



SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2023 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

OVERVIEW

On February 27, 2023, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the Fiscal Year 2023 Preparedness Grants Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs). The NOFOs and ancillary documents are available at: fema.gov/grants/preparedness. State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) should follow application submission instructions on [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

Most applications are due on May 18, 2023, at 5:00 PM ET.¹ Applications for the Emergency Operations Center Grant Program are due on April 14, 2023, at 5:00 PM ET.

This letter contains a summary of FY 2023 DHS Preparedness Grant Programs. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) prepares this summary for stakeholders to assist in developing proposals that align with DHS funding priorities for emergency communications. Stakeholders are strongly encouraged to read this summary and the [SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants \(SAFECOM Guidance\)](#) before submitting emergency communications proposals for funding.

Please note that CISA is not the administrator for these grants. CISA prepared this summary as a courtesy to its stakeholders. Direct any questions on this summary to emergency-comms-grants@cisa.dhs.gov. Questions on DHS Preparedness Grant Programs can be directed to FEMA's Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk by phone at (800) 366-6498 or by email at askcsid@fema.gov, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM ET.

This summary contains the following information:

FY 2023 DHS Preparedness Grants Funding Overview

- Congressional Appropriations
- Key Changes
- Important Dates
- Program Summaries

SAFECOM Guidance Recommendations for Grant Recipients

- Emergency Communications Priorities
- DHS/FEMA Grant Requirements
- Grants Management Best Practices

¹ The FY 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application period closed on February 10, 2023, the FY 2022 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants application period closes on March 17, 2023, and the FY 2022 Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) grants application period closes on March 31, 2023. For more information, visit fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters.

FY 2023 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS FUNDING OVERVIEW

Congressional Appropriations

On December 29, 2022, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, providing discretionary funding for the federal government through September 30, 2023. This Act authorized DHS grant funding for the following programs²:

- Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
 - State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
 - Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)
 - Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)
- Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP)
- Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)
 - NSGP-Urban Area (NSGP-UA)
 - NSGP-State (NSGP-S)
- Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)
- Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program
- Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)
- Intercity Passenger Rail (IPR) Program
- Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP)
- Emergency Operations Center Grant Program (EOCGP)

Key Changes

The following are congressional actions or key changes of note as compared to previous years:

- DHS has identified six national priority areas for FY 2023: 1) Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places; 2) Enhancing Information and Intelligence Sharing and Analysis; 3) Combating Domestic Violent Extremism; 4) Enhancing Cybersecurity; 5) Enhancing Community Preparedness and Resilience; and 6) Enhancing Election Security. Note, each grant program has different requirements related to these national priorities.
- To assist applicants, FEMA developed a fourth iteration of the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#), providing guidance on grant application, administration, and program management, as well as other resources.
- Recipients and sub-recipients must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA), which was enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act §§ 70901-70927, Pub. L. No. 117-58 (2021); and Executive Order (EO) 14005, Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers. See also [OMB Memorandum M-22-11, Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure](#). None of the funds provided under this program may be used for a project for infrastructure unless the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in that infrastructure are produced in the United States.
- To establish prohibited and controlled equipment requirements for FEMA grant programs in compliance with [EO 14074, Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety](#) and [EO 13688, Federal Support for Local Law Enforcement Equipment and Acquisition](#), the agency created [FEMA Policy 207-22-002, Prohibited or Controlled Equipment Under FEMA Awards](#). The policy applies to all FEMA grant awards issued on or after January 1, 2023, and supersedes the following FEMA Informational Bulletins (IB): IB No. 426, Guidance to Recipients and Sub-recipients of FEMA Preparedness Grants Regarding Implementation of EO 13809 Restoring State, Tribal, and Local Law Enforcement's Access to Life-Saving Equipment and Resources; IB No. 419, Purchase of Energetic Materials Using HSGP Funding; and IB No. 438, Guidance For Use of OPSG Funds for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Certain Costs Related to Transportation and Medical Care.

