



# Homeland Security

## Fiscal Year 2019 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program

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### Overview

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP) provides funding to eligible tribes to strengthen their capacity to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from potential terrorist attacks and other hazards, as appropriated by the *Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act, 2019*, Pub. L. No. 116-6; and authorized by section 2005 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, Pub. L. No. 107-296, codified as amended at 6 U.S.C. § 606.

*In Fiscal Year 2019, DHS is providing \$10 million to enhance the ability of tribal nations to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from potential terrorist attacks and other hazards.*

The FY 2019 THSGP 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. Delivering core capabilities requires the combined effort of the whole community, rather than the exclusive effort of any single organization or level of government. The FY 2019 THSGP's allowable costs support efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery mission areas. DHS/FEMA have identified the following as national priority areas:

- Emerging Threats, including Cybersecurity;
- Lifelines (more information found in this [fact sheet](#) and [toolkit](#));
  - Safety and Security;
  - Food, Water, Sheltering;
  - Health and Medical;
  - Energy;
  - Communications;
  - Transportation; and
  - Hazardous Material.

In addition to addressing gaps identified by Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (THIRA)/Stakeholder Preparedness Reviews (SPR), recipients should consider funding projects that address the above priorities of DHS/FEMA.

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### Funding

In FY 2019, the total amount of funds under the THSGP, as a carveout of the FY 2019 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), is \$10 million. FY 2019 THSGP funds are allocated based on

self-certified tribal eligibility per section 2001 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, codified as amended at 6 U.S.C. § 601, and the effectiveness of the applicant’s THSGP Investment Justification (IJ), as determined through a Federal review process.

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## Eligibility

In order to be eligible to receive THSGP funding, recipients must be considered “directly eligible tribes.” Per 6 U.S.C. § 601(4), the term “directly eligible tribe” means –

- (A) any Indian Tribe –
  - (i) that is located in the continental United States;
  - (ii) that operates a law enforcement or emergency response agency with the capacity to respond to calls for law enforcement or emergency services;
  - iii)
    - a. that is located on or near (50 miles) an international border or a coastline bordering an ocean (including the Gulf of Mexico) or international waters;
    - b. that is located within 10 miles of a system or asset included on the prioritized critical infrastructure list established under [2214(a)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended (6 U.S.C. § 1241(a)(2))] or has such a system or asset within its territory;
    - c. that is located within or contiguous to one of the 50 most populous metropolitan statistical areas in the United States; or
    - d. the jurisdiction of which includes not less than 1,000 square miles of Indian country, as that term is defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code; and
  - (iv) that certifies to the Secretary that a State has not provided funds under section 2003 [Urban Area Security Initiative] or 2004 [SHSP] of [the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, codified as amended at 6 U.S.C. §§ 604, 605] to the Indian Tribe or consortium of Indian Tribes for the purpose for which direct funding is sought; and
- (B) a consortium of Indian tribes, if each tribe satisfies the requirements of subparagraph (A).

In summary, eligible tribes must meet the requirements set forth in (A) (i), and (A) (ii), and (A) (iv). Tribes must also meet one of the requirements set forth in (A) (iii); either (A) (iii) (a), or (A) (iii) (b), or (A) (iii) (c), or (A) (iii) (d). Finally, (B) may also be satisfied, if each tribe satisfies the requirements of subparagraph (A).

Pursuant to section 2005(h) of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, codified as amended at 6 U.S.C. § 606(h), a directly eligible tribe applying for a grant shall designate an individual to serve as a Tribal Liaison with DHS and other state, territorial, local, and regional government officials.

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## Funding Guidelines

FY 2019 THSGP funds may be used for a variety of planning activities, organizational activities, equipment purchases, training, exercises, personnel activities, and maintenance and sustainment (including maintenance contracts, repair and replacement costs, upgrades, user fees, and implementation). Additionally, a maximum of 5 percent of funds awarded may be retained by the

tribal recipient for Management and Administration (M&A) purposes associated with the grant award.

The period of performance for the THSGP is 36 months.

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### **Application Evaluation Criteria**

FY 2019 THSGP applications will be evaluated through a three-part review and selection process:

1. Applications will first be reviewed by a FEMA Headquarters (HQ) Program Analyst to ensure the applicant meets all eligibility requirements.
2. Those eligible applications will then be reviewed through a review process in which proposed investments will be individually scored. Reviewers will meet one or more of the following criteria: experience working with tribes and tribal professionals; Federal employees experienced in a variety of disciplines, including homeland security, emergency management, law enforcement, fire and rescue; and/or familiar with applications for funding and the application review process.
3. The top-scoring investments will then be reviewed through a financial risk assessment process conducted by FEMA HQ Grants Management Specialists.

To determine eligibility, the HQ Program Analyst will review submitted applications for completeness.

