



**FEMA**

## **Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. What is the purpose of the FY 2015 HSGP?**

The FY 2015 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 2015 HSGP supports core capabilities across the five mission areas of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery based on allowable costs. 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. How much funding is available under the FY 2015 HSGP?**

Per the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015* (Pub. L. No. 114-4), \$1,044,000,000 is available for funding under the FY 2015 HSGP. The total amount of available funding for each of the three programs is as follows:

<b>HSGP Programs</b>	<b>FY 2015 Allocation</b>
State Homeland Security Program	\$402,000,000
Urban Area Security Initiative	\$587,000,000
Operation Stonegarden	\$55,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,044,000,000</b>

### **3. Who is eligible to apply for FY 2015 HSGP funds?**

All 50 States, the District of Columbia, the territories and Commonwealths are eligible to apply for SHSP funds. For those states, territories, and Commonwealths that are eligible for

UASI and/or OPSG funds, the State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only entity eligible to submit applications to FEMA on behalf of UASI and OPSG applicants.

Eligible sub-recipients under the FY 2015 OPSG Program are local units of government at the county level and Federally-recognized Tribal governments in states bordering Canada, states bordering Mexico, and states and territories with international water borders. All applicants must have active ongoing United States Border Patrol (USBP) operations coordinated through a USBP sector office to be eligible for OPSG funding.

Eligible high-risk urban areas for the FY 2015 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 the Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2015 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 Urban Area Security Initiative program. In accordance with that intent, the Secretary designated twenty-eight (28) Urban Areas eligible for funding under the Urban Area Security Initiative. This is a decrease from the thirty-nine (39) Urban Areas eligible in FY 2014.

#### **4. What are the key milestones associated with the FY 2015 HSGP?**

The key milestones associated with FY 2015 HSGP are:

- April 2, 2015: Release date for FY 2015 HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- May 19, 2015: Applications due to FEMA

#### **5. How will the FY 2015 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*, (Pub. L. No. 107–296), as amended (6 U.S.C. § 607), FEMA is required to ensure that at least 25 percent (25%) of grant funding appropriated for HSGP and THSGP are used for law enforcement terrorism prevention activities. 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 of 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. The LETPA allocation can be from SHSP, UASI, or both. This requirement does not include award funds from Operation Stonegarden (OPSG). The LETPA minimum allocations for SHSP and UASI by jurisdiction are located in the FY 2015 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The LEPTA allocation is in addition to the requirement that States must obligate at least 80 percent (80%) of the funds awarded under SHSP and UASI to local or Tribal units of government within 45 days of receipt of the funds.

### ***SHSP Allocations***

FY 2015 SHSP funds will be allocated based on three factors: minimum amounts as legislatively mandated, DHS’ 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 Investment Justification (IJ), align with the State Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). Each state and territory will receive 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 will receive a minimum allocation of 0.35 percent of the total funds allocated for grants under 6 U.S.C. §§ 604 and 605. Four territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) will receive a minimum allocation of 0.08 percent of the total funds allocated for grants under 6 U.S.C. §§ 604 and 605. For details on program-specific funding amounts, refer to the FY 2015 HSGP NOFO.

### ***UASI Allocations***

FY 2015 UASI funds will be allocated based on DHS’ 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 THIRA. The twenty-eight (28) eligible Urban Areas for the FY 2015 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 2015 Department of Homeland Security 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 2015 HSGP NOFO.

### ***OPSG Allocations***

The FY 2015 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.

### **6. What are the changes in funding levels between FY 2014 and FY 2015?**

The FY 2015 funding level for the SHSP program is \$654,000 higher than the FY 2014 level. The FY 2015 UASI funding level is the same as the FY 2014 level. The FY 2015 funding level for the OPSG Program is the same as the FY 2014 level.

### **7. What legislation authorized funding for the FY 2015 HSGP?**

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

### **8. Where is the FY 2015 HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity located?**

The FY 2015 HSGP NOFO is located online at: <http://www.fema.gov/grants> as well as on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

### **9. How will the FY 2015 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>. 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](mailto:ndgrants@fema.gov) or (800) 865-4076. Completed applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT, May 19, 2015.

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

**10. 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 grants 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 [askcsid@dhs.gov](mailto:askcsid@dhs.gov), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. EDT.

**Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) Grant Operations Division**

GPD's Grant Operations Division Business Office provides financial support and technical assistance. The Grant Operations Division manages, administers, and conducts application budget review, creates the award package, approves, amends and closes out awards. Additional guidance and information can be obtained by contacting the FEMA Call Center at (866) 927-5646 or via e-mail to [ASK-GMD@dhs.gov](mailto: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. For a list of contacts, please go to <http://www.fema.gov/about/contact/regions.shtml>.

**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.

**11. What is the FY 2015 HSGP period of performance?**

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