² FEMA administers several other programs, including the AFG, FP&S, SAFER, Presidential Residence Protection Assistance Grant, Regional Catastrophic Grant Program, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Grant, State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, and Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program. However, these programs do not currently have FY 2023 funding announcements.

HSGP Key Changes

- HSGP invites stakeholders and partners to adopt Goal 1 (achieve equitable outcomes) and Goal 3 (promote and sustain a prepared nation) of the [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#) when planning projects.
- All recipients and sub-recipients are required to complete the [Nationwide Cybersecurity Review \(NCSR\)](#), which is open from October 2023 to February 2024.
- SHSP and UASI applicants must allocate a minimum of 35 percent, increased from 30 percent previously, toward Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPAs). Investment activities that support LETPAs can also support a national priority area.
- All recipients must certify that they have reviewed the [Industry Alert on Chinese Manufactured Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#), and completed a risk assessment that considers the proposed use of foreign made small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) to ascertain potential risks (e.g., privacy, data breaches, cybersecurity) related to foreign made versus domestic sUAS.

SHSP/UASI

- The FY 2023 SHSP/UASI risk methodology has been updated in line with the nation's evolving, diverse, and complex current threat landscape. Notably, the FY 2023 risk methodology considers growing cybersecurity threats to critical infrastructure, hostile actions of adverse nation states, the level of global and western hemisphere migration, and the severity and frequency of extreme weather events. The changing threat environment is also reaching medium- and small-sized jurisdictions and remote locations, and now encompass soft targets and other targets of opportunity across greater swaths of the United States. Specifics on the new risk methodology can be found in the [Fact Sheet: FY 2023 SHSP/UASI Risk Methodology Updates](#).
- For FY 2023, the number of high-risk urban areas eligible to receive UASI funding increased from 36 to 40. Jacksonville, FL; Honolulu, HI; Nashville, TN; and Austin, TX were added to the list of eligible urban areas. No eligible urban areas were removed.
- SHSP and UASI applicants must include at least one Investment Justification (IJ) for each of the six revised National Priority Areas (NPAs). The national priorities and minimum spend requirements include:
 1. Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places – 3 percent;
 2. Enhancing Information and Intelligence Sharing and Analysis – 3 percent;
 3. Combating Domestic Violent Extremism – 3 percent;
 4. Enhancing Cybersecurity – no minimum percent;
 5. Enhancing Community Preparedness and Resilience – 3 percent; and
 6. Enhancing Election Security – 3 percent (new)
- For FY 2023, each SHSP and UASI recipient is required to submit an IJ for the five NPAs with associated minimum spend requirements. Each of these five investments must also account for at least the relevant minimum percentage (15 percent) of the applicant's SHSP and UASI allocation. SAAs may submit complete project-level information at the time of application, including the *National Priority Area IJs*, but are not required to do so. All SHSP- and UASI-funded projects must have a demonstrated nexus to achieving target capabilities related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and responding to acts of terrorism. However, such projects may simultaneously support enhanced preparedness for disasters unrelated to acts of terrorism.
- SHSP and UASI applicants must spend a minimum of 30 percent of their SHSP and UASI awards across the six NPAs but have flexibility on how that funding is allocated. Five of the six NPAs have minimum spend requirements of 3 percent each (for a total of 15 percent), except for cybersecurity which has no minimum spend requirement.

Although 15 percent is required in minimum spending across five NPAs, the remaining 15 percent can be allocated across any of the six NPAs. Additionally, with this flexibility, activities that support more than one NPA may be included under only one *National Priority Area IJ* but still count toward the 30 percent minimum spend without dividing into separate projects or activities in more than one IJ.

- UASI applicants must spend the remaining 70 percent of funds to address gaps identified in their [Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment \(THIRA\) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review \(SPR\)](#) process.
- The signatory authority for the SAA must certify and report compliance with the *SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants*. The certification letter should be coordinated with the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and must be uploaded to the Non-Disaster Grants system with the recipient's first Program Performance Report submission.
- SHSP and UASI funds may be used for equipment purchases related to state court cybersecurity, 911 call capabilities, alert and warning capabilities, and implementation of the REAL ID Act (Pub. L. No. 109-13).