Completeness is determined by the HQ Program Analyst by confirming:

- The applicant has submitted the self-certification form stating the tribe's eligibility per the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended;
- The information provided in the self-certification form is accurate;
- The programmatic allowability of the activities under each investment; and
- The application meets all of the administrative criteria identified in the FY 2019 THSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and appendix in the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#), to include the required submission of an IJ by the established due dates.

The reviewers will score each proposed investment from all eligible applicants across four criteria listed in the investment justification template:

- Overview (description of the investment);
- Baseline (goals/objectives/capabilities of the investment);
- Project Management and Milestones (funding amount/core capabilities/projects); and
- Accomplishments and Impacts (outcomes).

The FEMA HQ Grants Management Specialists will conduct a financial risk assessment using the following criteria:

- Allowability, allocability, and financial reasonableness of the proposed budget and investment information; and
- Whether the recipient meets the financial and legal requirements listed in 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

Prior to making a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency is required by 31 U.S.C. § 3321 note and 41 U.S.C. § 2313 to review information available through any OMB-designated repositories of government wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information. Therefore, application evaluation criteria may include the following risk based considerations of the applicant: (1) financial stability; (2) quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards; (3) history of performance in managing Federal awards; (4) reports and findings from audits; and (5) ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

### **Review and Selection Process**

Only directly eligible tribes as defined in section 2001 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, codified as amended at 6 U.S.C. § 601, are eligible to apply for THSGP funding. Applicants must self-certify that they are a “directly eligible tribe” as defined at 6 U.S.C. § 601(4). HQ Program Analysts will review each application for eligibility and completeness based on the criteria described above.

A panel of reviewers will analyze and score the investments from all applications that the Program Analysts determine to be complete and eligible. The reviewers will analyze and score the anticipated effectiveness of each individual proposed investment. Effectiveness is determined based on completeness and adherence to programmatic guidelines.

Reviewers will score each investment individually using six questions to assess how well the investments satisfy the four criteria sections in the Investment Justification template: Overview, Baseline, Project Management and Milestones, and Accomplishments and Impact.

The questions the reviewers will score are:

- A. Overview Section of Investment
  - How well are the activities described, including any activities that include planning, organization, equipment, training, and/or exercises?
- B. Baseline Section of Investment
  - How well does this identify existing capability levels and address capability gaps?
- C. Project Management and Milestones Section of Investment
  - How well does the activity support the selected core capabilities outlined in the Goal?
  - Does the budget narrative provide a clear explanation of why funds are needed and the outcomes the recipient wants to achieve?
  - Will the projects/activities demonstrate progress during the grant’s period of performance towards achieving the investment?
- D. Accomplishments and Impact Section of Investment
  - Do the outcome(s) demonstrate progress towards building the capability gap(s) identified in the investment?

Each of the six questions that the reviewers score is worth a maximum of five points. Using their subject-matter expertise, the reviewer will provide a score of 1-5 for each question. Each investment will be reviewed by no less than two reviewers, who will use the following scoring scale to assess how well the information provided in each investment answers the question being scored:

- 1 = Little to None
- 2 = Inadequate
- 3 = Adequate
- 4 = Substantial
- 5 = Strong

To calculate the final score for each proposed investment, the scores from the six investment questions are first normalized by taking the sum of the six scores, dividing this number by five, and multiplying by 100.

For example:

If, an investment received the following scores for the six questions:

Question 1: 2

Question 2: 3

Question 3: 5

Question 4: 5

Question 5: 3

Question 6: 5

The sum of the scores is 23 (the average score is 3.8). The average score, 3.8 is then divided by five, with the result multiplied by 100. The normalized score is 76.67. The investment's final score is determined by averaging the normalized scores from all reviewers of that investment.

Applicants who have not received funding in prior years will receive five points for each proposed investment that will be added to the normalized score for each Investment submitted.

All final investment scores will then be sorted in descending order and investments will be selected for recommendation from the highest score to lowest score until available FY 2019 THSGP funding has been exhausted. In the event of a tie during the investment recommendation determination process, DHS/FEMA will give priority to the tribal entity that has not received prior year funding. DHS/FEMA will use the results of the review process to make recommendations for funding of eligible applicants to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

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## **THSGP Resources**

There are a variety of resources available to address programmatic, technical, and financial questions, which can assist with the THSGP.

- The FY 2019 THSGP NOFO is located online at <http://www.fema.gov/grants> as well as on <http://www.grants.gov>.
- For additional program-specific information, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) help line at (800) 368-6498 or [AskCSID@fema.gov](mailto:AskCSID@fema.gov). CSID hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.
- For support regarding financial grant management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the DHS/FEMA Grant Operations Help Desk via e-mail to [ASK-GMD@fema.gov](mailto:ASK-GMD@fema.gov).