

The purpose of this message is to address the allowability under the Department of Homeland Security's preparedness grant programs of costs associated with preparedness for and response to the Ebola virus in the event grantees find such steps necessary at the State and local levels.

Grantees are reminded of the availability of grant programs from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to build public health and medical preparedness and response capabilities (e.g., the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/coopagreement.htm> and Hospital Preparedness Program <http://www.phe.gov/PREPAREDNESS/PLANNING/HPP/Pages/default.aspx>). These HHS programs should be utilized before using Homeland Security preparedness grant funds for these purposes.

Allowable activities and costs under the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant Program require a nexus to terrorism, which includes bioterrorism [6 U.S.C. 609(a)].

There is no information about the cases of Ebola that have occurred in the United States to suggest that they are the result of anything other than naturally occurring infectious disease. Additional information about Ebola is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola>

Under the dual-use provision in 6 U.S.C. 609(c), however, grantees may use State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative grant funds in a manner that enhances preparedness for disasters unrelated to acts of terrorism, ‘if such use assists in achieving target capabilities related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, or responding to acts of terrorism’.

In 2006, the Department of Homeland Security issued a determination pursuant to Section 319F-2 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 USC 247d-b, that the Ebola virus presents a material threat against the United States population sufficient to affect national security.

Therefore, capabilities already built or intended to be built with preparedness grant funds for the purpose of bioterrorism (e.g., purchase of personal protective equipment, planning, training, and exercises related to infectious diseases caused by bioterrorism), may also be used to prepare for and respond to a naturally occurring Ebola outbreak in the United States.

Actual allowability determinations are fact-specific and will be evaluated for compliance with the terrorism nexus and dual-use requirements on a case-by-case basis. Please direct specific Ebola activity allowability questions to your FEMA Program Analyst (PA) or the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at [askcsid@dhs.gov](mailto:askcsid@dhs.gov) or (800) 368-6498.

Thank you.