THSGP Key Changes

- The FY 2023 THSGP National Priority Areas are: 1) Enhancing Cybersecurity; 2) Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places; 3) Enhancing Information and Intelligence Sharing and Analysis; 4) Combating Domestic Violent Extremism; 5) Enhancing Community Preparedness and Resilience; and 6) Enhancing Election Security.
- Applicants who sufficiently address one or more of these six national priorities will receive a 20 percent final review score multiplier.
- THSGP invites stakeholders and partners to adopt Goal 1 (achieve equitable outcomes) and Goal 3 (promote and sustain a prepared nation) of the *2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan* when planning projects.
- THSGP funds may be used for planning activities related to 911 call capabilities, alert and warning capabilities, and implementation of the REAL ID Act (Pub. L. No. 109-13).
- Planning efforts may also include conducting risk and resilience assessments on increasingly connected cyber and physical systems, on which security depends, using the [Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework](#) and related CISA resources.

NSGP Key Changes

- Funding for the FY 2023 NSGP has increased to \$305 million. Of these funds, \$152.5 million is allocated to the NSGP-UA program and \$152.5 million is allocated to the NSGP-S program.
- As in FY 2022, SAAs can use up to 5 percent of their total NSGP-S and NSGP-UA awards for management and administration (M&A) purposes. Nonprofit organization sub-recipients may also use up to 5 percent of their subaward for M&A purposes.
- States may no longer establish a cap on individual subawards that differs from the maximum award amount determined by FEMA. For FY 2023 NSGP-UA and NSGP-S, nonprofit sub-applicants with one site may apply for up to \$150,000 for that site. Nonprofit sub-applicants with multiple sites may apply for up to \$150,000 per site for up to three sites, for a maximum of \$450,000 per sub-applicant per state and funding source. For example, a nonprofit organization with locations in multiple states may apply for up to three sites within each state, per funding source for a maximum of six sites per state (three under NSGP-S, and three under NSGP-UA if applicable).
- For NSGP-UA, the number of eligible urban areas increased from 36 in FY 2022 to 40 in FY 2023. Jacksonville, FL; Honolulu, HI; Nashville, TN; and Austin, TX were added to the list of eligible urban areas and no urban areas were removed.
- Bonus review points can be awarded for underserved communities and new recipients. Nonprofit organizations

located within an underserved community will have up to 15 points added to their project review score, using the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) tool to determine sub-applicants' social vulnerability ranking. FEMA will add 10 points to applications from organizations in communities, or demonstrate that they serve communities, with a "High" SVI ranking (.60 - .79) and 15 points to applications from organizations in communities, or demonstrate that they serve communities, with a "Very High" SVI ranking (.80 - 1.0). As in FY 2022, nonprofit organizations that have not previously been awarded NSGP funding will have 15 points added to their project score.

EMPG Key Changes

- Recipients are encouraged to review the *2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan* and consider how projects can support the plan's goals of equity, climate resilience, and readiness. To the extent possible, equity considerations must be factored into all FY 2023 EMPG Program-funded investments across all NPAs. Additionally, applicants are required to designate at least one project in their EMPG Program Work Plan and budget narrative that specifically addresses equity considerations.
- FY 2023 EMPG recipients are required to use funds to support [National Qualification System](#) (NQS) implementation. As a post-award requirement, all recipients in the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, must work toward achieving the Phase 1 NQS implementation objectives and must, at a minimum, execute the Implementation Plan they developed last year as part of the Phase 0 NQS Implementation Objectives. All other jurisdictions, including territories and FY 2023 EMPG Program sub-recipients, are required to work toward implementation of NQS by developing an Implementation Plan.

TSGP Key Changes

- Enhancing Cybersecurity and Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places remain the program's two national priorities.
- TSGP invites stakeholders and partners to support Goal 3 (promote and sustain a prepared nation) of the *2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan*.
- Planning efforts can include conducting risk and resilience assessments on increasingly connected cyber and physical systems, on which security depends, using the *Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework* and related CISA resources, and activities related to alert and warning capabilities.

PSGP Key Changes

- The program's national priorities remain Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places and Enhancing Cybersecurity. Applicants who sufficiently address one or more of the two NPAs will receive a 20 percent final review score multiplier.
- PSGP invites stakeholders and partners to support Goal 3 (promote and sustain a prepared nation) of the *2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan*.
- Planning efforts can include conducting risk and resilience assessments on increasingly connected cyber and physical systems, on which security depends, using the *Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework* and related CISA resources, and activities related to alert and warning capabilities.

IPR Key Changes

- The two IPR national priorities remain Enhancing Cybersecurity (no minimum spend) and Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places (5 percent minimum spend).
- IPR invites stakeholders and partners to support Goal 3 (promote and sustain a prepared nation) of the *2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan*.

- Planning efforts can include conducting risk and resilience assessments on increasingly connected cyber and physical systems, on which security depends, using the *Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework* and related CISA resources, and activities related to alert and warning capabilities.

IBSGP Key Changes

- The two IPR national priorities remain Enhancing Cybersecurity (no minimum spend) and Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places (5 percent minimum spend).
- IBSGP invites stakeholders and partners to support Goal 3 (promote and sustain a prepared nation) of the 2022-2026 *FEMA Strategic Plan*.
- Planning efforts can include conducting risk and resilience assessments on increasingly connected cyber and physical systems, on which security depends, using the *Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework* and related CISA resources, and activities related to alert and warning capabilities.

EOCGP Key Changes

- SAAs are now the only entities eligible to apply for FY 2023 EOCGP funding.
- For EOC projects that involve construction or upgrading of multipurpose facilities, such as public safety facilities, police/fire stations, etc., EOCGP funding may only be used for those parts of the facility that are directly associated with the EOC. For new facility construction, the use of EOCGP funds should be limited to the proportionate facility construction cost, generally based on the square footage (floor space) of the EOC compared to the square footage of the entire facility.

Other Programs

There were no key changes to OPSG this year.

Important Dates

- February 27, 2023: NOFOs posted to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- April 14, 2023: EOCGP applications due by 5:00 PM ET
- May 18, 2023: Other Preparedness Grant applications due by 5:00 PM ET
- Anticipated funding selection notifications vary by program
- No later than September 30, 2022: Anticipated award announcements

Program Summaries

Table 1 provides a summary of DHS Preparedness Grant Programs, including allocated amounts, purpose, eligible applicants, recipients/sub-recipients, and pass through requirements. In addition, it highlights priorities and allowable costs related to emergency communications; however, this is not an all-inclusive list of eligible activities. Please refer to the NOFOs for specific program information.

Table 1: FY 2023 DHS Preparedness Grant Programs Summary

Program (Amount) Purpose	Eligible Applicants	Allocation Method and Eligible Recipients	Pass Through and Eligible Sub-Recipients	Emergency Communications-Related Priorities and Allowable Costs
HSGP/SHSP (\$415,000,000): Supports the implementation of capability targets established during THIRA process and assessed in the SPR	SAA of states and territories	Formula-based: Targeted allocation ranges for each state/territory are listed in the NOFO; No match requirement; Awards will be allocated based on risk and anticipated effectiveness	SAA must pass through 80 percent to local units of government	Priorities: Building/sustaining core capabilities; continuity of operations; cybersecurity enhancements; law enforcement/terrorism prevention; DHS national priorities Planning/Organizational: Development, review, and revision of THIRA, SPR, and Continuity of Operations plans; development of whole community partnerships; program management; intelligence analysts
HSGP/UASI (\$615,000,000): Addresses the risks and needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas based on capability targets identified during THIRA process	SAA on behalf of eligible UASIs	Formula-based: Targeted allocation ranges are listed in the NOFO; No match requirement; Awards will be allocated based on risk and anticipated effectiveness	SAA must pass through 80 percent to local units of government in the designated UASI	Training and Exercises: Related to emergency communications, special events Equipment: Related to interoperable communications, state court, cybersecurity, 911 call capabilities, alert and warning capabilities, and implementation of the REAL ID Act Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties Construction and Renovation: Communication towers
HSGP/OPSG (\$90,000,000): Promotes coordination among all levels of government and local law enforcement agencies working to secure U.S. borders	SAA on behalf of selected OPSG grant applicant	Competitive: States eligible to apply are listed in the NOFO; No match requirement; Awards will be allocated based on risk and anticipated effectiveness	SAA must pass through 97.5 percent to selected local units of government	Costs to increase security along the border: Personnel (up to 50 percent of award); coordination among jurisdictions, disciplines, various levels of governments (e.g., travel, per diem); operational costs (e.g., overtime, backfill); some equipment/maintenance costs

Program (Amount) Purpose	Eligible Applicants	Allocation Method and Eligible Recipients	Pass Through and Eligible Sub-Recipients	Emergency Communications-Related Priorities and Allowable Costs
<p>THSGP (\$15,000,000): Supports the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities to enable Tribes to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other hazards</p>	<p>Federally-recognized Tribes</p>	<p>Competitive: Select federally-recognized Tribes may receive funding following a competitive peer review process; No match requirement</p>	<p>Funds are allocated directly to federally-recognized Tribes</p>	<p>Priorities: Improving cybersecurity capabilities; National Incident Management System (NIMS) implementation; validating capabilities; governance integration; ensuring the protection of civil rights; DHS national priorities Personnel: 50 percent cap Planning/Organizational: Prioritizing needs; updating preparedness strategies; allocating resources across stakeholder groups and levels of government; implementing standardized resource management concepts Equipment: Related to interoperable communications, emergency supplies Training: Trainings to support the development and testing of a jurisdiction’s Emergency Operations Plan Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties Construction and Renovation: Communication towers</p>
<p>NSGP-UA (\$152,500,000): Provides funding support for target hardening activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of terrorist attack and located within one of the UASI-eligible areas NSGP-S (\$152,500,000): Provides funding for nonprofit organizations located outside of FY 2023 UASI-designated urban areas</p>	<p>SAA on behalf of nonprofit organizations within eligible UASIs; any states or territories listed in NSGP-S</p>	<p>NSGP-UA Competitive: Select nonprofit organizations may receive funding following a competitive review process; No match requirement NSGP-S Formula-based: Eligible states receive a targeted allocation for nonprofit organizations; No match requirement</p>	<p>SAA must obligate 95 percent to selected nonprofit organizations</p>	<p>Priorities: Building core capabilities; cybersecurity; THIRA-based developments; governance integration; enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places Planning: Conducting, developing, or enhancing security risk assessments; development of security plans and protocols; development or further strengthening of security assessments; emergency contingency plans; evacuation/shelter-in-place plans Training and Exercises: Security-related training courses; active shooter trainings; response exercises Equipment: Facility hardening and physical security enhancements Maintenance and Sustainment: Warranties; repair or replacement costs; upgrades; user fees Construction and Renovation: With restrictions and prior approval from FEMA</p>

Program (Amount) Purpose	Eligible Applicants	Allocation Method and Eligible Recipients	Pass Through and Eligible Sub-Recipients	Emergency Communications-Related Priorities and Allowable Costs
<p>EMPG Program (\$355,100,000): Provides funding to states/territories to assist state, local, territorial, and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards</p>	<p>SAA or Emergency Management Agency; Must belong to Emergency Management Assistance Compact</p>	<p>Formula-based: Amounts for each state/territory are listed in the NOFO; At least 50 percent match required</p>	<p>100 percent of the award is designated to the state-level Emergency Management Agency</p>	<p>Priorities: Equity; climate resilience; readiness; building, sustaining, and delivering core capabilities; closing capability gaps Planning: Developing/updating Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), Tactical Interoperability Communications Plans, THIRA, SPR, and Continuity of Operations Personnel: Salary, overtime, compensatory time off, associated fringe benefits Training and Exercises: Multi-year program Equipment: Related to interoperable communications Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties, repair or replacement costs, maintenance contracts Construction and Renovation: Communication towers</p>
<p>TSGP (\$93,000,000): Provides funding to eligible owners and operators of transit systems to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure</p>	<p>Select Transit Agencies</p>	<p>Competitive: Eligible transit agencies are determined based on daily unlinked passenger trips (ridership) and transit systems that serve historically eligible UASIs. Certain ferry systems are eligible to participate; No match requirement</p>	<p>Funds are awarded directly to selected transit agencies</p>	<p>Priorities: Governance integration; cybersecurity enhancements; use of visible, unpredictable deterrence; Top Transit Asset List risk remediation; Regional Transit Security Strategy; addressing emerging threats, including cybersecurity; enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places Planning/Organizational: Development and enhancement of security plans and protocols; regional communications enhancement; resources to facilitate shared situational awareness between public and private sectors Equipment: Related to interoperable communications Maintenance and Sustainment: Maintenance contracts, upgrades, user fees, warranties; repair or replacement costs Construction and Renovation: With restrictions and prior approval from FEMA</p>

Program (Amount) Purpose	Eligible Applicants	Allocation Method and Eligible Recipients	Pass Through and Eligible Sub-Recipients	Emergency Communications-Related Priorities and Allowable Costs
<p>IPR-Amtrak (\$10,000,000): Provides funding to Amtrak to create a sustainable, risk-based effort to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of the Amtrak rail system</p>	<p>National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak)</p>	<p>Cooperative Agreement between FEMA and Amtrak: All funds are awarded to Amtrak; No match requirement</p>	<p>Funds are awarded to Amtrak; funds are transferred to Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration for disbursement</p>	<p>Priorities: Strengthening governance integration; protection of high-risk, high-consequence underwater and underground rail assets; planning; use of visible, unpredictable deterrence; targeted counter-terrorism training for key front-line staff; emergency preparedness drills and exercises; enhancing cybersecurity; enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places Planning: Security plans; protocols; education; outreach Training and Exercises: Crew communication and coordination; emergency preparedness drills and exercises Equipment: Interoperable communications equipment Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties Construction and Renovation: Communication towers</p>
<p>IBSGP (\$2,000,000): Provides funding to owners and operators of intercity bus systems to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure</p>	<p>Owners and operators of fixed route intercity and charter buses that serve UASIs</p>	<p>Competitive: Eligible applicants must complete a vulnerability assessment and develop a security plan; 50 percent match required</p>	<p>Funds are awarded directly to selected operators</p>	<p>Priorities: Preventing a threatened or an actual act of terrorism; mitigating the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters; building/sustaining core capabilities; governance integration; cybersecurity enhancements; enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places Planning: Developing/enhancing security plans and protocols Training and Exercises: Planning; workshops; overtime; backfill; travel Equipment: Facility security; vehicle/drive security, interoperable emergency communications equipment Construction and Renovation: With restrictions and prior approval from FEMA</p>

Program (Amount) Purpose	Eligible Applicants	Allocation Method and Eligible Recipients	Pass Through and Eligible Sub-Recipients	Emergency Communications-Related Priorities and Allowable Costs
<p>PSGP (\$100,000,000): Provides funding for transportation infrastructure and operational security activities to implement Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and facility security plans among port authorities, facility operators, and state, territorial, and local agencies</p>	<p>All entities subject to an Area Maritime Security Plans</p>	<p>Competitive: Port areas will be selected for funding through a competitive review process; At least 25 percent match required, either cash or in-kind contribution, for all public sector and non-governmental, nonprofit recipients. At least 50 percent match required, either cash or in-kind contribution, for all private, for-profit recipients</p>	<p>Funds are awarded directly to selected ports</p>	<p>Priorities: Enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness, improvised explosive device and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive prevention, protection, response and supporting recovery capabilities; enhancing cybersecurity; port resilience and recovery; enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places Planning/Organizational: Resiliency and recovery activities; activities associated with new and ongoing maritime security operations Equipment: Interoperable communications for Maritime Domain Awareness Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties Construction and Renovation: Maritime Command and Control Centers; Interagency Operations Centers for maritime security; Port Security Emergency Communications Centers; maritime security risk mitigation facilities</p>
<p>EOCGP (\$89,140,285): Provides funding to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs</p>	<p>SAA on behalf of state and local units of government with identified projects in the NOFO</p>	<p>Designated: Eligible projects were identified in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. A non-federal contribution of 25 percent of total project costs is required</p>	<p>SAA must pass through 100 percent of funding to the sub-recipients</p>	<p>Priorities: Equipping, upgrading, or construction of emergency operations center projects Construction and Renovation: Upgrading EOCs to provide fully capable facilities to ensure continuity of operations and continuity of government in major disasters or emergencies Equipment: Equipment integral to EOC construction and upgrades, including interoperable communications equipment and cybersecurity enhancement equipment</p>

SAFECOM GUIDANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

As a condition to receiving DHS Preparedness Grants, grant recipients using funds for emergency communications projects must comply with the [SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants](#). DHS outlined specific requirements for recipients in Appendix D – Compliance Requirements for DHS Grants.

SAFECOM Guidance provides guidance to grant recipients on:

- Recommendations for planning, coordinating, and implementing projects
- Emergency communications activities that can be funded through federal grants
- Best practices, policies, and technical standards that help to improve interoperability
- Resources to help grant recipients comply with technical standards and grant requirements

Before applying for federal funding, *SAFECOM Guidance* encourages grant applicants to review the [National Emergency Communications Plan \(NECP\)](#)³ to understand national strategies, as well as their state or territory's SCIP to ensure that proposals support statewide plans. Additionally, applicants should coordinate with state-level emergency communications leaders and governance bodies to ensure that proposals are compatible and interoperable with other projects.

Emergency Communications Priorities

SAFECOM Guidance identifies six investment priorities for emergency communications that grant recipients should target funding toward:

- **Priority 1: Invest in emergency communications governance and leadership structures.** Enhance decision-making, coordination, and planning for emergency communications through strong governance structures and leadership.
- **Priority 2: Conduct planning and procedures.** Update plans and procedures to improve emergency responder communications and readiness in a dynamic operating environment.
- **Priority 3: Invest in emergency communications training, exercises, and evaluation.** Improve responders' ability to coordinate and communications through training, exercises, and evaluation programs that use all available technologies and target gaps in emergency communications.
- **Priority 4: Conduct activities that enhance operational coordination.** Ensure operational effectiveness through the coordination of communications capabilities, resources, and personnel from across the whole community.
- **Priority 5: Invest in standards-based technology and infrastructure.** Coordinate research, development, testing, and evaluation activities to develop innovative emergency communication that support the needs of emergency responders and infrastructure.
- **Priority 6: Invest and maintain cybersecurity risk management.** Invest in solutions that enhance cybersecurity posture by developing and maintaining cybersecurity risk management and identifying and mitigating equipment and protocol vulnerabilities.

³ CISA published a second update to the NECP in September 2019 that builds upon revisions made in 2014, while also positioning the NECP to maintain relevance into the future. Updates to the NECP goals and objectives aim to enhance emergency communications capabilities at all levels of government in coordination with the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and communities across the nation.

DHS/FEMA Grant Requirements

FEMA developed the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) to guide applicants and recipients of grant funding on how to manage their grants and other resources. Recipients seeking guidance on policies and procedures for managing preparedness grants should reference this manual for further information on both program-specific information, as well as overall guidance on rules and regulations that guide the proper management of grants. The manual includes guidance to complete the following:

- **Implement the [National Preparedness System](#) to improve response capabilities and achieve the [National Preparedness Goal](#).** To support this process, FEMA targets grant funding toward 32 identified [core capabilities](#) that address the greatest risks to the nation. It is important for stakeholders to understand this process, as proposals for grant funding are required to address gaps identified in FEMA plans and build core capabilities across the [whole community](#).
- **Participate in the [THIRA](#) process to ensure that emergency communications needs are represented and prioritized for funding.** Note, requirements to develop and maintain a THIRA vary by program. To complete the THIRA, states/territories are required to engage the whole community, leverage current assessments (e.g., after-action reports) and empirical data to define gaps and needs, and set capability targets for core capabilities. It is important that communities complete the THIRA on a multi-year cycle, as it enables them to assess year-over-year trends in changes to their capabilities, while still periodically reviewing the capability targets to keep them relevant.
- **Develop the annual SPR, which replaces the previous version of the assessment, the State Preparedness Report.** The SPR is a self-assessment of a jurisdiction's current capability levels against the targets identified in the THIRA. While requirements vary by program, jurisdictions use the SPR to estimate their current preparedness capabilities and compare those to their THIRA results to identify gaps. They also use the SPR to identify potential approaches for addressing those capability gaps.
- **Participate in the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC).** FEMA requires HSGP recipients to establish or re-establish their SAC to integrate governance structures to assess needs, coordinate investments, and target funding where it is needed most. Under HSGP, SWICs are named as required members of the SAC, and FEMA recommends that representatives from Statewide Interoperability Governing Bodies be included in the SAC to ensure emergency communications interests are represented and considered for funding.
- **Comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA).** In September 2010, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Interim Final Guidance in the Federal Register to establish reporting requirements necessary for the implementation of the FFATA. The FFATA requires OMB to maintain a single, searchable public website that contains information in all federal spending awards. By law, all grant recipients receiving federal awards totaling \$25,000 or more are subject to the FFATA reporting requirements.
- **Complete the [NCSR](#),** which is required for HSGP recipients and open from October 2023 to February 2024. The annual NCSR enables agencies to benchmark and measure progress of improving their cybersecurity posture. This review will evaluate cybersecurity maturity across the nation while providing actionable feedback and metrics directly to the grant applicant. Using the results of the NCSR, DHS will deliver a bi-annual anonymous summary report to Congress, which will provide an overview of the cybersecurity maturity across state, local, tribal, and territorial communities. The Chief Information Officer, Chief Information Security Officer, or equivalent for each recipient and sub-recipient should complete the NCSR. If there is no existing Officer, the most senior cybersecurity professional should complete the assessment.

Grants Management Best Practices

CISA recommends the following best practices for grant applicants developing emergency communications proposals. For additional best practices during all phases of the grants cycle—Pre-Award, Award, Post-Award, and Closeout—refer to *SAFECOM Guidance*, Section 6.

- Read the NOFO for program-specific information, eligibility requirements, and application instructions
- Review and understand the NECP, SCIP, and other applicable plans
- Coordinate with state-level governance and leadership (e.g., SAC, SWIC, Statewide Interoperability Governing Body, State Interoperability Executive Committee) to document needs, align projects to plans, and identify funding options
- Work with SAA to include proposed projects in state preparedness reviews (e.g., SPR) and to secure funding
- Review grant requirements included in the NOFO (e.g., NIMS implementation, *SAFECOM Guidance* compliance, matching funds)
- Consult the federal granting agency, spectrum authority (i.e., Federal Communications Commission or First Responder Network Authority), and *SAFECOM Guidance* when developing projects
- Align projects to federal and state-level plans (e.g., SPR, SCIP), assessments (e.g., THIRA), and initiatives
- Include coordination efforts with the whole community in applications
- Identify staff to manage financial reporting and programmatic compliance requirements
- Develop project and budget milestones to ensure timely completion
- Identify performance measures and metrics that will help demonstrate impact
- Consider potential impacts of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation requirements on timelines
- Ensure proper mechanisms are in place to avoid commingling and supplanting of funds
- Evaluate the ability of sub-recipients to manage federal funding
- Consider how the project will be sustained after grant funding has ended

CISA stakeholders who are not the official grant recipients for Preparedness Grant Programs are encouraged to work with eligible recipients and engage further in the DHS grant process.